



Going remote: How we've turned it to our advantage

The remote working environment has required adjustment from workers across the globe, but at Arnerich Massena, our Research & Analytics team has turned it to their advantage in a variety of ways, resulting in greater efficiency, stronger teams, and better working tools and habits. Check out a few of the ways our team has tailored remote work to better serve our process and clients.

PATTERNS OF PRODUCTIVITY

With daily commutes greatly reduced, Arnerich Massena's Research & Analytics team members have more time to dedicate to research and due diligence. But there have been other surprising boosts to productivity from working from home. Analysts are able to work at their most productive times, and sometimes having uninterrupted time to focus late at night or early in the morning makes a big difference when working on in-depth or research-heavy modeling and programming projects.

Silver linings: Environmental impact

Reduced travel — both in terms of daily commutes and global due diligence travel — have resulted in significant reductions in our carbon footprint!

FLEX TIME AND TIME ZONES

Because we are often working with managers in other time zones, whether across the country or internationally, having greater worktime flexibility makes it easier to schedule manager meetings and due diligence calls. Leveraging more time and video calls with managers allows our analysts to take deeper dives into their portfolios, asking questions and following up without having to manage travel schedules.

TEAM BUILDING TOOLS

We have invested in a number of technology tools to help keep us connected, including Zoom (teleconferencing and digital meetings), Slack (instant messaging and live chats and video streaming), and Trello (task management). Team members have leveraged Trello with innovations for tracking our pipeline of new managers and ideas, and Slack creates an instant virtual conference room at any time. The research team holds frequent video chat meetings together, and can instant message one another throughout the day. They report that it's generally much easier to catch their teammates this way than even trying to do a desk drive by in the office!

MEETIER MEETINGS

Arranging travel and organizing people has built-in limitations. One of the advantages of a virtual environment is the ability to draw together groups of people regardless of geographic distance, and to bring together teams of any size. This has opened the door to including larger teams of Arnerich Massena analysts in research and due diligence meetings with managers, resulting in several advantages. It means newer team members have opportunities to learn and train by participating in meetings that may not have been available to them before. And, the ability to incorporate a larger number of team members in manager meetings brings more perspective as we execute on our due diligence mandates.

On the manager side, we can now bring together representatives from their team regardless of geographic distance, making it possible to have discussions with more of their staff and gain a broader view of their operations.

Silver linings: Less LaCroix

Analysts' LaCroix consumption has been reduced by at least 75%! While that's a bit tongue-in-cheek, it definitely has resulted in less aluminum waste.

FRICTIONLESS EFFICIENCY

Work "friction" occurs in all the tasks, spaces, hurdles, and challenges that come up between actual work — all those things that interrupt and disrupt our ability to concentrate, communicate, and focus on the objectives at hand. Having to walk to someone's desk to share information or set up a conference room to bring a group together for a few minutes are examples of the daily friction that take time away from tasks. The virtual work environment has eliminated a great deal of that friction, resulting in significantly increased efficiency.

Silver linings: Going paperless

With screen sharing, networks, email, and collaboration tools, there's rarely a need to print anything, ever, anymore. The amount of paper we've saved is astronomical!

