

2020

ST. LOUIS
GREEN BUSINESS
CHALLENGE



Accomplishments and Innovations



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City of Collinsville, Illinois

City of University City, Missouri

City of Brentwood, Missouri

Village of Godfrey, Illinois

City of Wentzville, Missouri

City of Clayton, Missouri

City of Granite City, Illinois

City of Wildwood, Missouri

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StraightUp Solar

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2020 ST. LOUIS GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The 2020 St. Louis Green Business Challenge, a program of the Missouri Botanical Garden, delivers Triple Bottom Line results (fiscal, social and environmental) to businesses of all types and sizes across the St. Louis region. The Challenge supports integration of sustainability measures into the kinds of everyday operational practices common to every business. Participants identify and adopt strategies that improve financial performance and engage employees in voluntary measures to reduce environmental impacts.



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Since the program launched in 2010, 245 businesses, non-profits and municipalities have joined the Challenge. This participation has engaged over 155,000 employees and nearly 470,000 residents for a total of over 620,000 individuals influenced by this work. Ongoing sustainability commitment is strong: 60% of these companies have participated in the challenge for two or more years, 45% for three years or more.

CHALLENGE 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

50 companies, non-profits, institutions, and governmental bodies participated in the Challenge.

100% of participants have formed a Green Team to lead sustainability efforts
100% have established a Sustainability Policy or Sustainability Guidelines
100% kept up or started Workplace Recycling, even during remote working
100% kept up sustainability communications with colleagues or constituents
97% participated in three or more Challenge Seminars
95% actively promoted Welless, in addition to COVID safety
90% experienced a Business Advantage from sustainability engagement
85% continued or implemented Sustainable Purchasing
81% continued or increased Tracking and Reporting of resource usage
78% had a significant number of employees Working Remotely, due to COVID-19
76% promoted and/or contributed to Food Bank Donations
75% continued or added to Special Waste Stream Recycling
64% are Doing Business with another Challenge company
64% supported Environmental Action, contributing service, goods or cash
59% promoted or actively supported Green Transportation options
57% provided Green Learning opportunities or Green-At-Home resources
48% promoted Nature Connections, including use of Native Landscaping
40% achieved or renewed Green Certifications for buildings or operations

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The St. Louis Green Business Challenge, a program of the Missouri Botanical Garden, assists companies in integrating sustainable measures into their daily operations. Initiated in partnership with the St. Louis Regional Chamber, the Challenge leveraged the Chamber's broad business network and the Garden's sustainability resources to grow a network of companies committed to green policy and practice.

Now in its 11th year, Challenge activity influences the business, educational, governmental, and non-profit sectors of the St. Louis regional economy. The program works for building owners and tenants, supporting companies new to the concept of sustainable business operations and those already engaged and ready to fully integrate sustainable options.

Challenge companies benefit from customized coaching, including site visits and ongoing phone and email support

provided by expert staff of the EarthWays Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden's sustainability division. These services support Challenge participants in evaluating and implementing sustainability options in ways that optimize outcomes, cost-effectiveness and engagement, in alignment with each company's goals and culture.

Company Green Team leaders meet regularly to share their best practices, processes and outcomes, and learn new strategies. The Challenge eNewsletter recaps these seminar presentations and circulates community-wide resources and program updates. An online resource bank provides examples of policies, surveys, communication tools and best practices that are generously shared by Challenge participants. These frequent Challenge activities and regular communications maintain a robust regional professional network of sustainability leaders, representing a wide range of career specializations.

2020 SPECIAL FEATURES

At our **Kickoff Seminar**, before COVID shutdowns, a **Resource Fair** engaged 81 attendees with the green products and services of 16 Challenge companies. Special guest Amy Aussieker of **Envision Charlotte, NC**, presented her region's Circular Economy and Zero Waste work, options that challenged thinking here!

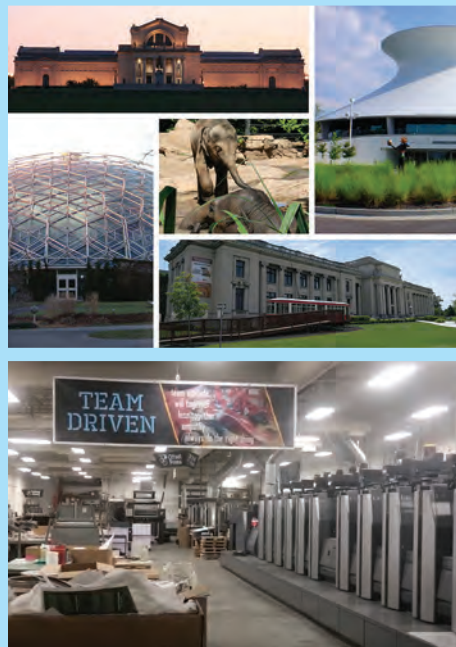


COVID-19 prompted a Challenge program shift from monthly in-person to 32 weekly **Virtual Brown Bag Seminars**, showcasing the work of 38 companies, Green Cities and community partners. Archived online: concise half-hours with descriptions and related links, for efficient sharing by Green Teams to their colleagues and constituents.

Green Team leaders from **Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri Historical Society, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Science Center** and **Saint Louis Zoo** began convening to share resources and identify potentials for collaboration across our **Zoo-Museum District**.

A unified election season campaign, led by **Madison County IL** and **University City MO**, mobilized regional partners including **Green Cities Challenge** in a pilot system for recycling plastic yard signs and metal stands.

The Advertisers Printing Company hosted a **Virtual Green Business Tour**, highlighted by new LED/UV print technology.



GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE LEVELS

Challenge Apprentice companies choose action items from a menu of basic sustainability policies and practices to start the process of greening business operations. In 2020, Apprentice companies formed green teams, adopted sustainability policies, converted to purchasing recycled-content office and janitorial paper products, installed high efficiency lighting and identified alternative transportation options. Apprentice participants meet twice, for a “Sustainability 101” training seminar and a report-out session to learn from peers’ experience and achievements.

Challenge Leader participants work with a categorized, point-based Scorecard (described below) to guide their choices of activity. Leaders submit scores twice during the Challenge year: a Baseline Score of existing measures and a Final Score tallying all strategies in place within the year. Each company competes with itself to achieve the greatest gain.

Challenge Champion companies are those that have completed work with the Leader scorecard in past years and commit to continued implementation of deeper sustainability strategies. Champions work with a scorecard that guides advanced efforts such as completing a greenhouse gas inventory, reducing energy use by at least 25%, and striving toward a 75% or greater waste diversion rate. Challenge Champions may also elect to develop and report on an Innovation Project around internal greening efforts or their public or client-facing work.

Green Cities Challenge participants address sustainability within the range of operational requirements unique to local governments. Participating municipalities incorporated sustainability policy and practice fundamentals, including addressing measures defined by OneSTL, the regional plan for sustainable development.

THE CHALLENGE SCORECARD—A ROAD MAP OF STRATEGIES

Challenge scorecards detail a comprehensive range of sustainability options that address the kinds of operations common to every business. Each company earns points by acting on their selected strategies, at Leader and Champion levels. Participants can choose to:

Conduct **outreach** by expanding the culture of sustainability within and outside the organization (green teams, purchasing policies, internal and customer/public communications, community partnerships).

Conserve **energy** (energy efficiency in HVAC, equipment and lighting, renewable energy).

Improve **indoor environmental quality** (air quality, green cleaning, workplace comfort).

Reduce **waste** (recycling, paper reduction, food service, disposables).

Conserve **water** (fixture conservation, stormwater management).

Provide **clean transportation alternatives** (carpooling, bike-to-work, transit, travel).

In addition, unique Challenge components engage companies in special regional initiatives:

Better Building Through Benchmarking is a regional project organized by the U.S. Green Building Council – Missouri Gateway Chapter to increase the square footage of third-party

verified green space in the St. Louis region. Companies are encouraged to benchmark their building energy using ENERGY STAR benchmarking tools. This Challenge component also encourages the exploration of LEED, SITES, WELL, True Zero-Waste, BCorp, and other certification programs.

Better Business Through Biodiversity engages companies with strategies to evaluate and improve factors affecting natural habitat. This Challenge focus significantly contributes to BiodiverseCity St. Louis, a community-wide initiative to connect people to nature and to promote, protect and plan for biodiversity throughout the region. Challenge teams work to identify biodiversity assets in property and personnel, and to better understand impacts each company has on plants, animals and habitat.

