



**Reusability**<sup>™</sup>  
reusable packaging solutions



## Case Study: Reusability's returnable, reusable packaging solution keeps waste out of landfills, cuts costs for Thermo King North America.

### Background & Challenge

**Thermo King** is the leader in end-to-end, temperature-controlled cold chain solutions. With parent company Trane Technologies, it has committed to reducing its customer carbon footprint by one gigaton of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030. To reach this lofty goal, Thermo King sought to replace its disposable wood crating with a returnable, reusable solution for delivering auxiliary power units and diesel-powered truck lines to dealers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

### Solution & Results

Once Thermo King designed its new reusable steel and plastic packaging system, it partnered with **Reusability** to recover the packaging from the company's network of dealers and OEMs before returning to its manufacturing facilities. With the switch to reusable packaging, Thermo King checked a number of big boxes on its sustainability list. Among the largest was removing 2,000 tons of wood waste annually from landfills. Additionally, its dealer-partners no longer have disposal costs associated with the old wood crating. Another plus—moving to returnable-reusable packaging cut the company's transportation logistics and packaging spend by 43%.

Thermo King realized a number of other benefits. The more durable steel and plastic construction delivers enhanced product protection, an important consideration for high-cost products. The reusable packaging is also less labor intensive; workers no longer have to break down wood crating and manage disposal. This also removed the risk of injury from nail guns and splintered/broken wood. Thermo King now has plans to convert additional products to reusable packaging.

**Market(s):** Automotive  
Beverage  
Produce  
Retail

**Solution:** Replaced single-use wood packaging for power units with reusable pallets, steel crates and sleeves.

### Key Outcomes:

- Remove 2,000 tons of solid waste to landfills annually
- 43% reduction in transportation logistics & packaging spend
- Eliminated disposal costs for dealer-partners
- Enhanced product protection
- More efficient warehouse operations
- Safer handling for workers

