

Green Business Recognition Award: Johnson County, KS

Application Submitted by: ConEdison Solutions

ConEdison Solutions is pleased to have the opportunity to share with the Johnson County Environmental Department the efforts we have made to become a more sustainable company.

In January of 2009, we embarked upon an effort to implement policies and behaviors to foster sustainable behaviors and practices. One of our first efforts was to create a "Green Team." Through that team we developed the following goals.

Green Team Goals:

- *Raise overall company awareness of sustainable behavior and practices*
- *Identify practical applications for implementation of green technologies into the Mid-West office*
- *Lead by example*

We utilized USGBC's model for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as a basis for identifying opportunities within our office. In doing so, our first effort was to conduct a waste stream audit, and develop a policy to provide an employee friendly method for handling office recyclables. We created five conveniently located areas, in which recycling containers were located, and posted signs displaying acceptable recyclable content. One of the five areas was set up in our warehouse, where our cleaning crew sorts and weighs our waste and recycled material monthly. Additionally, we provided containers for the placement of batteries, glass and florescent lamps, which are taken to various locations to be recycled.

Through this effort we have been able to divert approximately 1,200 pounds of recyclable material (73% of our total waste) from the landfill.

As a result of implementing these efforts an additional benefit was realized. In working with our Deffenbaugh representative, and our knowledge of our waste stream, we modified our trash and recyclable pick up schedules. Instead of daily pick up, Deffenbaugh switched our schedule to twice a week. Not only did it make more sense to save the trips, but we saw a savings of \$125 month in our contract with Deffenbaugh.

The second major effort we enacted was a green purchasing policy. With the support of upper management, we immediately began purchasing products that met some form of green standard. We developed tools for documenting purchases, which have become part of our standard procedures when ordering office supplies (see attached documents). Our initial thought was that we would be increasing our material purchasing costs. What we found was that many of the "green" products, had no significant increase in cost.

We followed up with an examination of our cleaning and pest control services. Meetings with the companies providing these services indicated that they were ready and willing to meet our request to utilize green cleaning and pest control strategies. Again, we found very little increase in costs associated with these changes.

Being an Energy Services Company (ESCO), we felt it was important to further our efforts by addressing the energy consumption in our office. In doing so, our office has been retrofitted with compact florescent light bulbs, electronic ballasts, occupancy sensors and installation of a new energy management system (EMS). While there were substantial costs associated with this effort we feel it is necessary as environmental stewards and leaders in the energy performance contracting industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this award and welcome any further questions you may have regarding these efforts.

