Packaging
G4-DMA
One of our most significant waste streams is packaging, necessary for the safe transport of our products to our customers. While IDT has taken steps to select sustainable packaging choices, we are increasing these efforts going forward. A majority of our products ship in simple, cardboard envelopes that are 100 percent biodegradable. We have also switched to using 100 percent biodegradable bubble wrap in our packaging.

In 2016, IDT hired a dedicated staff member responsible for identifying and pursuing footprint reductions associated with our packaging materials. Our 2020 goal is to introduce a 100 percent biodegradable or curbside recyclable packaging design to replace our traditional standard size expanded polystyrene (EPS) coolers. We also aim to increase the recycled content in our corrugate shipping materials from 65 percent to 85 percent by 2019.

Moving forward we will continue to address material impact challenges related to our product shipments and test alternative packaging solutions, such as ambient shipping. Ambient shipping reduces packaging and weight, which reduces emissions, decreases waste, and eases handling requirements.

In addition, many of our products can be shipped at ambient temperatures with no loss in quality or performance. In 2017, we will continue to investigate ways in which we may increase our use of ambient shipments, which includes educating our customers about the benefits of transporting products in this manner.

Looking Ahead
While we are proud of the sustainable advancements IDT employees have made to date, we understand the importance of putting a system in place that measures and tracks our footprint metrics globally, and implements our best practices system-wide. This will be a focus of ours in 2017 and beyond.

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Nitrile Glove Reuse & Recycling
Nitrile gloves are among the most frequently used items in IDT laboratories. They are also one of the largest contributors of nonhazardous waste, as lab workers traditionally discard the gloves after each use. In March 2016, IDT implemented a new program at Coralville to divert the glove waste into separate collection bins. The used gloves are sent to a manufacturer where they are broken down and reused as inputs for plastic shelving, furniture, and other items. The new recycling program is an immediate success, with a total of 6,413 pounds of glove material collected and reused through the end of 2016. The program expanded to our San Diego operations in late 2016 and will be instituted in Leuven in 2017.