

Springfield-Greene County Library District

Reduce...Reuse...Recycle: Library Goes Green

Going green is more than just the latest trend; it's about lifestyle changes for the long haul. Keeping this in mind, green concepts for the Library are evaluated for cost-effectiveness, how much staff time is involved and their potential for use throughout the District.

District Goals:

- Be good stewards of the Earth's resources.
- Set an example of sustainable practices for the community.
- Be good stewards of tax payer dollars with cost cutting green measures.

District wide and Branch Specific

1. Styrofoam bowls and plates have been replaced by bio-degradable products made from potatoes, corn and limestone. Added bonus, made in Lebanon, MO.
2. Purchased a Toyota Matrix to replace the 1991 Ford minivan. This vehicle maintains better fuel mileage and has greatly reduced the number of miles driven in staff personal vehicles.
3. Conversion from T-12 to T-8 light fixtures at Midtown Carnegie, Willard, Brentwood and Ash Grove Branch Libraries.
4. Clean coils and ducts on the A/C unit at the Brentwood Branch Library. Install grills to keep intake air and coils cleaner.
5. Conversion of all HVAC units to pleated filters. Each unit was measured and custom made to fit for maximum efficiency.
6. Purchased delivery and maintenance vans that are better suited for the work load, resulting in an average 30% fuel mileage increase.
7. Library Center lawn sprinkler set to water once a week instead of twice a week. Also installed a rain garden at this facility for self-sustaining landscaping.
8. Installed a water filtration system in the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library hot water boiler to prevent sludge build up and wasted energy.
9. Automatic paper towel dispensers installed in all restrooms and staff break rooms to promote less paper use/waste.
10. Foam soap dispensers result in less detergent down the drain.
11. Switched to environmentally friendly ice melt.
12. District wide use of fluorescent and LED light bulbs instead of incandescent.
13. Print management installed at public computers to cut down on wasted printouts.
14. Recycling of consumables at all branches with an emphasis on paper and cardboard.
15. Midtown Carnegie Branch Library maintains membership in Central Street Recycling Coalition, a group of government and educational institutions who maintain a central recycling facility for mixed paper, aluminum cans and mixed plastic.
16. Old carpet removed from the Midtown Carnegie Branch Library was taken by a materials reclamation contractor to be recycled, saving more than two tons of

waste from the Springfield landfill. The new carpet tiles installed in the facility are not only made from recycled materials, but can also be recycled by the manufacture.

17. The District now uses recyclable carpet tiles in most projects where carpet needs replacing since use of tiles also allows for single tiles to be replaced as needed as opposed to a whole room of carpet.

New Construction

18. Simple Saver roof insulation is used for a better air seal, less convection of heat at the purlins and higher insulation value.
19. Steel is from remanufacture produces.
20. SEER 13 rating for A/C units.
21. Installation of 92% efficiency furnaces.
22. Insulated HVAC ducts.
23. Programmable computer controlled HVAC systems.
24. T-8 lighting with a standard GE SP florescent lamp that is used in our other buildings. There are 83 T-8 lamp fixtures for a total of 249 lamps, with a saving of over 2,000 watts, compared to the T-12 lamp.
25. Vapor barrier used under the floor, in the walls and ceiling for better humidity control and less load on A/C.
26. Insulated thermo pane windows.
27. Auto flush valves on toilets.
28. Low flow toilets to conserve water.
29. Breeze way will lower the HVAC cycles.

Don't Be Bashful About Publicizing Your Efforts and Results

- Staff newsletter
- Quarterly magazine
- Web site
- Reprints in national publications

The District immediately saw results that could be passed onto staff and the public.

The numbers are going up and the world is getting greener already!

Report from EDCO with our recycle weight for the first quarter of 2009:

Jan 2009 = 2,349 lbs

Feb 2009 = 5,856 lbs

Mar 2009 = 7,448 lbs

total = 15,653 lbs or 7.8 tons

We saved: 118.5 Trees

21 Cubic yards of landfill

49,071 Gallons of water

28,650 Kwh of electricity

420 Pounds of air pollution