Mini-Challenges encourage advanced efforts in:

Employee Engagement, through community service, “Taking Green Home” tips and more.

Alternative Transportation, through cycling, transit use, car-sharing and carpooling.

Recycle Responsibly, advancing regional waste minimization goals and correct practices.

WINNING THE CHALLENGE

Throughout the first decade of Challenge work, each participant has competed with itself to boost sustainability performance, as tallied by Scorecard points. Awards of Achievement have annually recognized work by all. Awards of Merit have honored companies with Most Points Gained.

In this 11th year, as COVID-19 workarounds limited Scorecard use, Green Teams across the program rose to the challenge

of continuing and growing sustainable practice. Challenge 2020 participants will all receive the same award: honoring commitment, persistence and resourceful action, in routine operations and innovative projects. The award graphically affirms the “deep roots” of sustainability grown through our collective efforts, across our regional economy.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The St. Louis Green Business Challenge Awards are designed by Stan Gellman Graphic Design. The 2020 awards are printed on chipboard with foil stamping accents highlighting the year and our iconic Gateway Arch.

Material choices embody design industry green awareness: VOC-free, recycled content chipboard; non-emitting solvent-free inks; foil stamping that is RoHS Compliant (Restrictive of Hazardous Substances Directive) and free of the 191 substances on the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). Previous years' designs incorporated sustainably produced bamboo, reclaimed aluminum printing plates, and recycled cork tiles.

Sustainable creativity at Stan Gellman Graphic Design has contributed immeasurably to the capacity of the Challenge to recognize company achievements over all 11 program years. We are proud that SGGD was recognized in 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2020 from Graphic Design USA for their Challenge Award design work.



2020 ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

GadellNet attained and **StraightUp Solar** renewed BCorp Certification. **The Advertisers Printing Company** maintained Certified Green Printer status. **Bayer** renewed Wildlife Habitat Council Gold Certification for their Creve Coeur campus.

Missouri Historical Society earned Gold-level TRUE Zero-Waste Certification, the first U.S. museum and first St. Louis building achieving this demanding milestone.

On their third try, in COVID year, **Granite City IL** completed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, work that earned Master's degrees for two students from SIU-E. **Collinsville IL** adopted a Sustainability Plan, adapted from Granite City's plan.

Cortex Innovation Community selected the Challenge to engage their diverse properties and constituents in sustainable action, in policy and practice. Innovative green to come in 2021!

A new Challenge website retains useful features with fresh elements, in a mobile-oriented clean look.





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“Advertisers has been printing in the City of St. Louis for nearly 100 years, proudly union. We’ve made great strides in our sustainable operation: adopted leaner processes, aggressively reduced waste outputs, invested in a fleet of hybrid vehicles, added a rooftop of solar, and converted our entire plant to LED lighting. Our single greatest advancement adds this LED/UV 10 color perfector press. The Challenge has supported, mentored, and promoted our efforts. This involvement helps amplify our story and allows us to learn from the efforts of our peers within the Challenge.

John Heaney
SVP Sales / Sustainability
Director



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Conversion to LED/UV print technology and overall plant lighting to LED

Measurable Elements

- Right-Sizing Print Production: 25 x 37 delivers reduced paper spoilage in the 16pp format. Make-ready (set-up) paper spoilage reductions of up to 80%
- Reduced Consumables: plates, blankets & inking are reduced by nearly one third over a 40" press.
- Energy Savings: one pass perfecting eliminates Pass 2 time/energy and allows the operator to uncover print issues immediately with no surprises.
- LED-UV Curing: Zero ozone emissions need no exhaust ventilation, yield greater EHS for workforce. Low heat generation cuts HVAC energy waste in facility climate control. LED uses only 10% of energy of a conventional arc lamp UV system. Light source life up to 15,000 hours versus 1,000–3,000 for conventional arc lamp. Instant on/off UV pulsing eliminates need for massive standby power. LED UV yields dry-time savings, as sheets go instantly to cutter or folder.
- Ink & Coating Savings: LED UV eliminates need for expensive, odor-emitting aqueous coatings that add time and cost.
- LED Lighting Conversion: Saves 6,401 kWh annually, replacing T8 & T12 with LED bulbs and fixture conversion kits. Over 5 years, displacing 5.3 metric tons of carbon, with projected financial savings of \$ 2,438.78.

Qualitative Elements

- Overall time reduction for client approvals, less visits to be onsite for color review.
- Zero ink dry time required to begin bindery processes, improving overall production through-put for greater scheduling flexibility.
- Efficiencies and automation reduce machine and labor hours systemwide.



CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Advancing Our Sustainability Initiatives

Measurable Elements

- Updated carbon emission reduction targets, based on 2005 levels, to 50% by 2030 and 85% by 2040, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. New goals align with objectives of the Paris Agreement, limiting global temperature rise to 1.5° Celsius.
- Announced plans to add 3,100 MW of new clean, renewable generation by 2030 and a total of 5,400 MW by 2040.
- Advanced retirement of Ameren Missouri's coal-fired energy centers. More than 75% of the Company's current coal-fired energy generating capacity will be retired by 2040, all will be retired by 2042.
- Established a Fleet Electrification Goal for 100% of new light-duty vehicle purchases by 2030 to be electric, plus goal for 35% of overall vehicle fleet electrified by 2030.



Qualitative Elements

- Published award-winning 2020 Sustainability Report (previously a Corporate Social Responsibility Report), a comprehensive view of action taken on key environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters.
- Community Savers® program distributed 240,000 LEDs and 1,700 window AC units to income-eligible customers in 2020.
- Ameren Missouri will invest ~\$240 million to fund energy efficiency and demand response programs over 2020-2024 through BizSavers®, Residential, and Community Savers® programs.
- Updated parking areas with new EV charging stations, 65 co-worker spaces at St. Louis Headquarters and 27 spaces at other facility locations, supporting regional electrification initiatives.



Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. We have a duty to make changes that will benefit all customers. Too often, underserved and vulnerable communities are hardest hit by the world's challenges. I'm proud that Ameren Missouri's updated Integrated Resource Plan keeps inclusion in mind, so that all customers, regardless of where they live or their household income, have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy without compromising reliability.

Gwen Mizell
 Ameren Vice President,
 Sustainability



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“At Bayer’s St. Louis locations we are continuously working to reduce the environmental impact of our sites. We do this by creating and maintaining habitats for native species to flourish, emphasizing the importance of proper recycling to reduce our environmental footprint, and conserving energy and water.

Justin Prien
Sr Mgr, NA HSE, Facility and
Lab Operations, Environmental,
Sustainability and HSE
Management Systems



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Bayer’s Chesterfield Wetland Restoration

Measurable Elements

- Had an average landfill diversion rate of 70% for YTD 2020.
- Installed three purple martin nesting houses and 24 purple martin nesting gourds.
- Renewed Wildlife Habitat Council Gold Certification for Bayer’s Creve Coeur campus.



Qualitative Elements

- Restored two wetlands at Bayer’s Chesterfield campus.
- Improved monitoring of prairie habitats to include identifying species presence versus absent, and created a new, more detailed monitoring form for employee use.
- Working to develop new mobile and web applications to log wildlife habitat observations (nest box monitoring) on Bayer campus.



CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

The Daily Grind

Measurable Elements

- As a Level II arboretum of 314 acres, we annually use about 500 yards of mulch to manage our ever-expanding collection of over 9,000 trees and shrubs. This mulch is delivered regularly throughout the year.
- We lose 20–30 trees per year, and collect tons of green waste (brush, weeds, leaves, etc.) that was almost entirely picked up and hauled away by a contracted waste company.
- Both of these practices collectively require a semitruck to travel over 1,000 miles per year.
- By eliminating our need for wood chip mulch delivery and green waste pick-ups, we save 1.5 metric tons of CO₂ per year and 250 gallons of fuel per year!



Qualitative Elements

- We collected two years' worth of large downed tree trunks and about six months of green waste in a large pile in our materials yard. As the pile grew in size, it had to be turned, moved and compacted throughout the season.
- When the pile outgrew our space, we hired a local company to come out to grind up the green waste and wood. The process took a full day on the tub grinder.
- We now have two years' worth of in-house mulch for use as we care for our ever-evolving landscape.



“As both a historic institution and an active cemetery, Bellefontaine Cemetery and Arboretum (BCA) strives to continue its legacy as an innovative and community-oriented public institution. Central to this goal is an understanding of the necessity of sustainable practices. BCA is committed to responsible land stewardship, resource monitoring, and offering eco-friendly alternatives to our guests and families.

