

Green Team leads charge at ABB New Berlin Campus to achieve new frontiers on environmental front

(After achieving highest award possible in safety, team sets out on mission to make like progress on getting office and factory as green as possible)

NEW BERLIN, WI, November 13, 2008 . . . The Green Team, formed by volunteers at ABB's New Berlin Campus, takes as its goal to be to the environment what the Safety Team achieved in earning the highest safety award given to an industrial workplace.

"Earning, as a team, the VPP Star Award for safety taught us a lot about achievement and goal setting," said Richard Bizek, North American safety manager for ABB Automation Products Division. "Teamwork moving toward a very clearly stated objective can remove a lot of obstacles -- and achieve the seemingly impossible." By that, Bizek is referring to late 2007, when three representatives from OSHA visited the New Berlin facility to present ABB the VPP Star Award - an award given to only 2000 out of seven (7) million companies worldwide. The ABB New Berlin site is the only ABB location globally to have achieved this status!

On to Environment!

"So why not work next at achieving equivalent or greater success on the environmental front, i.e., going green?" asked Bizek. Working alongside a new member of his team, Kathryn Schwab, environmental health & safety coordinator, the two, this fall, launched the Green Team, and put out a call for volunteers.

"Our mission is stated and clear," notes Schwab: "Preserve and protect what matters most by conserving resources through our products, processes, and people." The existing team, now two months young, consists of about 12 employees, whose responsibilities range from vice president to production floor; any employee from New Berlin is welcome to join at any time, she said.

Making Work Green in Real Life and Real Time

Through initiatives already underway, this team is addressing environmentally related concerns of the more than 400 employees located within New Berlin's campus. Stated goals for 2009 include but are not limited to the following:

-- Investigate sensor lights in bathrooms, cubicles, conference rooms, etc.

Some conference rooms and personal offices already have occupancy sensors, but the team hopes to expand this to all cubicles, bathrooms, offices, and conference rooms. Installing such sensors will save the company energy costs, and reduces the carbon footprint. For example, whenever a person walks away from their cubicle to go to a meeting, all their electronics stay on (i.e.: task light, computer, personal heater, fan, lava light, etc.). Sensors can control all these electronic devices and turn them off when they are not necessary or in use.

-- Organize a volunteer clean-up crew

Employees are concerned about the amount of garbage they see on the property outside, surrounding the building. They suggest the green team organize a clean-up crew, where volunteers would go outside and walk the perimeter of the property picking up trash. Also, there are some areas indoors that need some clean-up, as well.



-- Introduce green materials in the cafeteria/vending machines

The Green Team would like to investigate alternatives for the cafeteria, such as doing away with Styrofoam and adopting paper products that can be recycled. A majority of waste at the ABB campus is from the cafeteria. Not necessarily food waste, but individually wrapped, one-time-use plastic eating utensils, Styrofoam cups and plates. There is no market for Styrofoam, and even if there was, it cannot be recycled once contaminated (i.e., with food or liquids). Ultimately, it would be ideal to utilize re-usable dishware, but there are some hurdles. One easy solution that requires a change in everyone's behaviour is using a re-usable mug in the cafeteria to get coffee, soda, water, etc., rather than getting a new Styrofoam cup every time.

-- Create a list of waste-recycling sites

Many people put items in the garbage such as paint, electronics, etc. because they just don't know what to do with them and where to take them. The Green Team would like to compile recycling-center information for every town, city, and village that New Berlin employees live in. If this information is easily accessible to employees, and support community recycling programs, it will make it easier to know what to do and keep harmful substances out of the environment.

-- Solicit a Department of Energy (DOE) audit

The Department of Energy will come to the New Berlin site and offer a free audit to give suggestions and recommendations on how ABB can become more efficient and save money on energy bills.

-- Boost existing recycling programs

a. Create a list of what is and is not recyclable on receptacles facility already has

b. Add signage that provides a clear distinction of/between recycling receptacles and garbage receptacles

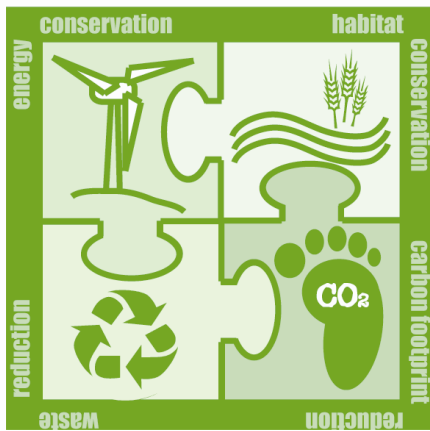
Waste Management company is providing sticker signs to put on all existing receptacles to designate what items can and cannot be recycled, and to distinguish which receptacles are garbage and which are recycling. The Green Team already has asked Waste Management to review what currently is going in the garbage and if it can be recycled. For example, the facility disposes of saran wrap on a daily basis, and this is a product that can be recycled. The effort will include working to educate all employees, and to increase participation significantly!

-- Audit existing recycling resources/vendors

Recently, other companies have been under fire for where their waste ends up. Some cases end up being a legal battle. The Green Team is focused on organizing audits with recycling resources/vendors to ensure that they are handling facility waste in an ethical and environmentally friendly way.

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To Preserve and Protect What Matters Most.

The Green Team's initiatives and work are identified with this artwork and slogan.



Containers for materials that can be recycled will gain from labelling, so employees know how to use them appropriately.

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