Congratulations to the 2008 Pollution Prevention Award Recipients

Johnson County Sunset Drive Office Building

Sunset Zoological Park, Manhattan

Vestcom New Century

L to r: David Clark, Vestcom New Century; Neal Angrisano, Johnson County Facilities Management (Jo. Co.); Jim Calovich, Vestcom New Century; Joe Waters, Jo. Co.; Kate Galati, Jo. Co.; Danni Livingston, Jo. Co.; and Secretary Rod Bremby, KDHE

Johnson County
Sunset Drive Office Building

Energy Efficiency

When Johnson County needed more space for county departments and their provision of services, the county government determined that developing or purchasing property was a much more cost-effective strategy than leasing.

L to r: Neal Angrisano, Johnson County Facilities Management (Jo. Co.); Danni Livingston, Jo. Co.; Joe Waters, Jo. Co.; Kate Galati, Jo. Co.; and Secretary Rod Bremby, KDHE

The Sunset Drive Office Building, housing six county agencies and the County Water Quality Laboratory, was conceived from the outset to set a new standard in the KC metro area for environmentally responsible development. The building is a 130,000 square foot, two story, general government office building that has been certified at the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold level by the US Green Building Council. Currently, the facility is only the second building to achieve LEED Gold status in the Kansas City area and in the state of Kansas.

A high degree of adaptability and flexibility has been provided through various innovative systems, which allow modifications to be accomplished quickly, efficiently and in a cost effective manner. In addition, the building has been designed and constructed to be extremely energy efficient from its highly insulated skin to its state-of-the-art heating and air conditioning systems. The Sunset Drive building is operating with 43% lower energy costs than the primary County Administration Building in Downtown Olathe.

The Sunset Drive Office Building project integrated several sustainable efforts and amenities which all have an environmental impact. The overall site design strategically protects the existing habitat while providing not only a fantastic view and connection for occupants, but provides an oasis for employees with the introduction of winding footpaths. The attention

to using bio-swales and native plantings not only filters and controls storm water run-off but helps to naturally irrigate the site. Low flow fixtures, waterless urinals, rain collection and grey water systems help to reduce on site potable water usage. Demountable wall systems combined with a raised access flooring system provide a sustainable way to offer flexibility and versatility to the project through material re-use. The raised floor air distribution system not only provides efficiency, versatility, and individual temperature control to the building, but installation alone conserved resources by creating minimal waste since much of the plenum ductwork was able to be removed from the project. Motion and day lighting sensors throughout the building provide an added level of energy savings while helping to control energy usage in unoccupied spaces. In the recycling arena, space was allocated for a staging area to collect and sort recyclable materials generated by the building. Collection bins for recycling can be found easily throughout the building. The fully integrated Building Automation System helps to provide balance between mechanical and electrical systems from supplementing outside air ventilation on temperate days and shifting to a low energy use mode during unoccupied times.

From inception through design and construction, and today as it fully operates, the Sunset Drive Office Building Project has put sustainability at the forefront of its efforts. From big picture items such as raised flooring and demountable partitions to the smallest of efforts found in using green products for cleaning, the Sunset Drive Office Building reflects Johnson County's commitment to being environmentally conscious and aware.

Sunset Zoological Park, Manhattan

Education and Outreach

The mission of Sunset Zoo is "to inspire conservation of the natural world." Sunset Zoo's Education Department conducts over 1,000 educational programs attended by approximately 42,000 Manhattan and local area residents annually. These programs focus on plant and animal conservation and show the many threats – including pollution, habitat loss, and resource consumption – that impact these species. However, in spreading its message, the Zoo wants to create inspiration, not desperation – to inspire people to learn and then act. In this instance, the Zoo created the GO GREEN! program as a venue through which people

Rachel Soash, Sunset Zoological Park

could follow through on their inspiration to make meaningful and practical contributions to conservation.

The concept of conservation and sustainability has received increasing amounts of media attention, but the general public doesn't always understand the concept, or the multiple, often simple, ways in which people can improve and support local, state, or national conservation efforts. Sunset Zoo developed the GO GREEN! program to educate families, businesses, and schools to augment existing recycling and sustainability programs, or to develop recycling and sustainability programs where they are lacking.

Many organizations have Web sites, pamphlets or other devices that share information on how to conserve resources, but they do not require a commitment. People can take the information or leave it. The GO GREEN! program requires its members to make a commitment to perform specific acts of conservation throughout the year. Members who sign up and pledge to accomplish these activities are much more likely to take action. Demonstrating its conservation leadership, the Zoo created a checklist and a pledge that prospective members must sign and submit to the Zoo. The pledge demonstrates the member's commitment to make a difference.

Vestcom New Century

Pollution Prevention

Vestcom, which is an industrial printer and manufacturer, has an air operating permit with KDHE. This permit sets certain limits on emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants, also known as HAPs. In 2005, the facility was consistently exceeding the reportable limits for one of its HAPs. The facility knew they needed to make some changes or there would be enforcement action taken because of the exceedances.

L to r: David Clark, Vestcom New Century; Secretary Rod Bremby, KDHE; and Jim Calovich, Vestcom

The company's first course of action was to contact the Kansas State University Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, also known as SBEAP, for help in evaluating and resolving

the problem. Among the many potential solutions offered by SBEAP, the first one to be tried, which offered the most immediate and cost effective resolution, was a change to the process, meaning how the company used the solvent.

The facility began its research by interviewing its flexographic press operators who use the solvent to find out if they were using the solvent in accordance with its purpose. He found in many cases they were not. The solvent in question was to be used specifically as an additive to solvent-based inks and topcoats to slow their drying. However, due to the potency and cutting ability of the solvent, it was discovered that many operators and their assistants were also using this solvent as a general cleaning agent to clean printing plates and spills. This created the first initiative – educating and monitoring all press operators in the proper use of all solvents.

The education process started with a thorough explanation of the problem and its consequences to all employees in the department. This was communicated through shift meetings and one-on-one correspondence. To further the message, a written list of all solvents and their specific uses were posted at the time clocks and bulletin boards throughout the department. The shift leads and supervisors were given the responsibility of policing the policy, and the progress was charted by the Environmental Coordinator using monthly usage figures. Although the practice was commendable and showed some success, it was not enough to meet the company's goal.

The second change to be tried was a change in the material – the need for an alternative solvent was imminent. The company did research into an alternative, environmental compatible solvent that would still work for its intended purpose. The facility contacted its solvent vendors for their input and received back a solvent that did not contain a HAP. The alternative solvent was tested on multiple presses and feedback was positive. Therefore in April 2006, the inventory of the old solvent was depleted and the new solvent was introduced. As a result, Vestcom New Century HAP emissions decreased immediately by 87%!