Emily Leidenfrost
 Horticulturist



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“Upholding the commitment to facilitating environmentally sound activity becomes even more challenging during a crisis such as a pandemic. I am very proud of the effort over this past calendar year by Bethesda employees, volunteers, and residents and their families to prioritize environmentally conscious practices—a civic responsibility we organizationally accept.”

Joseph J. Brinker
President and Chief Executive
Officer



is a program of



Accomplishments

- Upgraded lighting under the canopy from HID to LED at Bethesda Orchard.
- Upgraded common area lighting to LED at Bethesda Orchard.
- Upgraded Bethesda Meadow lighting throughout the facility, changing ~2,200 fluorescent bulbs to LED.



Innovations

- During apartment renovations, we are upgrading the lighting from incandescent and fluorescent to LED bulbs at all Senior Living facilities.
- Appliances are being upgraded to ENERGY STAR Certified models upon renovation in all apartments.
- Upgrading to a more energy efficient cooling tower at Bethesda Dilworth.



CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Sustaining and Growing Internal Sustainability Awareness Through Enhanced Communications and Community Partnerships

Measureable Elements

- Green Team facilitated 27 webinars, promoted on three apps from: Ameren, Green Business Challenge, Gateway Greening, BG Sustainability, Living Lands & Waters; 30+ attendees for strategy webinars.
- 12+ volunteers across seven sites for the Earth Day 2020 tree planting.
- Biodiversity Project planted 437 native species trees at five Bunge sites plus 25 trees donated to City of McGregor.
- Renewable Energy Project supports two East Kansas plants switch to 100% wind power/Zero Emissions by year-end 2020.
- Sponsorships for Living Lands and Waters and Gateway Greening help these non-profits promote sustainability and urban vitality in St. Louis.
- St. Louis Business Journal names Megan Weidner, VP Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability, to “40 under 40” list of professional leaders.



Quantitative Elements

- Board-level Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility Committee, our top governance body, oversees development of sustainability policies, strategies, programs, performance goals, risk management and disclosure.
- Supporting achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Hosting global stakeholder meetings.
- Bunge staff serve as industry leaders for: Climate-Related Market Risk Subcommittee; Barge Digital Transformation Project; Field to Market for agricultural productivity and environmental efficiencies in the food production chain; ESMC Founding Circle, a market-based collaboration to preserve ecosystems and North American agricultural lands.



“Bunge’s corporate citizenship starts at the top and works through every stage of our value chains and operations. Projects and commitments support robust action on climate change, promote responsible supply chains, and provide accountability. At St. Louis global headquarters, we were pleased to continue in the Green Business Challenge with employee education, local environmental projects, and leadership toward common solutions to industry-wide challenges.

Luke Niedringhaus
 Export Logistics Specialist –
 Lead, Green Team



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Population: 27,865
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GREEN CITIES CHALLENGE

“Thanks to the Challenge for encouraging local governments to conserve energy and water, reduce waste, advance sustainable transportation, enhance biodiversity, and educate and engage constituents around sustainable thinking and practice. We are proud of the efforts of our Climate Protection Energy Efficiency Committee, improving recycling and promoting solar energy placement. 2020 has proven to be an interesting year. Cool Cities continues to make the City of Alton more livable through sustainability.”

Brant Walker
Mayor, City of Alton



is a program of



Accomplishments

- Downtown recycling bins were placed in a central area where everyone can use them to recycle.
- Riverbend Trash Tag Challenge sponsored by Alton Mainstreet to challenge trash pick-up during COVID-19.
- City of Alton updated our Solar Panel Ordinance to simplify the permitting process.



Innovations

- Working a Solar Farm Proposal for the closed Alton landfill.
- Completed a Great Streets Plan initiative to make Alton's downtown more livable.
- Completed our CDP report and working to make our community more aware.
- Public Works department installed energy efficiency lighting in their public building.



Accomplishments

- Established a Sustainability Commission, approved by the Board of Aldermen.
- Planted 118 trees to help rebuild urban forest.
- Hosted four residential paper shredding events.
- Educated residents about proper curbside recycling, through social media, newsletters and website.
- Promoted Grow Solar St. Louis group-buy program.
- Added water-bottle filler at City Hall during building renovation; provided Brentwood-branded refillable bottles to all City employees and elected officials.
- Completed sports courts project with upgraded remote-controlled LED lights.
- Replaced all exterior park fixtures with high efficiency LED bulbs.
- Installed three solar-powered streetlights and two solar-powered, radar-enabled speed limit signs.
- Continued a woodland restoration project, eradicating invasive exotic plant species.



“The City of Brentwood is committed to a focus on sustainability, and we are thrilled to participate in the 2020 Green Cities Challenge. The Brentwood Board of Aldermen launched a sustainability initiative in 2020 to help ensure a vibrant future for the Brentwood community. Each of our City departments is working to identify and incorporate sustainable practices into our operations.”

David A. Dimmitt
Mayor, City of Brentwood

Innovations

- Hosted four electronics recycling drives.
- Adopted 2018 International Code Council codes.
- Implemented Best Management Practices for Stormwater Control.
- Worked with Missouri Community Forest Council, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Great Rivers Greenway and the Missouri Department of Conservation to connect residents to their urban forest, by attaching brightly colored “Trees Work” signs to trees throughout Brentwood, identifying the species and highlighting how the tree is an essential worker in the community.
- Arranged to install two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Recreation Complex.
- Brentwood Bound, the City’s major flood mitigation project, will remove structures in the floodway that have been subject to repetitive flood damage. Twelve flood-prone structures have been demolished and floodplain restoration is underway.



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GREEN CITIES CHALLENGE

“The City of Clayton has a strong record of valuing sustainability. Recycling programs, use of rain gardens, a city-wide smoking ban, and commitment to green building design are embedded into our culture and operations. This first year in the Green Cities Challenge proved invaluable, helping us focus efforts to revisit past accomplishments and determine future priorities. Led by our Sustainability Committee, we will continue to prioritize green practices, identifying additional ways Clayton can continue to be a sustainability leader in the St. Louis Region.”

Michelle Harris
 Mayor, City of Clayton



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Accomplishments

- Implemented energy management software to track and report on energy usage and monitor measures taken to conserve energy.
- Renovation of Center of Clayton included installation of high efficiency HVAC systems, LED lighting with occupancy sensors, installation of ENERGY STAR appliances, and planting stormwater detention facilities with native landscaping.
- Replaced City Hall - Fire Station boiler with 96% thermal efficiency, low emissions, multi-heat exchanger boiler. Lowered thermostats Fire Station Engine Bay in November 2019, resulting in a savings of nearly 11,000 therms of energy.



Innovations

- Removal of invasive species throughout City parks and rights-of-way has been a priority for years, but this past year we achieved nearly full eradication in our developed parks.
- Installation of Woodland native urban trail in Oak Knoll Park, including more than 700 native plants and bushes that will ensure that the area thrives.
- Replacing water fountains with water bottle fillers throughout City facilities and parks in order to reduce use of plastic bottles in the community.

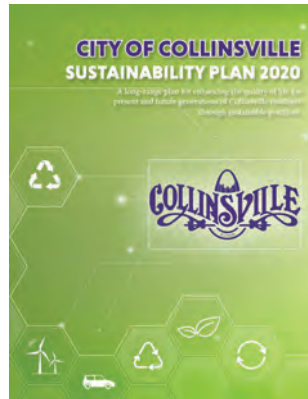




Derek Jackson | Deputy City Manager
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Accomplishments

- Adopted the City's first comprehensive Sustainability Plan, divided into five focus areas: Transportation; Land Use Planning; Environmental Management; Buildings, Grounds, & Lighting; and Community Development, Engagement & Education. The Plan will serve as the City's guiding policy document for sustainability efforts.
- The City received public input and support by hosting two open houses and an online survey.
- The plan will be reviewed annually by City staff and the Cool Cities Committee to evaluate which policies have not been started, are in progress, are fully implemented, and consideration to add or modify policies based on scientific research and/or emerging technologies.
- Collinsville discontinued spraying for mosquitoes in 2020. Spraying had little impact on mosquito control, caused adverse effects on the environment, and was largely considered a nuisance by residents. Decreased supplies and labor hours will yield operational savings. The City will continue deployment of larvicide wafers in standing water and storm drains.

