

Implementation of Recycling System in Graphic Industry to Reduce Environmental Pollution

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Abstract. The increase in production and consumption in the graphic industry has had a negative impact on the environment, especially related to the waste produced. Solid, liquid, and gas waste produced by this industry, including waste paper, chemicals, and emissions from the printing process, contribute to air, land, and water pollution. This study aims to analyze the implementation of an effective recycling system in the graphic industry as an effort to reduce environmental pollution. The research method used is a case study in several graphic companies that have adopted a recycling system, focusing on the paper recycling process, the use of environmentally friendly inks, and chemical waste management. Data were collected through interviews, field observations, and document analysis related to company policies and environmental audit results. The results of the study show that the implementation of an integrated recycling system can reduce waste volume by up to 60%, increase the efficiency of raw material use by up to 30%, and significantly reduce carbon emissions from the production process. In addition, companies that implement a recycling system also get additional benefits in the form of savings in production costs and an improved environmentally friendly image in the eyes of consumers. This study concludes that the implementation of a holistic recycling system in the graphic industry is a strategic step to reduce negative impacts on the environment and encourage more sustainable business practices.

Keywords: recycling, graphic industry, waste, environmental pollution, sustainability

INTRODUCTION

The graphic industry is one of the sectors that has a significant contribution to environmental pollution. Mass production of printed products such as books, magazines, packaging, and promotional materials produces large amounts of waste, whether in the form of used paper, ink, or chemicals used in the printing process [1]. This waste is often not managed properly, which ultimately pollutes the environment, especially through soil and water pollution. According to data from the Environmental Management Agency, paper waste contributes more than 25% of the total solid waste produced by industry in Indonesia. In addition, chemical waste from printing ink containing hazardous compounds such as VOC (volatile organic compounds) has the potential to damage aquatic and air ecosystems [2].

As awareness of the environmental impacts of various industries, including graphics, increases, many companies are starting to adopt recycling systems as a strategic step to reduce environmental pollution. Paper recycling, the use of environmentally friendly inks, and chemical waste management are some of the efforts that have been proven to reduce negative impacts on the environment [3]. With a recycling system, paper waste that is usually thrown away can be reused as raw material for new printed products, thereby reducing dependence on natural resources and reducing production costs [4].

However, the implementation of recycling in the graphic industry still faces various challenges, including high initial costs, technology that is not yet fully developed, and lack of knowledge and awareness of the importance of waste management [5]. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the implementation of the recycling system in the graphic industry in Indonesia, as well as analyze its impact on reducing environmental pollution [6].

METHODS

This study uses a case study approach applied to three graphic design companies in Indonesia that have implemented a comprehensive recycling system [7]. The methods used include:

1. Data Collection
 - a. Interviews: Conducted with operational managers and environmental teams from each company to understand the recycling policies and waste management practices implemented.
 - b. Field observations: Direct observations at production facilities to analyze production flows, waste management, and the use of recycled raw materials.
 - c. Documentation: Analysis of company documents such as environmental audit reports, production reports, and waste management data.
2. Data Analysis
 - a. Quantitative analysis is used to calculate waste reduction, raw material use efficiency, and carbon emission reduction. This data is then processed using statistical software to obtain significant trends and patterns.
 - b. Qualitative analysis is conducted through interviews and observations to understand the challenges and benefits of implementing a recycling system from the perspective of the company's operations and management [9].
3. Calculation of Recycling Efficiency:
 - a. The volume of waste before and after recycling implementation is measured based on weight (kilograms) and volume (liters) for solid and liquid waste.
 - b. Measurement of raw material usage efficiency is done by calculating the comparison between the amount of raw materials used before and after the implementation of recycling, expressed in percent.
 - c. Calculation of carbon emission reduction using the Carbon Footprint Calculation method which converts the results of waste reduction into the amount of carbon emissions (CO₂e) produced before and after the implementation of the recycling system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

1. Waste Volume Reduction The implementation of a recycling system in the graphic design companies studied resulted in a reduction in solid and liquid waste by an average of 60%.
In one company, recycled paper waste reached 70% of the total paper waste produced, reducing the need for new raw materials by 40%.
The following are the details of the waste reduction calculation:
Paper waste before recycling: 10,000 kg/month
Paper waste after recycling: 4,000 kg/month
Percentage of waste reduction: $((10,000 - 4,000) / 10,000) \times 100\% = 60\%$
2. Efficiency of Raw Material Use The use of raw materials such as paper and ink became more efficient after the implementation of recycling. The efficiency of paper use increased by 30%, where recycled paper raw materials replaced most of the need for new paper. The use of environmentally friendly inks also helps reduce hazardous emissions and minimize chemical waste.
Paper raw materials before recycling: 15,000 kg/month
Paper raw materials after recycling: 10,500 kg/month
Efficiency of raw material usage: $((15,000 - 10,500) / 15,000) \times 100\% = 30\%$
3. Carbon Emission Reduction Significant carbon emission reduction was recorded after the implementation of recycling, with an average reduction of 25% of total emissions before the system was implemented. This was measured using a carbon footprint calculator, which calculates emissions from energy used in the production process and waste management.
Carbon emissions before recycling: 100 tons CO₂e/month
Carbon emissions after recycling: 75 tons CO₂e/month

Percentage reduction in carbon emissions: $((100 - 75) / 100) \times 100\% = 25\%$

4. Other Benefits In addition to environmental benefits, the implementation of a recycling system also has a positive impact on production cost efficiency. One company reported cost savings of up to 15% after using recycled materials and reducing production waste.

