

CASE STUDY PHILABUNDANCE

Investment: \$ – Return: \$

Background

PhilAbundance was founded in 1984 as a nonprofit food distribution system. After combining with the Philadelphia Food Bank in 2005, it has operated as the largest hunger relief organization in the Delaware Valley Region. PhilAbundance maintains a fleet of eight delivery vehicles, through which the organization distributes produce, breads, dairy products, canned and packaged foods, and prepared foods through member agencies. PhilAbundance stores donated food in two warehouses, the Galloway warehouse in the Food Distribution Center in South Philadelphia for perishable foods, and the Berks Warehouse in North Philadelphia for canned goods. In its fiscal year 2007, PhilAbundance acquired 23 million pounds of food, distributing 17 million pounds of food within its service area, and exported 6 million pounds of food to other area food banks.

Annual donations of fruits, vegetables, and other produce amount to nearly \$6MM, or twenty-five (25%) percent of the total annual donations of food to PhilAbundance, thus prevention of spoilage of these commodities is a high priority for the organization. Moreover, since it is the sole storage facility for all of the organization's donated fresh food, PhilAbundance has had a keen interest in ensuring that the Galloway warehouse environment is one that supports maximum preservation of its inventory.

Since 2002, PhilAbundance has utilized six (6) AgraCo Extend-A-Life™ Model 341 Ethylene Filter Systems to maintain maximum freshness of its donated produce stored in the Galloway Warehouse. Prior to the installation of the AgraCo Extend-A-Life™ filtering system, PhilAbundance experienced a high rate of spoilage of its fruits, vegetables, and other produce. Following the installation of AgraCo's filters, a significant increase in the shelf life of produce was documented by PhilAbundance, as well as a substantial reduction in expenses associated with waste disposal.