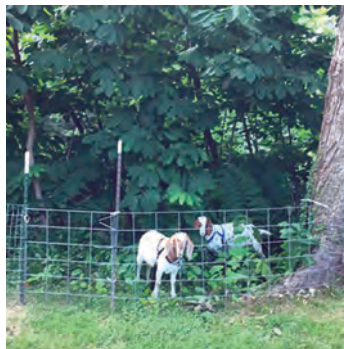


“The Green Business Challenge reflects the progress Collinsville is making as a community that strives to always improve. Challenging ourselves to be a green-conscious municipality is a testament to Collinsville's forward-thinking approach and a reflection of what residents ask of and take action to implement in our city. As someone who returned to Collinsville after living elsewhere for many years, it's exciting to witness the pride residents now take in our hometown.”

Lisa Brennan
Mayor, City of Collinsville

Innovations

- Willoughby Farm piloted Goatscaping in 2020. This program involves leasing goats from the Farm to privately owned residential properties within the City as an environmentally friendly way to clear unwanted weeds and invasive plants. Willoughby Farm intends to expand this program in 2021!
- The City partnered with Land of Goshen Community Market's Beet Box, a mobile farmer's market designed to increase access to fresh local produce and more comprehensive nutrition education for underserved residents. The City reserves space for Beet Box in Woodland Park every Monday, July to October, directly across the street from City's largest public housing development.



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“The Green Cities Challenge helps hold our Village decision makers and staff members accountable to consider sustainable and environmentally conscious purchases and practices that enhance our community’s quality of life.”

Virginia Woulfe-Beile
Trustee



is a program of



Accomplishments

- Planned and executed the Village-wide E-cycle event.
- Utilize Board Docs for paperless meeting notes.
- Passed a solar ordinance.
- Municipal sponsor of Grow Solar Metro East.

Innovations

- Installed solar panel at Glazebrook Park.
- Updating stormwater ordinance to include green infrastructure solutions.
- Zone scheduling street department projects to save on fuel and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.
- Finalized plans to install traffic circle to replace dangerous intersection.
- Created new logo for Godfrey Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection Committee.





Craig Knight | Risk Manager

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Granite City Hall, 2000 Edison Avenue, Granite City, IL 62040-0073

Population: 28,170

www.granitecity.illinois.gov

Accomplishments

- Participated in the University of Illinois Extension's Gardening Grant Project—extended version for 2020.
- Partnered with the Grow Solar Metro East project again in 2020.
- Participated in a Tree Inventory Project toward growing trees as ecological, economic and social resources for Granite City.



Innovations

- Completed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory using ICLEI's ClearPath Tool. Partnering with our Sierra Club advisor, graduate students from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville gathered and analyzed data, and presented their findings to Mayor Hagnauer and the Granite City Council.
- Made plans to provide an Educational Project on Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot for schools, businesses, and residents in partnership with Madison County Green Schools and the Six Mile Regional Libraries.
- Conducted research to remedy flooding in Granite City through storm water management using natural landscaping, in partnership with Granite City Art and Design District and New American Gardening.



“We, the Granite City Government and our Cool Cities Committee, are so pleased to be a part of the Green Cities Challenge for our sixth year. Our involvement with this challenge has provided us an opportunity to learn what other communities throughout the Metro St. Louis area are doing to improve their cities through sustainable accomplishments. We are working toward making Granite City a better and more sustainable community for our citizens, both now and for future generations.”

Ed Hagnauer
Mayor, Granite City



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“Our goal is to plan based on the triple bottom line—People, Planet, and Profit—in order to account for the full cost of our actions. This is critical in remaining environmentally and socially responsible, while ensuring we make fiscally responsible decisions to implement all of our projects and programs.”

Jenny Wendt
Senior Project Manager



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Accomplishments

- Robust education and outreach through social media outlets and direct emails.
- Persisted with collections and public education during COVID: proper paint and Household Hazardous Waste disposal; Illicit Discharge awareness.
- Promoted utility rebates, residential Grow Solar program, and the commercial Renew STL Solar program.
- Formed a TreeKeeper volunteer group to remove honeysuckle and other invasive species, and focused on native planting.
- Community paper shredding event recycled six tons over three hours.
- Spurred by our Green Team, U City began a program to eliminate delivery paycheck stubs in envelopes for City employees, moving to electronic delivery instead.
- Promoted and worked in River des Peres Trash Bash.
- Supported St. Louis HELP for Medical Equipment Donation Drive.



Innovations

- In partnership with Natural Resources Defense Council and the Blackbird Foundation, U City is auditing residential food waste. Results will be used to develop education toward reducing food waste.
- Working with Washington University Sustainability Exchange Program to update our Sustainability Strategic Plan, originally developed in 2010.
- Formed a Stormwater Commission to focus attention on stormwater quantity and quality issues. Surveyed residents and issued a report indicating areas of flooding and erosion. Developing short- and long-term mitigation practices.
- Led regional pilot recycling of corrugated plastic campaign yard signs. Before this initiative, plastic signs ended up as litter or landfilled.

Accomplishments

- The City's Employee Committee purchased reusable utensils for quarterly staff luncheons to prevent an estimated 1,000 plastic utensils from going to landfills each year.
- Park and Recreation staff have been changing out the Holiday Night Light scene display to LEDs. Since starting this gradual change about three years ago, the City has decreased power used for displays by 62%. An additional 12,000 bulbs will be changed out this year, so nearly all lightbulbs will be LEDs.
- The Park and Recreation newsletter, *Fun Times*, is in its digital-only trial run. So far, two issues have gone digital. If all three editions distributed throughout the year are digital-only, the need for 864,000 pieces of paper will be eliminated.



Innovations

- The Stormwater Advisory Committee and Green Team completed a pollinator planting at the Schroeder Creek Boulevard - William Dierberg Drive roundabout. More than 700 native flowers include butterfly milkweed, bee-balm and lance-leaved coreopsis.
- The Green Team collaboratively built a sustainability-focused employee resource website. Information includes:
 - › Green at Home, activities like composting, rainscaping and educational activities for kids.
 - › Recycling in the Office, the what's, how's and why's of recycling.
 - › A Green Guide, where and how to start your sustainable journey.
 - › A Calendar of sustainability-focused days, regional events and opportunities.
- Staff reviewed and staked trees to preserve on the site of the future Public Works facility. Nearly five acres of trees retained will provide shade and canopy for stormwater interception.



GREEN CITIES CHALLENGE

“The City of Wentzville continues to seek out innovative ways to keep sustainability at the forefront of our current initiatives and future planning efforts. In our second year, the City remains committed to the mission of the Green Cities Challenge. Our employee-led Green Team fosters sustainable practices citywide and encourages all employees to reduce environmental footprints. Through quarterly meetings, projects such as pollinator plantings, holiday gift-bag exchanges, policy review and more, the City continues to be resourceful and environmentally responsible.”

Douglas Lee
City Administrator



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GREEN CITIES CHALLENGE

“Wildwood is one of the largest municipalities—in both population and landmass—in Missouri and St. Louis County. We’ve shown that it is possible to develop businesses and build homes, while protecting the beauty and space of our land.”

Jim Bowlin
 Mayor, City of Wildwood



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Accomplishments

- Wildwood has removed over 100 ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and will replace over 80 trees with Missouri native species using a TRIM grant. Davey Tree Resource is training and collaborating with City staff to use Treekeeper as a means of maintaining an inventory of all ash removals and replacements.
- Various sections of Wildwood trails have been improved with over five miles of crack sealing repairs.
- At LaCave Trailhead a community planting project installed at least 20 native trees and hundreds of native plants.
- The Wildwood Farms Community Garden received a new tool shed for community tool sharing and storage, and moved several yards of rock, soil, and mulch to create a new front area garden. This will become a pollinator and project garden for volunteer workdays in the future.



Innovations

- The City installed over one mile of pervious sidewalks on the Manchester Streetscape Phase 3 project to meet MSD requirements.
- The Watershed Erosion Task Force held a training presentation on Channel Condition Data Collection to help its members engage in data collection methods that are consistent for all of Wildwood.
- New and improved recycle bins with relevant labels were installed in City Hall meeting rooms to prevent contamination to recycling.





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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Sustainable Features of COCA's New Ferring Wing

Measurable Elements

- 100% LED lighting.
- Two new high-efficiency Daikin air handling units.
- New landscape design featuring all native plant life.
- Three new water bottle filling stations to help reduce the use of disposable cups and plastic bottles.
- All new restroom faucets equipped with automatic sensors to control water usage.