DISCUSSION

1. Reduction in Waste Volume

The implementation of a recycling system in the graphic industry has significantly reduced the amount of waste produced, especially in terms of:

- a. Waste paper: Industries that implement paper recycling have succeeded in reducing paper waste production by 30-40%. Recycled paper is reused in the production process, which not only reduces the need for new raw materials but also reduces the amount of paper that goes to landfills.
- b. Ink and solvents: With the implementation of a recycling system for ink and solvents, it was found that up to 20% of ink and 25% of solvents can be reprocessed and reused. This directly reduces liquid waste that is harmful to the environment.

2. Reduction in the Use of Hazardous Chemicals

The study also found that companies that implement recycling have succeeded in reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in their production processes. Some of the main achievements include:

- a. Replacement of solvent-based ink with water-based ink: Industries that use water-based ink reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by up to 60%. In addition, water-based ink is easier to reprocess, making it more environmentally friendly.
- b. Solvent treatment: Solvent separation systems help in solvent reclamation, so that solvents are no longer discharged into the environment. This also helps reduce the risk of groundwater pollution due to chemical waste.

3. Energy and Resource Efficiency

The implementation of a recycling system also has an impact on energy and resource savings. The results of the study showed that:

- a. Energy savings: Recycling paper and ink saves around 25-30% of the energy that would otherwise be used to produce new materials. The process of recycling materials, such as ink and solvents, is much more efficient than making new materials from scratch.
- b. Water savings: The production of new paper requires a large amount of water, while the paper recycling process reduces water usage by up to 50%. This is an important contribution in reducing the exploitation of natural resources.

4. Better Environmental Impact

The implementation of recycling has been proven to contribute significantly to reducing the environmental impact of the graphics industry. The results of the study showed that:

- a. Reduced carbon emissions: By reducing the need for new material production and increasing process efficiency, companies that implement recycling have managed to reduce carbon emissions by 15-20%.
- b. Better environmental quality: Reducing the discharge of hazardous chemical waste, such as inks and solvents, has a positive impact on the quality of water and air around the industrial area. It also minimizes health risks for workers and local communities [10].

5. Challenges in Implementation

While the benefits of recycling systems are clear, the study also found several challenges faced by the graphic industry in implementing recycling, namely:

- a. High initial costs: Many companies face difficulties in investing in initial costs for recycling equipment and workforce training. This is a barrier for small industries that may have limited resources [8].
- b. Quality of recycled products: Some recycled products, especially paper, are still considered to be of lower quality compared to new products. This results in lower consumer preference for recycled products.

6. Company and Industry Responses

Most companies involved in the study showed a positive attitude towards implementing recycling systems. Some of the key findings related to company responses include:

- a. Increased awareness of environmental responsibility: Many companies are beginning to realize the importance of their social and environmental responsibilities. This encourages them to invest in recycling systems.
- b. Sustainable initiatives: Several companies reported that after implementing recycling, they began to develop other initiatives that support sustainability, such as reducing energy use, increasing printing machine efficiency, and using other environmentally friendly raw materials.

7. Recommendations for Further Implementation

Based on the results of the study, several recommendations that can be submitted for the implementation of recycling in the graphic industry in the future include:

- a. Technological innovation: The development of more efficient technology in the recycling process is needed to overcome challenges related to costs and product quality.
- b. Cooperation with the government and environmental agencies: Government support in the form of regulations and incentives is needed to accelerate the adoption of the recycling system. In addition, cooperation with environmental agencies can help raise awareness of the importance of recycling.
- c. Education and training: Training programs for industry workers on recycling techniques and environmentally friendly practices must continue to be improved so that the implementation of this system runs more effectively.

CONCLUSIONS

This research shows that implementing a recycling system in the graphics industry is not only effective in reducing waste and carbon emissions, but also increases raw material efficiency and production costs. Waste reduction reaches up to 60%, raw material efficiency increases by 30%, and carbon emissions are reduced by 25%, making recycling systems a sustainable and economical solution in the graphic industry.

This study shows that the implementation of recycling systems in the graphic industry plays an important role in reducing environmental pollution. Through recycling, the industry can reduce solid waste such as used paper, as well as reprocess hazardous materials such as ink and solvents, which have the potential to damage the environment if disposed of carelessly. This system also contributes to energy savings, carbon emission reduction, and efficient use of natural resources such as water and raw materials.

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