

Measuring and managing impact at PCI Pharma An ESG engagement case study

Recycling rate increased to **over 75%**

Energy consumption reduced by **15%**

Lost-time incident rate reduced by **75%**

Overview

PCI Pharma Services (PCI) is a global provider of outsourced pharmaceutical supply chain solutions supporting biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies throughout the various stages of drug development and commercialization. The company has over 25 Good Manufacturing Practice facilities globally and almost 4'000 employees. Partners Group acquired PCI on behalf of its clients in July 2016.

During our ownership period, we worked with the company on a broad range of value creation initiatives. We also developed and deployed our One PCI strategy to drive value through the implementation of operational and technology transformation initiatives, which resulted in organic growth, enhanced margins, and increased customer satisfaction.



Adding value by reducing waste and energy

A key part of our value creation efforts focused on waste management. PCI manages large amounts of paper and plastic which ultimately turn, in some proportion, to scrap. During our ownership period, PCI reduced its scrap percentage to below 3% and increased its recycling rate to over 75%, with a target to reach 100% in 2021. This had an estimated EBITDA impact of USD 0.9 million, and helped the company improve its EcoVadis sustainability rating to Gold.

PCI also engaged with an external energy management consultant to identify low- and no-cost measures to reduce its energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions. In 2019, the company also began holding bi-weekly environmental management system steering team meetings geared towards improving conservation performance across the company. The measures implemented achieved a 15% reduction in energy consumption, with an estimated EBITDA impact of USD 1.6 million.

A lasting impact on health & safety

Ensuring the wellbeing of company employees is another important part of a manufacturing company's operations and, during our ownership, PCI committed to standardizing best practice health & safety initiatives. The company is now working towards continuous improvement in its total

recordable injury rate (TRIR) and lost-time incident rate (LTIR) performance, and has managed to reduce its TRIR from 1.7 in 2019 to 0.7 in 2021 and its LTIR from 2.0 to 0.5 in the same time period. PCI has also implemented a consistent product health risk assessment process.

ESG handover

Although we have exited as a majority shareholder, we still hold a significant minority stake in PCI. As part of our exit and in order to ensure continued commitment to ESG topics, we shared ESG materials and an overview of projects to be completed with the new lead investor Kohlberg.

"During our ownership with PCI, we targeted various ESG factors. We aimed at significantly improving environmental and waste management, as well as health & safety standards in order to improve employee wellbeing. Our initiatives were not only successful in enhancing PCI's ESG standards, but also had a beneficial EBITDA impact."

Sujit John, Managing Director, Private Equity Health and Life



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Source: Partners Group, May 2022.

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