Qualitative Elements

- COCA's new dance studios are bathed in natural light and equipped with daylight sensors to help reduce energy use during daytime hours. The entire Ferring Wing is furnished with motion sensor lighting, minimizing unnecessary energy usage.
- A green roof was incorporated into the design. Located at the juncture between the two wings of the facility, this feature provides additional green space to the property, and supports local pollinators.
- All studios are equipped with A/V and streaming capabilities allowing for at-home arts instruction, reducing the need for transportation, and cutting carbon emissions.



“From the inception of this project, part of our vision was to design a ‘sustainable building of lasting quality.’ By working closely with the project design and construction teams we developed a responsible design, clear sustainability goals, and quality construction with enduring materials. We have created a space that the St. Louis community will enjoy for generations to come.”

Amanda Snow
 Operations Manager



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“In pursuing Project Green sustainability principles, Commerce Bancshares, Inc. will ensure that our Corporate Mission to create long-term value for our shareholders is honored. Consistent with the Corporate Mission, we will consider environmental and sustainability factors in all facets of our business and will measure our progress. We will encourage our customers, employees, suppliers and communities to do likewise.”

Robert Conway
General Services Lead



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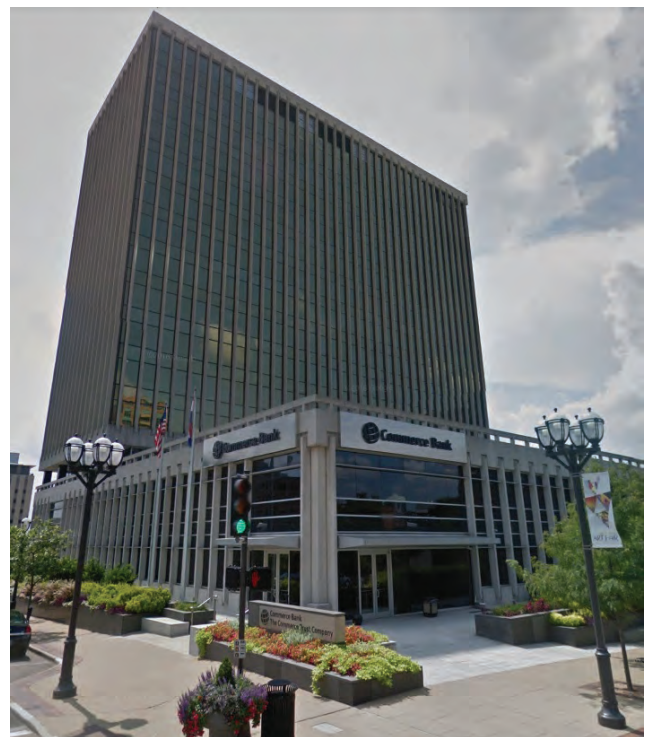
Accomplishments

- Conducted a waste audit to find any contaminants in the recycle system and re-educate departments.
- Inventory list of unused office supplies has resulted in over \$22,000 in savings as of October 2020, a new record.
- Team members took it upon themselves to continue recycling operations throughout the building during the COVID-19 pandemic while outside vendors are not allowed in the building.



Innovations

- Created electronic mail delivery for workers at home and in the office, reducing the number of items sent by mail and by couriers.
- Hosted first annual supply drive, allowing employees to drop off or pick up office supplies.
- Developed a plan to build new Commerce Bank Tower as a certified LEED Silver building.



Accomplishments

- Formed a Green Team with representatives from multiple Cortex departments.
- Maintained regular sustainability focused updates during weekly staff meeting.
- Eliminated single-use plastics including bottled water, food service ware and utensils; replaced with reusable kitchenware and water cooler.
- Set up composting bin in main office.
- Accounting department went paperless.
- Scheduling eWaste collection events for 2021 with fellow Challenge company MRC Recycling. Electronics drop boxes now set up in our main office.



Innovations

- Drafted a Sustainability Policy for the Cortex organization.
- Three-day virtual workshop gathered stakeholder input toward district-wide Sustainability Plan. Participation averaged 45 contributors per day from multiple partner enterprises and regional sustainability organizations.
- Contracted with Clean Air Lawn Care to maintain Cortex Commons, based on their use of electric equipment, organic practices and other low-impact measures. Work with this locally owned company has helped grow their capacity, while keeping our maintenance fees invested in the local economy.
- Cortex Innovation Community chooses St. Louis Green Business Challenge as the vehicle to educate and engage our diverse constituents in sustainable action, in policy and practice.



“The St. Louis Green Business Challenge has helped our organization highlight and address sustainability improvements in our day-to-day operations. Cortex is excited to formally partner with the Challenge with the intent of using this program as a pillar of our Sustainability Plan, to educate and engage our diverse groups of district-wide organizations in sustainable action, policy and practice.

Sam Fiorello
President & CEO



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“I am proud to work for a company that values sustainability as a cornerstone in building a sustainable business, by acting in an ethical, social, and environmentally responsible manner at all times.”

James Portwood
Sr. Director of Supply Chain,
North America



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Supply Chain Sustainability

Measurable Elements

- Reclaimed plastic buckets but struggled with understanding what portion is reclaimed vs. new material purchased. Through our process, we have determined that we buy 4,500 new each year in order to balance this. Last year we used 26,754 reclaimed buckets or 83% and we are projected to use 27,832 reclaimed buckets or 91% reclaimed vs. new.
- Identified a large machine that was no longer used and identified 25 parts that could be reused in other machines. We then identified an additional 123 spare parts that could be recycled. We sent 3,026 lbs. of lead spare parts and 8,744 lbs. of copper spare parts to Overland Lead to recycle and reuse.
- In 2019, we used six packs of paper (\$234.90) printing off purchase orders. Since transitioning to electronic POs, we now save four hours of time per week organizing, filing, and mailing off the purchase orders, and have reduced paper use to three packs (\$98.46) for the year.



Qualitative Elements

- Both the reclaim and recycling spare parts projects help to keep plastic, lead, and other metals out of the landfills while supporting thinking green in terms of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We have reduced our stock and purchasing of new items by reusing inventory. The reclaim project has also helped to provide our customers with a responsible way to dispose of our shipping material.
- By rolling out electronic POs, our purchasing team can work from home. This will keep them safe during bad weather, the pandemic in the future, and help keep a few cars off the road. There is also easier recall and filing of electronic purchase requisitions and orders.

Accomplishments

- Implementing a company-wide sustainability policy that has been approved and will be published in near future.
- Created a green team email as a sustainability suggestion box: goinggreen@yourfocalpointe.com.
- Converted all workforce management to electronic format; employees can now access payroll, timekeeping and HR through an app. Also discontinued paper monthly newsletters, moving forward with all electronic messaging.
- Our COVID response included many measures to keep our team working safe: allowing office staff to work remotely; utilizing Microsoft Teams and Zoom for meetings; providing reusable cloth facemasks to all employees; additional hand sanitizer locations in offices and trucks; staggered start times for field personnel; direct reporting when possible; grouping crews that live together to work together.



Innovations

- Became a Grow Native! member and promoted their efforts to plant more native plants to our team and clients.
- Native species and cultivars installed for clients from Jan–Oct: 436 trees, 1,581 shrubs, 14,579 perennials and 75 lbs. of seed. From this list 122 plant species are represented, and we are projected to install several more by year end.
- Endorsed OneSTL targets for increasing biodiversity and protecting waterways.
- Staff attended webinar from Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force regarding proposed campaign to cease the sale of invasive species. Sharing this information across our team and communicating to clients, we collaborate to grow awareness of these species and how they harm local ecosystems. We are projected to remove over 100,000 ft² of invasive plant material on client properties this year.



“Throughout this uncertain year our cause (why we do what we do) has kept us going more than ever. Through our work, we can change the landscape of our industry, helping the world celebrate the harmony between people and nature. The St. Louis Green Business Challenge aligns with this focus, and we are very thankful for its guidance as we continue to improve our sustainable practices.

John E. Munie
Founder/President



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“Environmental sustainability can be found in our top five annual goals as a company. It is important to our ownership, leadership and organization to be leaving the planet in a better place than where we found it.”

Joe Gadell
 President, Chief Technology
 Officer (CTO)



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Accomplishments

- Created an internal electronic recycling process that allowed us to use a recommended electronic recycler, Midwest Recycling Center (MRC).
- Sharing Green Tips with our employees and clients, through an internal and client newsletter quarterly.
- Organized “Green Means Business” and “Recycling 101” lunch and learns to encourage more participation in green practices in the workplace and at home.

