

Green Initiative

Project Description:

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is committed to preserving resources. The Kansas City District has undertaken a Green Initiative project comprised of activities and modifications to reduce costs and improve the environment and health of employees and the public. Included in this effort is the LEED Certification of district facilities located in Lee's Summit. The Green Team, created to champion this effort, implemented many improvements including: installation of energy efficient overhead doors, windows and siding; installation of motion sensors for lights, installation of T5 high-efficiency lights and removal of one or two lights per overhead fixture; turning off lights in areas with sufficient lighting; setting automated temperature system to one level; shutting down computers at night; planting natural grasses to reduce mowing; planting taller prairie grass around pond to eliminate mowing, deter geese traffic and provide natural habitat; providing designated motorcycle, bicycle and scooter parking and expanded carpool parking; and implementing a no-idling policy and revised vehicle use, assignment and commute policy.

The community benefits of the Green Initiative project include conserving resources, promoting health and providing leadership to the community in sustainability. The primary lesson learned is the need to ensure a vigorous communication plan for the goal, action steps and results in order to gain employee buy-in to the effort. While many employees embrace the efforts, others are not comfortable with changes and the perceived inconvenience. The Green Team also learned that making the best use of human resources and employee passions greatly assists the program. Many individuals who want to move forward with green or sustainable ideas will volunteer time, ideas and make things happen rather than having tasks assigned because it is someone's job.

What makes this a Success Story?

The Success Stories selection team highlighted this project for its simple approach to sustainability that will pay off in significant environmental and conservation dividends.



MoDOT facility in Lee's Summit, Mo.



Use of natural lighting elements

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