



## Preventing Waste One Shipping Container at a Time



Pfizer Prevnar shipping containers at the recycling facility, waiting to be processed.

There are more than 126,000 annual shipments of Prevnar 13, Pfizer's vaccine for the prevention of invasive pneumococcal disease in infants and young children, in the U.S. Nearly 60 percent of these outbound shipments are now being returned for recycling thanks to a new Pfizer ProPak initiative.

Health care professionals can return empty shipping containers for [Prevnar 13](#) to one of two independent U.S. recycling centers, where they will then be recycled and reused. Pfizer provides directions for recycling, sealing tape and a prepaid shipping label with each shipping container. The company is receiving approximately 300 returned containers per day since launch in 2011 which represents twice the original estimate of 30 percent of the outbound shipments.

The early success of the Pfizer ProPak program shows that it satisfies the needs of our customers. It is also reflective of Pfizer's stated goal to serve as responsible stewards of the environment, taking innovative approaches to transform how we do business, improve public health and create less waste.

The company is exploring more opportunities to create green packaging designs aimed at reducing the environmental impact through the Sustainable Packaging Team, which is working with brand managers and packaging designers throughout the company.

The ProPak Initiative received the Corporate Innovation Award from Worldwide Business Development & Innovation at Pfizer.