

Advice from 2008 “Best Workplaces for Recycling”

- Make it convenient for employees and visitors to separate and recycle waste, and very inconvenient for them to throw away in a trash can. Work-aids, hand-outs and recycling performance communication are key elements to a successful program. *Coca Cola Bottling Company of Washington*
- The ultimate goal is to empower the individual to make an informed decision. *Google*
- The key to a successful recycle program is to make it easy to use: convenient and easy to understand. *The Herbfarm, LLC*
- Don't give up. All programs have bumps when they start. Make sure to have a person that personally agrees with and is excited about recycling be your captain/trainer. After a while, it just becomes habit. *The Home Depot*
- Start by setting up a competition between the various segments of your organization. Recruit the most competitive people from each of the segments, and have them take the lead on promotion and education. This makes learning about waste prevention and recycling more fun for everyone, and leads to greater success in the long run. *City of Bellevue*
- What makes Northshore's recycling program successful is our effort to invite all staff to participate. We work hard to create an environment in which all employees are encouraged to make suggestions that better our workplace, our community, and our planet. *Northshore Utility District*
- Don't be shy about embedding it in the corporate culture. Employees want to be part of an organization that cares, and it becomes almost more of an employee benefit than a chore. *Outsource Marketing*
- It's important to make recycling as simple and easy as possible for your coworkers and your customers. Educate people on what type of impact their actions are having, and how small efforts can make big differences. And be open to new and creative solutions to reducing or reusing materials. It's all about simplifying, educating, and finding solutions. *IKEA*
- Find ways to make the program incentive based. *Port of Seattle – SeaTac Airport*
- Get your employees on board by engaging them in the process. Ask for their ideas and implement them when possible. When employees are engaged in the process it becomes a part of the business culture and that will ensure a successful recycling program. *REI Southcenter*
- Make sure that no employee can say 'I didn't know those were recyclable.' We think the stand-alone garbage can is a thing of the past. It should be as easy to recycle an item as it is to discard it. *Reprographics Northwest*