

BENEFITS OF A GREEN TEAM

- Cost Savings
- Reduce Waste
- Improve Quality of Work Life
- Increase Sense of Community
- Enhance Your Image
- Create a Culture of Innovation
- Help the Environment

RESOURCES

The Sustainability Handbook

William R. Blackburn

http://books.google.com/books?id=mjNjQr8DPjoC&dq=business+strategies+for+environmental+sustainability&printsec=frontcover&source=in&hl=en&ei=ue3LSfl2BJGksQPguvSeCg&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=12&ct=result#PPA771,M1

“Corporate Green Teams: Sustainable Business from the Bottom Up”

GreenBiz.com, June 2008

<http://www.greenbiz.com/feature/2008/06/08/corporate-green-teams-sustainable-business-bottom-up>

GREEN TEAMS

WHAT IS A GREEN TEAM?

A Green Team is a dedicated group of employees, at all levels, formal or informal, working together to promote waste reduction, recycling, responsible purchasing in their workplace, and improve the bottom line. Green Teams are communities which learn and practice knowledge sharing, creation, and innovation fostering sustainability. Every Green Team will be unique as they have their own process, challenges, successes, and history. Successful Green Teams are “place-based” as they choose to work on issues that are meaningful to their specific community. However, a Green Team who is focused on environmental sustainability as a whole can reinforce the importance of understanding the importance of tacking all areas together, to see the broader picture of what environmental sustainability means.

CREATING A GREEN TEAM

To start off any environmental initiative, employees should gain the support of the business owner or upper management. Since Green Teams generally work with upper management. Gaining the support from the owner or upper management will help the Green Team implement new policies and/or programs. The size of a Green Team should be related to the size of your organization and be representative of as many departments or operations as possible. A team should designate an enthusiastic team leader as a coordinator. Choosing a committed coordinator is key to starting a successful Green Team. Once a coordinator/team leader(s) is identified, the Green Team will need to set preliminary goals that are simple. There are a lot of great ideas out there, but a Green Team should start with small projects that have a high likelihood of success to gain additional support and credibility, as well as encourage continue involvement.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GREEN TEAM

General responsibilities of a Green Team can include:

- Working with company management to set goals and create a policy
- Gather information to design and implement a program
- Integrating all aspects of environmental sustainability into programs and initiatives
- Promoting the program to employees
- Education employees about the program
- Monitoring the progress of the program
- Reporting to management about the program
- Marketing the success of the program, and the facility as environmentally friendly

GOING ABOVE & BEYOND

Make sure your green team continues to look for ways to save money and help the environment. Continue to expand the Green Team efforts by dealing with other areas outside of basic recycling and waste reduction. Areas Green Teams have explored and expanded include: purchasing programs, environmentally preferable cleaners and janitorial services, energy efficiency, fluorescent bulb recycling, food waste or composting (organics recycling) programs, green landscaping, and carpooling or bike-to-work programs.

Need help starting or facilitating a Green Team? Contact Minnesota Waste Wise at (651) 292-4650 for more information.