Innovations

- Became a certified B Corp in August 2020, one of only two in the St. Louis region at this time.
- Finalizing plans to add in more green space and pollinator gardens to our properties undergoing construction, as well as our current office space.

Certified



Corporation

This company meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact



CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Sustainability Pivots to Service

Measurable Elements

Food Bank Donations

- 19 Graybar locations across the U.S. contributed to food banks.
- Employees contributed \$15,462.00 in food/item values and cash.
- Graybar matched \$14,244.20 in cash donations.
- As of November 12, 2020, cash and goods donations totaled \$29,706.50.



PPE Infrastructure and Supplies

- As a critical infrastructure supplier, Graybar provided crucial data and electrical supplies for COVID response entities and field hospital installations.
- Working with industry and healthcare leaders, Graybar developed a list of PPE products commonly used in electrical construction. Company locations donated these items, and staff coordinated national efforts with customers and suppliers to help equip healthcare providers with PPE including:
 - › Six classifications, from four brands, of protective eyewear;
 - › N95 particulate respirators;
 - › Three brands' series of protective gloves;
 - › Multiple manufacturers' options for disposable coveralls and shoe booties.

Qualitative Elements

- Planned expanded focus on environmental service projects, to continue 2019 company-wide 150th anniversary service initiative, pivoted to support Food Banks, emergency health care facilities, and national need for PPE.
- Graybar employees in Louisville, Denver, Chicago, Tampa, Des Moines, Richmond and Atlanta teamed with local partners to help set up temporary hospital or COVID testing facilities.
- Remote-working, March through August, saved St. Louis facilities \$73,468.33 in electricity costs, savings readily reported through established energy tracking.
- Update of CSR brochure, still in process due to COVID-19, cites sustainability as an anchor of corporate values for Graybar.



Graybar's commitment to corporate responsibility is an expression of our company's core values. We believe long-term success is more important than short-term gains, and this belief influences all aspects of our business. As we strive to keep our company strong and healthy for future generations, we also take steps to make the world a better place.

Kathleen M. Mazzarella
Chairman, President and CEO



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“This strange year coincided with a lot of planned facility changes at Hunter. Our experience in the St. Louis Green Business Challenge allowed us to focus on implementing world-class sustainability practices in all of our new and revamped facility spaces.

Madeline Gauthier
Director of Business
Development



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT Hunter Facility and Office Space Redesign

Measurable Elements

- Increased lighting quality and intensity by 60% in new workstations.
- Paper reduction project reduced operations manual printing by 50%.
- Reduced server and PC usage by 2.5 million kWh annually.



Qualitative Elements

- Revamp of *Hunter.com* to more prominently display Hunter's sustainability efforts.
- Improved work environment through new LED lighting and high-efficiency HVAC.
- Full adoption of Microsoft Teams and OneDrive promotes better teamwork and communication, while reducing printed materials.



Accomplishments

- In our second year in the Challenge, the Illini Green Team expanded to include members from every department.
- We have increased our building cleaning crews' awareness of the waste reduction efforts to help keep our green initiatives on track.
- Reduced paper waste by scanning in our stored records for electronic keeping, and have transitioned to all electronic communications with customers and vendors when available.
- Placed single stream recycling containers into all offices, conference rooms, break areas, and public entrances to make recycling accessible and easy for all.
- We have continued to accept electronic and universal waste from our employees, and we partner with another Challenge company to recycle all items collected.



Innovations

- Started a system to recycle plastic bags, newspaper sleeves, and shrinkwrap.
- Installed a filtered water dispensing machine and increased the glassware available in the kitchen to drastically reduce the number of individual plastic water bottles being consumed.
- Expanded our partnership with large recycling facilities to offer more zero landfill zero waste options to both large industrial clients and small mom and pop shops.



“The St. Louis Green Business Challenge has been an invaluable resource for Illini Environmental. The program has connected our business with other companies and individuals striving for a more sustainable approach to daily life. Our commitment to expanding sustainable efforts while extending options for our clients to do the same has become an integral part of our framework. We are committed to growing our efforts in the years to come and look forward to finding more innovative ways for our company and our clients to go green.”

Crystal Jones
 Account Manager,
 Green Business Challenge
 Coordinator



is a program of





“Madison County Clean Communities (MCCC) launched online in September, and we’re off to a great start. Community input and brainstorming processes clearly showed one thing: this program’s top value is our community members! So many dedicated individuals throughout the county want to make a difference but aren’t sure how. MCCC aims to unite those individuals behind a common cause and connect them to resources and opportunities for sustainable action. We are so excited to grow this initiative and see what we can accomplish in the years to come.

Andi Campbell Yancey
Sustainability Coordinator



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Madison County Clean Communities

Measurable Elements

- Sustainability staff created a survey to discern individuals’ perceptions on litter and identify community leaders, partner organizations, and target areas. Responses from 215 Madison County residents are guiding our program creation and implementation efforts.
- The Madison County Clean Communities Facebook group went live on August 31, 2020, growing to over 600 members in the first six weeks.
- We’ve identified more than 100 individuals willing to step up and help us as community leaders in their area, and over 40 potential partner groups and organizations.



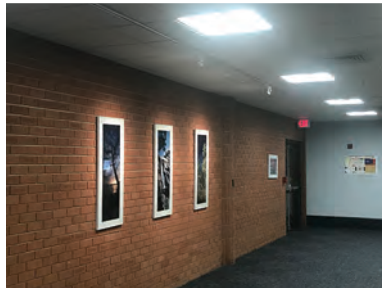
Qualitative Elements

- Madison County Clean Communities is modeled after the Riverbend Trash Tag Challenge, which started when a dedicated group of Alton area residents—in partnership with Alton Main Street, the Sierra Club Piasa Palisades Group, and The Nature Institute—created a cleanup and social media campaign focused on reducing litter in their community. MCCC aims to expand the scope and scale of the existing framework to serve all of Madison County.
- In addition to cleanups, MCCC focuses on public outreach and education about the harmful impacts litter has on our communities and environment. We’ve elevated anti-litter messaging through our Small Green Steps Newsletter, social media accounts, Green Schools Program, and press releases.
- Madison County Clean Communities established a partnership with Heartlands Conservancy to work together on wetlands and watershed cleanups in 2021.



Accomplishments

- Set up ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account to track and improve energy efficiency on our campus.
- Closing of Maryland data center diverted 3.5 tons of electronics and donated over 100 monitors to Frederick County Public Schools.
- Replaced 800 lighting fixtures on campus with LED lighting, saving 598,000 kWh/year.



Innovations

- Partnered with MRC for a September E-Recycle event. With many employees working from home we decided in July to advertise this event to the Fenton community, using Maritz social media outlets, Fenton Chamber of Commerce, City of Fenton Facebook pages, and the app NextDoor.
- With a great response, MRC called in a second truck and extended the time an extra hour.
- Over 16.5 tons was diverted from landfill, collecting the second largest amount of electronics recycling tonnage over the past 11 years.



“Maritz is committed to conducting its operations in an environmentally responsible manner and to promoting wise stewardship of our natural resources. The Green Business Challenge is a valuable tool enabling us to better focus our own efforts, and to learn from and collaborate with other like-minded organizations in the St. Louis area.

John Risberg
 Maritz General Counsel/CAO,
 Board President – EarthDay-365



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“Because of our commitment to the Green Business Challenge, the Year in Pandemic did not see a complete reversal in our sustainability efforts. When we are able to go back to ‘business as usual,’ we will be poised to recommit to sustainability and conservation.”

Dawn Determan
Director of Community Wellness



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Accomplishments

- Our Green Team has continued to inspire and inform the entire community with regular features in our monthly eNews.
- The Green Team will sponsor fall and winter virtual green-topic talks from EarthWays Center staff, via our internal TV network.
- Last year's work to evaluate and improve recycling continues to serve us well. Recycling is working on “auto pilot” in the Independent Living side of our building. Staff from the other side bring flattened cardboard boxes to the main recycling dumpster, keeping all cardboard out of the landfill.
- A new compost bin in the garden area is ready to serve resident gardeners in the coming growing season.



