



Gain employee support!

It is hard to be everywhere at once, so it is important that your staff be the eyes and ears of your business, especially when it comes to waste reduction. Though management may make the commitment to reduce your businesses' environmental impact, employees have to be involved in order to make it effective. This month make the effort to educate your employees on your environmental policy, why it is important, and the correct procedure to follow.

In Tompkins County, the **Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP)** provides an excellent example of how an effective recycling program can influence its employees. Since becoming a ReBusiness Partner, **STAP** has noticed increased employee awareness. Employees now use labeled recycling bins and consistently look for new ways to recycle items. Highlights of the program include the purchase of office paper with 100% recycled content and the office's reuse of scrap paper before recycling. These efforts exemplify **STAP's** hard work toward waste reduction.

Involving employees in the waste reduction effort is also an opportunity to create a sense of community amongst the staff. Holding staff meetings to discuss recycling efforts and reuse policies can provide an opportunity for everyone to ask questions while bettering your business. Distributing educational literature such as bookmarks, pamphlets, or 'pocket guides to recycling' are simple ways to make sure your staff is invested in your waste reduction efforts. It may be helpful to have bilingual instructions on recycling to ensure everyone is on board. Benchmarking your businesses waste reduction progress and sharing this information with the whole staff can also motivate workers, and posting monthly recycling statistics is an easy way to do this.

Above all, include your employees in your business's vision to reduce its environmental impact since you cannot do it without them. You have an opportunity not only to improve business practices, but also your employees may bring those ideas home at the end of the day and further reduce waste.

August 12-18th is National Conservation Week!



Conservation is everyone's business! National Conservation Week is an opportunity to learn more about wildlife conservation and what can be done to support species survival. When you are reducing waste, your actions have an impact on preserving natural resources, linking back to conserving wildlife. Use this week as an excuse to start a trend in your business and experiment with how you can help the conservation effort.

- Conserve habitats for wildlife by reducing the need for virgin paper, try to:
 - Implement double sided printing.
 - Circulate one copy of a memo around the office rather than printing individual copies, or try e-mail!
 - Use pieces of scrap paper for notes rather than new post-it notes.
 - Increase awareness of paper recycling efforts in the office.



ReBusiness Spotlight: Warren Real Estate



Warren Real Estate has reduced their trash generation by 90% since joining the ReBusiness Partners Program. By establishing a recycling program, all paper generated in the office is now recycled.

The business has begun purchasing office paper with recycled content. This change saves the company about \$16 per case of paper and the new paper is the same quality and even slightly brighter.

Warren also contracts with a laser cartridge refilling service to refill and recycle spent printer cartridges.

Warren Real Estate is located at 830 Hanshaw Road in Ithaca, or on the web at: www.warrenhomes.com

