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Did you know?

- o We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.
- o If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year.
- o Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away.
- o The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

A Strategic Approach to Green

Written By Mike Jurewicz

In whatever context it's referred to, "Switch to Green", "Climate Change", "Green House Gas Emissions", "Sustainability", etc., green is now a fact of life and is increasingly playing a growing role in business. Greenhouse gas will be progressively scrutinized, regulated and priced. While individuals disagree about how immediate and significant the impact of this may be, many companies are starting to take action now.

Sprig is developing its own strategic approach. This issue contains articles about our green strategy.

- On P.3, "Survey Says" clearly shows that we still have room to improve. However a year ago, none of these initiatives even existed.
- On P. 2 "Lean and Green" states, "Lean is all about reducing waste and increasing efficiency. Being Lean and Green is making us more competitive and more profitable while generating less waste." Who can argue against that result?

- On P. 1, "Sprig's Green Office Upgrade" describes some of the green construction products incorporated into the upgrade area. We hope to use this as a demonstration area for employees and customers.
- On P. 4, "Earth Day, Eat Your Greens" and "Recycled TP" offers even more support and ideas about how we can all benefit from a switch to green. (As long as it's white, I'm comfortable rolling off a few sheets.)

Sprig has already established itself as Bay Area Green Business Certified and we have 7 LEED certified employees. We can and will do more to put our money where our mouth is. The results will be increased sales, less waste, increased profits and lower greenhouse gas emissions. In the meantime: Educate yourself. Embrace green. Get LEED Certified.

If you would like to help steer the Sprig Green Initiative, join the Green Committee and Make the SWITCH!

Sprig's Green Office Upgrade

Written By Kara Hermann

Sprig Electric is putting its money where its mouth is by using the latest green construction products available. Sprig's office upgrade includes features such as energy efficient lighting. The lighting source is mostly T5 high-output and also features LED type fixtures. The space includes the latest lighting control systems by Wattstopper and Redwood Systems. Each space features different light fixtures and dimming modules to highlight available green technologies. Also featured are two Sun Tunnels skylights, with adjacent light fixtures controlled by daylight dimming.



In addition to lighting, the upgraded office space includes sustainable features such as low VOC paints and carpet. The insulation, sheetrock, ceiling tiles and taping mud meet LEED requirements. Sprig is proud to lead the way toward a future of environmentally responsible construction.



Did you know?

- o The US has less than five percent of the population, but it makes up 25 percent of the world's fossil fuel consumption per year.
- o New homes in the US are 38% bigger now than they were in 1975. This is despite the size of the average household falling.

Source: <http://tiny.cc/958nh>



Green Committee Members:

Stephanie Abbott
Jennifer Akamine
Bruce Bowman
Kara Hermann
Mike Jurewicz
Shannon Jurewicz
Mike Mainieri

LEAN and Green

Written by Bruce Bowman and Bobby Goodwin

Sprig has recently begun Lean Systems Implementation in Prefab and the Support Center as a way to reduce waste and improve efficiencies. The current economic climate is an ideal time to engage the extraordinary work force we have in our efforts to improve work processes while reducing our costs. As we expand our lean efforts across the company we want to make sure everyone understands the basics of Lean Systems.

THE GOAL OF LEAN SYSTEMS:

"Create the capacity to take on more customers with the current work force."



Visual Workplace

LEAN IS A STRATEGIC PROCESS THAT RESULTS IN:

- Waste elimination across all operations
- Reduced cycle time to complete work
- A visual workplace – Easy to see and use
- Standard Work Procedures – Mistake Proof!
- Process flows that minimize labor
- Kanban and visual pull, reorder, and locator systems
- Elimination of excess inventory
- Continuous improvement opportunities

Our journey has just started. However, we are making great strides in making Sprig an even better place to work!



Tool Staging – Everything Has A Place

6S - A process to ensure work areas are systematically kept clean and organized, ensuring employee safety and providing the foundation on which to build a lean system.

- Safety – All aspects of Lean practices will provide a safer workplace.
- Sort – Organize. Only keep what's essential.
- Set – Orderliness. Everything has a place.
- Shine – Cleanliness.
- Standardize – Create new habits to keep things clean and efficient.
- Sustain – Enforce new standards and recognize those who adhere to them.



Hardware Carts - Before



Hardware Carts - After



Earth Day 2010

Written by Kara Hermann

Sprig Electric kicked off Earth Day with a week full of activities.