Innovations

- Challenges in meal delivery were mitigated by our previous efforts to reduce single-use containers, as we tapped into a stock of washable “room service covers.”
- Shortages of PPE experienced nationwide were also mitigated by a stock of washable gowns.
- Residents and volunteers stepped up to craft washable face masks and shields to protect co-workers and fellow residents.
- Sustainable thinking prompted us to question use of bio-based plastic bags for internal deliveries. We can't compost bio-plastic items, but residents use conventional plastic bags to craft sleeping mats for our homeless neighbors. While we maintain awareness to limit single-use items like bags, we have switched from the more expensive bio-bags that had to be landfilled, back to plastic bags that get re-used.
- A Pollinator Garden design was delayed, but a staff home is fostering a healthy crop of native plants grown from seed. Clearing turf uses the “lasagna method” of smothering and composting grass to make way for garden soil. We look forward to a planting event to start a new year with new hope, fluttering insects and garden beds filled with flowering natives.



Accomplishments

- Continued regular recycling and reducing waste, including providing on-site plastic bag recycling.
- Sponsored 2020 Green Business Challenge.
- Sponsored REGFORM Water Seminar for the second year in a row.
- Partnership with area sewer districts to monitor the Meramec River for excess nutrients and algal growth.
- Reduced energy and fuel usage with fewer people in the office due to COVID.



Innovations

- Creation of “Certified Environmental Leader” program to be implemented in 2021.
- Capital improvements which led to more efficient pumps and energy savings.
- Installed a water bottle filling station to reduce the use of plastic water bottles and encourage better health through hydration.
- Hosted our first Source Water Protection Week with five hour-long virtual sessions. Over 6,000 attendees learned about environmental efforts across the business, and heard from our Chief Environmental Officer.
- ESG (environmental, social, governance) 101 calls:
 - › Sustainability focused calls have highlighted ESG investing, greening our supply chain, and engineering projects.
- Created an evaluation tool to determine which projects are suited for LEED certification.



“In this challenging year, we reflect on a lot of positives regarding our continuing sustainability commitment. Remote work options for our employees saved enormous amounts of fuel and energy from travel and office usage. Our Capital Delivery program has completed several large projects that provide immediate and long-term efficiencies in energy use, water loss, and water/wastewater treatment. And we continue to sponsor important events and programs that support sustainability and environmental initiatives.

Tim Ganz
Director of Missouri Water
Quality & Environmental
Compliance



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“The Missouri Botanical Garden appreciates everyone’s commitment to making sustainable choices work during COVID-19, as a priority. All of our divisions made the shift to meet program and project goals both onsite and offsite, even as many of us began unexpectedly working remotely. All outreach and coordination required virtual format adaptations. With support from our diverse partners and stakeholders, we have continued to walk the talk as a leader in sustainability, at home and abroad.”

Glenda Abney
Interim Vice President, Education
and Director, EarthWays Center



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Walking the Talk of Sustainability: Pandemic Ingenuity During COVID-19

Measurable Elements

- Grow Solar St. Louis hosted 15 virtual Solar Power Hours with 244 attendees. Contracts from 62+ property owners add 456 kWh of solar in St. Louis City, County, and St. Charles County, to offset > 909,589 pounds of CO₂ and collectively save ~\$52K on electricity bills in homeowners’ first year of operation.
- Storm Drain Marking served increased demand: 625 drains marked by November.
- Green-To-Go Public Talks went virtual and expanded. One native plant talk for St. Louis County Library reached 1,661 viewers in one week. Staff presented virtually to several national and regional conferences.
- Robust website additions included Green Living Festival’s 23 exhibitor interviews; over 40 workshops, panel sessions, family-friendly activities; and Camp EarthWays videos—all accessible year-round!



Qualitative Elements

- Green Living Festival virtually ran three days, highlighting Green Living, Energy and Efficiency, and NatureScaping.
- Virtual pivots delivered: energy efficiency teacher workshops and contractor trainings; Green Business Challenge seminars; public and group talks; Camp EarthWays Young Green Builders; adult classes; field trips and tours; MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Small Grants orientations; and Green Schools Quest.
- Construction of the Jack C. Taylor Visitor Center, seeking LEED Gold, elevates sustainability and the Garden mission with rainwater cisterns, sun-shading, high performance glazing, and biophilic design.
- Horticulture division strategic efficiencies reuse hard to recycle plastic pots. Streamlining pot sizes has cut supply costs, nearly eliminated pot waste.
- New sustainability reporting form created, for use by all Garden divisions.



CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum TRUE Gold

Measurable Elements

- Achieved a 90% waste diversion rate to achieve zero-waste.
- Addressed 51 out of 81 credits of the TRUE zero-waste certification, governed by the US Green Building Council.
- Tracked, audited, and analyzed all nine points of waste generation within a built environment.



Qualitative Elements

- Soldiers is the first building in St. Louis and the first museum in the United States to achieve a TRUE zero-waste certification.
- The zero-waste performance portion of the TRUE certification system was implemented and led by Sustainable Housekeeping Department at Soldiers.
- All staff gained a greater understanding of material use and reuse to increase planetary and human health within the built environment of a museum.



“The Missouri Historical Society’s sustainability commitment is not only an organizational effort to lessen our environmental impact. As a public institution, we also have made a commitment to uphold sustainable practices to benefit the environmental, human, and economic health within our region. By introducing international green building certifications LEED and TRUE into our operational model, the Missouri Historical Society strives to create a more sustainable environment for staff, visitors, and the St. Louis community.”

Angela Moore
Facilities and Sustainability
Coordinator



is a program of





“MRC remains committed to promoting sustainable practices, learning, and making contributions throughout our business and the St. Louis region. Our intent is to hold ourselves accountable for the environmental impacts of our business, while advocating for the value of sustainably recycling electronics to divert this material from landfills. As a function of continuous improvement, we must increase the ripple effect of doing the right thing every day, and promote this ideology to our business partners and the community in general.

Greg Cooksey
 Director, Business Development/
 Compliance



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Technology Refurbishing and Reuse

Measurable Elements

- Quantity of units refurbished.
- Quantity of units resold.
- Cost savings as compared to new.
- Job creation and retention.



Qualitative Elements

- Customer feedback and ratings.
- All equipment tested prior to sale.
- Return policy.





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Accomplishments

- MTM's recent remodel of our Lake Saint Louis office included energy-efficient features such as light sensors and LED bulbs.
- Eliminated use of single-use plastics in MTM offices, instead offering glass water bottles and reusable hospitality products.
- Established a formal Green Team to encourage sustainable lifestyle choices for employees through communications, lunch and learns, and engagement activities such as a nation-wide beach and waterway cleanup.
- In July, MTM's employees around the country participated in the Plastic-Free Eco Challenge. Our team's impact included picking up 2,732 pieces of litter, consuming 291 zero-waste meals, and diverting 1,350 pieces of plastic waste from landfills.
- MTM employees and family members partnered with United Way for a Family Bike Build. Together, the organizations built 25 bikes for local kids.



Innovations

- Celebrated our 25th anniversary by providing each employee with sustainable gifts to reduce single-use plastic consumption: a bamboo lunch container, utensils, and a cloth tote.
- MTM's contracting policy requires us to pursue sustainable products/services whenever possible. This year, we committed to purchasing exclusively 100% PCR janitorial paper products and 30% PCR copier paper.
- Most employees continue to work from home. In coming months, MTM will transition a significant portion of our staff to permanent work from home status, allowing us to reduce our carbon footprint by approximately 25%.
- MTM partners with Metro in St. Louis and other public transit agencies through our Travel Training program. Travel Training provides education for people to utilize public transit services safely and independently and encourages reduction in personal vehicle usage.



“At MTM, we are just taking initial steps to reduce our carbon footprint and positively influence the transportation industry. Environmental consciousness is a personal passion, that I am integrating into my family-owned and operated company, to benefit generations to come. Small changes are: recycling, eliminating plastics, and transitioning more employees to work from home. On a larger scale, MTM advocates for regulations around vehicle emissions, fuel efficiency, and alternative fuel vehicles in transportation fleets. With a long way to go, I am proud of our Green Team's work to promote a new lifestyle at MTM!

Alaina Macía
President and CEO



is a program of





“The St. Louis Green Business Challenge continues to lead and inspire Office Essentials to be the change we want to see in the local business world. The mentorship provided has helped us grow capacity and innovate in meeting the needs and goals of our customers, while challenging our own status quo. You continue to make us better! Thank you!”

