

Advice from 2010 Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction Businesses

North

“Recycling is one of the easiest and fiscally sound efforts we can do to reduce our impact on the planet. The new consumer wants to work with companies that are committed to striving for the best green practices.”—*In Harmony Sustainable Landscapes*

“Communicate with all employees and value what your co-workers say. The opinions and suggestions of staff are very important in creating a well rounded program.”—*Northshore Utility District*

“We encourage other businesses to make the commitment. It is worth every penny, to us and our employees, to know that we are doing the right thing.”—*Pagliacci Pizza*

“I would suggest what is probably an obvious idea - identifying a few goals each year that can improve your recycling program, creating an action plan to complete them, and holding individuals responsible for various parts of the action plan accountable.”—*Shoreline Community College*

East

“We’ve tried to use a sense of humor when getting people to think about changing their actions. I think it’s a refreshing and appreciated change from making people feel guilty about their actions or lack thereof.”—*Allyis*

“Keep monitoring the program and keep outreach materials updated. Our overall recycling rate slipped in 2009, but the focus of our efforts in 2010 is to revitalize interest and increase participation.”—*City of Bellevue*

“Although budgets may have been reduced or cut due to the economy, most sustainable recycling practices are fun, simple, convenient, and low cost. Make sure to keep the program visible with frequent reminders, visible cues like recycle bins, and enthusiasm.”—*David Evans and Associates, Inc.*

“Identify employees who are passionate about sustainability and enable them to promote reduction of waste and recycling by changing office processes and procedures.”—*HDR Engineering*

“Make sure to allow time for training and question and answer sessions to clarify any questions that come up. Employees ask questions, and come up with suggestions that I would never have



thought of on my own. Having a knowledgeable champion for recycling in each department is a huge part of a successful program. Also, providing training for custodial staff is key to building support for food waste recycling.”—*City of Issaquah*

“Starting recycling projects and programs takes time, energy and cooperation from many people. An additional challenge is to keep the recycling and waste reduction programs energized and functional year after year. The King County Green Schools Program has helped us maintain quality recycling programs in our schools each year.”—*Issaquah School District*

“MulvannyG2 encourages businesses to connect with the EPA and form a good relationship with their building property management, janitorial staff, and City to ensure tangible results. Above all, keep it simple, educational, and fun!”—*MulvannyG2*

“ If your business is just starting out, form a Green Committee within your company or business and come up with creative ideas on how to recycle and reuse everyday items. Contact your city's recycling coordinator to take advantage of any recycling programs they have to offer. Don't feel overwhelmed. Start small and slowly add to your recycling program. It's never too late to start recycling and reducing your waste.”—*Noetix Corporation*

“A project without a leader won't get done. Appoint a 'green czar' to lead initiatives and provide support to develop an empowered group. Take a look at marketing materials with an eye toward waste reduction.”—*Outsource Marketing*

“Find ways to simplify processes, using existing operations and equipment, and get management support. Make sure goals are set and status reports with cost savings are then provided back to management.”—*Philips Oral Healthcare*

“The key to successful waste reduction and recycling is clear and consistent communication about how to reduce waste and what can be recycled, as well as offering the tools to make these activities accessible and easy.”—*City of Redmond*

““Symetra's employees are our best advocates for recycling. We engage them - keep them informed of progress and programs - and they do the rest! If your employees are engaged in recycling, you can incorporate their ideas and implement them. It is your best method for success.”—*Symetra*

South

“If your business is new to recycling, be patient with staff training. Our best advice is to keep it going. We struggled with finding paper in the garbage and garbage in the recycle bin for over a year. Regular progress updates have kept staff motivated and allowed us to reduce our environmental impact and save money.”—*American Classic Homes Real Estate*

“Remain diligent in the pursuit to reduce and reuse for the betterment of the environment. We recommend that businesses establish and incorporate policies focused on best practices for recycling and waste reduction. In addition, it is important to reach out to others in the

community and share ideas. It takes the combined efforts of all to make the most difference.”—*Dynacraft*

“Do what you can. Even if your business is small and recycling efforts seem like they might not make a difference, they do. Every little bit adds up.”—*Flaming Geysers State Park*

“We recommend that businesses diligently look both inside and outside their walls for opportunities to improve. By keeping current on related topics and networking, many good ideas and resources can be found to assist in their goals.”—*Kenworth Truck Company*

“Advocating overall sustainability and encouraging resource efficiency is best led not only by public education, but also by example as to the behaviors and policies that an organization has adopted and practices. Championing sustainability in an environment needs to partner with the responsibility of promoting change by example.”—*City of SeaTac*

“Start small, pick one thing that you can do and stick to it. Invite your employees to offer suggestions, and work with them to make an impact and a difference by doing the things that they suggest. Keep every effort going forward, don't give up and add changes slowly. Recycle when you can, and do your best to reduce your waste. Every change will help the earth and keep it green!”—*Starfire Sports*