

WaterOne Green Initiatives Summary

In 2009 WaterOne took on the mission of improving our Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle programs. We established a Green Initiatives Committee whose task it was to implement a formal recycling program and "encourage practices that support environmental sustainability" in line with our Strategic Plan. The first goals identified for the committee were to reduce use of paper, Styrofoam kitchen products, and fuel usage in our daily activities as employees.

The Green Initiatives program has raised awareness of sustainability issues among employees by launching an extensive communication agenda including:

- *Green Initiatives webpage with links to green websites*
- *Monthly newsletters*
- *Tip of the week*
- *Green Initiatives Display Case*
- *Awards Program*

Our first event was to distribute more than 300 ceramic coffee cups to employees, with the aim of reducing the use of disposable cups. This has paid off with a 36% reduction in Styrofoam products purchased in 2009 compared with 2008.

Next, we researched options for recyclers and engaged a contractor to pick up our recycling. The contractor installed recycling bins in our parking lots and we placed recycling containers around the buildings. This year we have been able to reduce our volume of trash going to the landfill significantly; and reduced the costs of trash pickup and fuel usage by limiting the number of pickups per week.

Each committee member takes responsibility for maintaining a focus on Green Initiatives in their own division and also takes on additional tasks such as documenting and analyzing results, promoting sustainability at work and at home, and being a sponsor for Green events.

Green Initiative accomplishments this year at WaterOne are:

- *36% reduction in the use of Styrofoam cups, plates, etc*
- *38% reduction in the use of copy paper by encouraging two-sided printing*
- *36,000 lbs. of paper and cardboard recycled*
- *Raised awareness among employees through multiple communication avenues*
- *Reduction in number of weekly trash pickups*
- *Paper and postage savings with new envelope size*
- *Ongoing documentation and communication of savings through recycling of metal, scrap meters, oil, batteries, paper, gas, and Styrofoam kitchenware throughout WaterOne*
- *Encourage carpooling with signup sheets on the company intranet*
- *Instituted a "no-idle" policy for district vehicles*
- *Collected more than 20 lbs. of plastic grocery bags for recycling*

As an organization, WaterOne has always been a leader in environmental sustainability as exemplified by installation of Derceto Energy Management Software which saved more than \$1 million in electricity savings in its first year of operation. We also use Peak Management Rates, we offer Conservation and Xeriscaping Education Programs for the public, and we optimize operational processes related to river flows and water treatment. Now, we have made an even greater commitment to environmental sustainability with the implementation of the Green Initiatives Program for employees. Please see attached supporting documentation.