

Sustainability Champions!



Throughout our entire organization people have risen to the challenge of making us a more sustainable organization and community partner. I would like to use this issue of the Sustainability Blog to recognize some of those incredible accomplishments across our organization...

Lowell Retail Store

The Lowell Goodwill Retail Store has managed to reduce their total waste sent to the landfill by 91% since 2008! As a result they have gone from spending nearly \$16,000 per year in waste to around \$2,000 per year... that's nearly an 88% reduction in cost! Congratulations to Michael Barnes and his team of champions!

Grandville Lighting Retrofits

Tom Stinson our Maintenance Coordinator and Electrician has nearly completed a comprehensive lighting retrofit for our Grandville facility. After one month Tom had ¼ of the project completed and we already saw a 12% reduction in electrical consumption! The entire project will

be completed in the next few weeks! I can't wait to see what kind of energy savings we have once the project is complete! Congratulations to Tom and his hard work on the project!

Goodwill Recycle Center

When we began our recycling program in the spring of 2008 we had no idea what it would really take to make this work. Early on we had some major challenges to overcome... since then we have increased our recycling revenue by 44%, reduced expenses by 29% and cut our losses by 56%! Oh yeah, did I mention that we are recycling 22% more than we were in 2009!

The month of May was the first time since we started the program that it was actually cheaper to recycle than it was to throw materials in the trash! We anticipate this trend to continue! We have now kept over 7 million lbs from the landfills just through recycling. Congratulations Joe Villamil and the entire recycling team!!! Keep up the great work!

Innovation Michigan

I want everyone to know that all of your efforts are recognized... not only by other leaders and myself, but by our community. Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids was nominated and selected as a finalist for the Business Review West Michigan's: Innovation Michigan award. We have been nominated for our Recycling Center and our LEED Certified Retail Store in Standale. On July 28th at the Fredrick Meyer Gardens, 8 of the 38 businesses selected across the State of Michigan will receive awards for innovation.

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2010/06/innovation_michigan_finalists_1.html

Isn't it great to work for an organization so focused on Sustainability and Innovation! Thank you everyone for the hard work that you do every day... it *REALLY* does make a noticeable difference!