- Collections for Salvation Army, SJ Animal Shelter, Cell Phones for Soldiers
- Bins spread throughout the office to recycle large quantities of paper

During the staff meeting, Sprig employees showed their support by wearing their "green". After yummy green snacks, the day was followed by a couple speakers.

LEAN and Green was a topic covered more in detail on page 2 in the Newsletter.

The Green Committee did a presentation to remind employees how to recycle properly at the office.



We completed the afternoon of Earth Day by collecting surveys (results below), followed by a raffle for prizes. Congratulations to Gerald, Jolene, Ellie and Tom. And thanks to all for making Sprig Green!

Sprig Electric LEED Certified Employees:

- Earl Finlay
- Mike Glogovac
- Kara Hermann
- Scott Moreau
- Ty Smith
- John Stice
- Mike Trout

Survey Says...

Written by Jennifer Akamine

At the Earth Day/Staff Meeting in April, employees participated in the Green Committee's (GC) first Survey. Thank you to the 29 people who participated in the survey. Here are the results!

- Do you read the "Switch to Green" newsletter? **Yes- 23** No- 6
- Do you know what LEED stands for? ** **Yes- 15** No- 12 NR-2
- Do you recycle at work? **Yes- 29** (good job!)
- Would you use reusable utensils if they were provided at work? **Yes- 17** No- 12
- Do you recycle at home? **Yes- 29** (excellent!)
- Do you use paper cups at work? **Always-5** Sometimes-16 Never- 8
- Do you use reusable mugs at work? **Always-14** Sometimes-10 Never- 5
- How effective do you feel the GC has been? **Very effective-19** Somewhat effective- 9 NR-1

Of those who recycle at work: 27 recycle paper, 20 recycle ink, 10 recycle frozen meal containers, 25 recycle bottles, 24 recycle cans and 15 recycle batteries.

Some comments when asked how the GC could raise "green" awareness and help Sprig become more environmentally conscious:

- "More recycle bins through out company with pictures or cheat notes."
- "Stop supplying paper cups."
- "Work remotely from home occasionally to save gas."
- "Post signs at printers/plotter: Print it, plot it, pick it up!"
- "Look into products used in the field for green alternatives that still comply with code."

**LEED stands for: Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design

For a list of other sustainable projects, please see our website at: www.sprigelectric.com

Eat Your Greens

Written by Jennifer Akamine



“Farmers’ Markets help build real community by fostering economic and social ties between producers and consumers...”

Spring has sprung and there's no better time to get fresh and fabulous food from your local farmer's market, local being the key word. The term “locavore” was Oxford dictionary's Word of the Year in 2007, and the local food movement has been steadily gaining momentum. A locavore is simply one who eats food grown locally, whenever possible.

In 2005, professional chef and author Jessica Prentice and a group of “concerned culinary adventurers” challenged everyone in the Bay Area to eat only foods grown or harvested within a 100 mile radius of San Francisco.

The benefits touted for buying local are that it reduces the costs, monetary and environmentally, of transportation, processing packaging and advertising. The quality of food comes from not only the way it is grown but also how it is prepared and cared for from the time it leaves the fields until it gets to our tables. Local food tends to be fresher and have better flavor since it doesn't have to be picked prior to ripeness in order to survive a long journey.

Here in the Bay Area it's easy to take advantage of all the tasty local produce. There are several year 'round markets as well as seasonal markets. Most growers offer samples of products before you buy and many offer organic, heirloom and other specialty crops not found in traditional large scale super markets.

Check out the Farmers' Market in downtown San Jose on your lunch hour. It's held every Friday from 10a.m.-2 p.m. in San Pedro Square on Santa Clara Street. Every third Friday is “Green Days” at the market, where special vendors are onsite with tips on how to live green. Enjoy live music while you shop and you can even give the Cherry Pit Spitting contest a try!

Too busy to hit the Farmers' Market but still want great local produce? Get fresh veggies delivered to your door for a reasonable price. Check out www.twosmallfarms.com or www.planetorganics.com

For a list of local Certified Farmers' Markets, check out www.urbanvillageonline.com
To learn more about Locavores, visit: www.locavores.com



Quick Tip: Switch to Recycled Toilet Paper

If every household in the U.S. bought just 1 four pack of recycled bath tissue instead of the standard virgin fiber tissue, it would eliminate 60,600 lbs of chlorine pollution, preserve 365 million gallons of water and save almost 1 million trees. Wow!

Sources: MSN, Locavores.com, Urbanvillageonline.com, sjdowntown.com

