

Healthcare

Unpacking efficiency and cost savings with a **sustainable bulk pack program**

Allina Health

Allina Health refreshes around 10,000 Lenovo PCs each year. By switching to bulk packaging, the healthcare system minimizes waste while shrinking time, labor, and shipping costs.



Lenovo

1

Who is Allina Health?

Allina Health is a not-for-profit healthcare system based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It operates a network of more than 60 clinics and 12 hospital campuses, complemented by a wide variety of specialty care services. Allina Health treats millions of patients annually across Minnesota and western Wisconsin.



2

The Challenge

Allina Health has a 140-year history of caring for people. With every passing year, technology plays an increasingly important role in helping the organization fulfill its mandate. Allina Health has trusted Lenovo technology for more than two decades to support day-to-day operations.

Today, it operates an expansive estate of Lenovo hardware, with around 45,000 devices currently in use across the healthcare system.

That includes around 24,000 PCs, nearly all of which are Lenovo ThinkCentre M Series Tiny desktops and Tiny-in-One monitors used by clinicians to access electronic healthcare record (EHR) data. These are complemented by 15,000 laptops and 1,000 tablets; the latter are used by doctors on their hospital rounds and by nurses for in-home visits. Additionally, Allina Health relies on more than 500 Lenovo workstations to support medical imaging and other clinical systems.

Previously, individual departments managed their own IT and procured, deployed, and replaced their own PCs, laptops, and workstations. When IT management was brought under central control 10 years ago, Allina Health began to order hardware in bulk—and found itself inundated with packaging.

Brad Myrvold, Manager Desktop Technology at Allina Health, elaborates: “We operate a four-year refresh cycle, so replace around 10,000 devices each year. When my team took over control of IT spend, we started ordering desktops in bulk for the entire healthcare system—typically around 2,500 PCs per quarter. We would receive truckloads of individually packed desktops at our warehouse. The team would spend weeks unboxing thousands of devices to set up and image before shipping them out to clinics and hospitals. Unboxing so many individual units took time and generated a lot of waste—we would fill up an entire 20-yard dumpster with packaging every few days.”



“We wanted to reduce the amount of packaging that ended up in the trash, so reached out to Lenovo to discuss possible solutions.”

Brad Myrvold

Manager Desktop Technology, Allina Health

Going big with **bulk** **packaging**

Allina Health and Lenovo teamed up to introduce a Bulk Pack program, taking advantage of Lenovo's bulk packaging service for end-user devices to minimize packaging waste and help meet its sustainability goals.

Myrvold explains: "Instead of shipping each ThinkCentre M Series Tiny desktop to us in its own box, Lenovo has been packing up eight Tiny desktops in just a single box for the last decade. There is much less packaging, far fewer discarded materials, and unpacking the devices is much quicker."

To minimize waste even further, Allina Health reuses the packaging that the new Lenovo devices are delivered in to pack up the old machines that are being replaced, which the organization then sells in bulk. "This means that the only thing we actually throw away is the shrink wrap from the freight pallets," says Myrvold. "Everything else is reused, helping to reduce our environmental impact."

Services

Lenovo Bulk Packaging Service

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkCentre M Series Tiny desktops
Lenovo ThinkCentre Tiny-in-One monitors
Lenovo ThinkPad X1 Yoga devices
Lenovo ThinkSmart devices
Lenovo ThinkVision monitors



Packaged with the environment in mind

From everyday operations to production design and recycling solutions, Lenovo pledges to show environmental leadership across all its activities—and packaging is a key focus area.

Lenovo is committed to reducing packaging consumption, waste, and carbon emissions. It aims to do this by reducing the size of packaging to minimize the materials used while maintaining adequate protection for products, increasing the use of recycled and renewable materials, and expanding the use of bulk and reusable packaging solutions.

Bulk packaging helps to reduce packaging waste with fewer discarded materials, and to control transit costs with improved storage and higher pallet utilization.

“

“Our central warehouse has the space to unbox, build, and image thousands of PCs before shipping them out across the healthcare system—all our clinics and hospitals are within 100 miles. The Lenovo Bulk Pack program makes sense from a logistical standpoint as well as an environmental one.”

Brad Myrvold

Manager Desktop Technology, Allina Health

3

Results

In the 10 years that Allina Health has had the Bulk Pack program in place, hundreds of thousands of devices have been delivered with minimal packaging, almost all of which is reused by Allina Health for its resale program.

“Bulk packaging has enabled us to practically eliminate packaging waste from the PC refresh lifecycle,” says Myrvold. “It helps to cut shipping costs and emissions, reduce our environmental impact, and save time and labor in unboxing the devices too. For us, the Lenovo Bulk Pack program is an easy win.”

The Lenovo Bulk Pack program is helping Allina Health to reduce its environmental impact from packaging as part of its Climate Action Plan. Taking 2019 as its baseline year, Allina Health aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.¹

- ✓ Less packaging, less waste
- ✓ Lower shipping costs and emissions
- ✓ Saves time and labor in unboxing
- ✓ Helps Allina Health to reduce its environmental impact

¹ Source: <https://www.allinahealth.org/environmental-sustainability>

Why **Lenovo**?

For Allina Health, Lenovo hardware has truly stood the test of time, delivering stand-out stability, quality, and reliability over multiple generations.

Brad Myrvold notes: “We’ve stuck with Lenovo all these years because they offer excellent products and great collaboration. I’ve personally been working with our Lenovo sales rep for 15 years now. I couldn’t ask for a better partner; he knows our business inside-out and is our advocate within Lenovo.

“The Bulk Pack program is a great example of Allina Health and Lenovo working together to find solutions to the issues we’re facing. The team listened to our concerns about packaging and came up with a better way of doing things. Lenovo takes our input seriously and acts on it.”



How can you make your IT refresh cycle more environmentally friendly?

Take advantage of bulk packaging services to reduce packaging waste, save time, and minimize environmental impact through reusable packaging solutions.

[Explore Lenovo Packaging Solutions](#)