Kate Dougherty
 Vice President of Sales &
 Marketing



is a program of

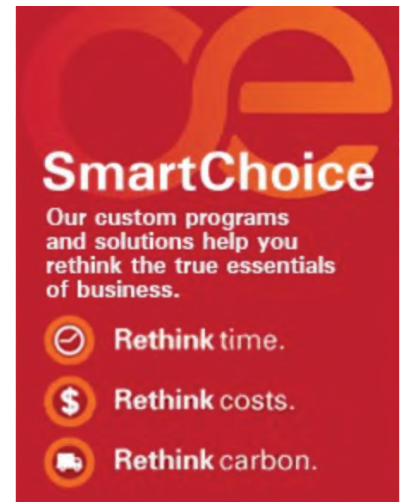


Accomplishments

- Printed paper reduction of 28.3%.
- Tracking operational savings resulting from remote working.

Innovations

- Created a Green, Greener product tool for customers so they can evaluate where they can “green up their office purchases” and clearly identify the impact, with the goal of being cost neutral.
- OE’s team continues to learn from the sustainability expertise of customers like the Missouri Botanical Garden, as we meet their expectations for green products. This exchange grows the value of our service relationship into greener service capacity for sustainability focused businesses. Learning together is a win-win-win.
- Celebrating and bringing attention to our M/WBE suppliers is top of mind for OE. This passion drove us to create a Diversity Catalog, drawing attention to these high-quality manufacturers and making it easier for customers to make conscious choices about the products they support.



CHOICE | COLLABORATION | INNOVATION

CATALOG 2020



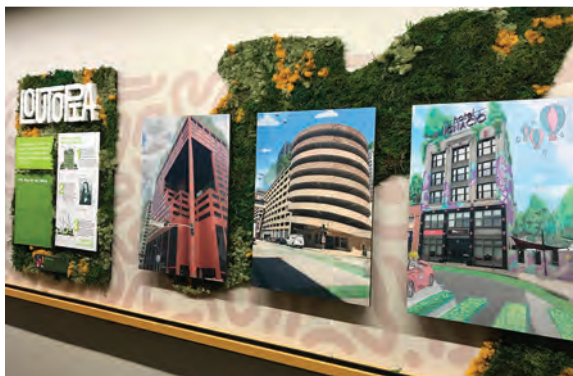
Jenny Ryan | Senior Project Manager
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www.pgav.com

Accomplishments

- PGAV joined the Plastic-Free EcoChallenge, a 31-day global challenge of reducing plastic, learning, advocacy and activism. Together our team tracked saving up to 156 pieces of single-use plastic from going to the landfill and consumed 53 zero-waste meals.
- Provided compostable cutlery, cups and plates for all employees who voluntarily returned to the office after stay at home orders were lifted.
- PGAV has continued ongoing efforts to recycle waste not accepted by municipal recycling including plastic beverage rings, markers, ink cartridges, batteries and electronics.
- Continued to minimize PGAV's organic waste footprint by composting organic waste through Total Organics Recycling.

Innovations

- Created an office Green Team channel for internal communication regarding green events, sustainability and advocacy.
- Held a virtual backyard garden tour/office happy hour where PGAV staff shared their pollinator and vegetable gardens, showed off chickens, and provided gardening tips. Virtual participants were encouraged to create cocktails with garden-fresh ingredients.
- Installed an exhibit in the office by artist Javyn Solomon. *Loutopia* is a visual exploration of how we can use art, nature, and technology to maximize the potential of existing buildings and spaces in St. Louis.



“PGAV's Green Team exists to educate, advocate, and empower its people, clients, and partners to positively affect global health. As a company with local, national, and global influence, PGAV has a responsibility to act as an advocate for environmental sustainability and global health. PGAV works to fulfill this responsibility by engaging with our team and clients on the topics of sustainability and global stewardship.

PGAV Green Team Manifesto



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“We really leaned on technology during the pandemic to “green up” our business practices with virtual meetings and consultation, paper reduction, and creating a new outdoor meeting space surrounded by native plantings for COVID-safe use and enjoyment by our team.

Dennis Evans
Owner



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Accomplishments

- Improved recycling signage.
- Have a new green suggestion box.
- Created a list of approved office supplies for greener purchasing.

Innovations

- Created a new outdoor meeting space for safe social distancing, featuring native plantings surrounding the formerly bare back patio space.
- Continued to minimize plastic pot waste from plant installations, even while our region's pot recycling program was suspended due to COVID concerns and low plastic market values, by contributing our empty pots to community organizations.





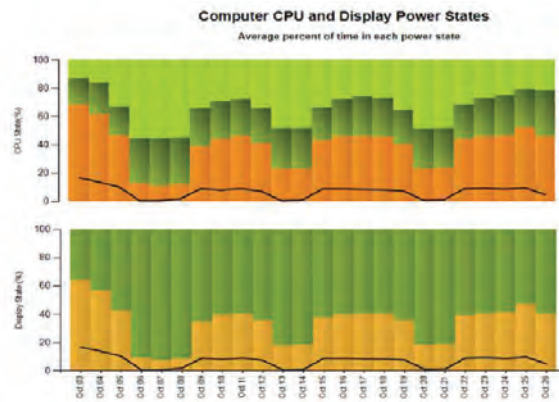
Accomplishments

- Held ongoing summer eWaste recycling.
- Kept five large screen TVs from going to the landfills.
- Utilities tracked via ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.
- Upgraded outdoor lighting to latest in LED technology with dusk to dawn sensors.
- Added more directional flow sprinklers to reduce water waste.



Innovations

- We continue to feature Green promotion items.
- We continue to RESELL and manage PC POWER MANAGEMENT software, alternative to the standard "Please Turn Off" request campaign that has no true baseline, reliability or reporting functions because you are relying on a human to remember. This software allows management to centrally set policies and review and manage all PCs in real time. Benefits of this system:
 - › Guaranteed and controlled energy savings.
 - › Electricity reduction.
 - › Cost savings.
 - › Increased network security.
 - › IT support accessibility to PCs 100% of the time.
 - › Positive user experience.



"We continue to foster environmentally sustainable business practices as a vital step towards decreasing our company's overall carbon footprint."

Stacie Elliot
Director, Human Resources



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Throughout a challenging year, Regions has not faltered in our mission of building and maintaining sustainability into our day to day operations.

Diane Wehmer
Executive Assistant, Green Team
Member

Accomplishments

- Maintained recycling program at fifteen branches.
- Maintained battery recycling program at Clayton headquarters.
- Provided educational opportunities to our Greater St. Louis Associates.
- Offered volunteer opportunities for our Greater St. Louis Associates.



Innovations

- Due to remote work environment, Regions was able to:
 - › reduce paper usage by 80%;
 - › reduce energy usage by 50%.



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Recycle Today for a Better Tomorrow

Measurable Elements

- Before COVID-19, Safety National's home office recycled 500+ plastic bags a week.
- 89% of old building materials recycled during construction of new office building:
 - › 2,514.75 tons of recycled materials;
 - › 2,294 tons of concrete recycled/reused;
 - › 5.75 tons of non-ferrous metals recycled;
 - › 215 tons of ferrous metals recycled.
- 9,344 lbs. of electronics recycled in 2020 to date.
- 170 lbs. of Halloween candy donated to Give the Kids the World Village.
- 360 lbs. of Christmas lights recycled at Didion Orf Recycling Inc.
- 800+ t-shirts recycled/upcycled/reused into table runners and face masks. 100% of proceeds for t-shirt products were donated to a quilting group that creates masks for healthcare workers, baby clothes and blankets to Arnot-Ogden Hospital's NICU unit in New York.



Qualitative Elements

- Added signs to bins in the company breakroom to better distinguish recyclables from trash.
- Made the recycling bins and trash bins more discernable by moving them further away from each other and color-coding each. Trash bins are now black, recycling bins are green.
- Hosted "Recycle Responsibly" lunch and learn, featuring Jean Ponzi, Green Resources Manager for EarthWays Center, a division of Missouri Botanical Garden. She spent time educating and answering many questions employees had about recycling.
- Competed in the Gateway Greenway Cleanup that took place instead of the annual Dragon Boat Races. Collected over 20 bags of trash and tied for first place.



"Sustainability within Safety National's mission supports actions to reduce the carbon footprints of both company and employees. True to this mission, we prioritized green construction for our home office expansion, and recycled demolition materials. Our upgraded breakroom sorting system helps employees recycle more easily. I believe this has encouraged green practices at home. Whether we're planting a pollination garden, composting, or driving less, our employees challenge one another to improve sustainable action, proving no effort is too small."

Mark Wilhelm
 Chief Executive Officer



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APPRENTICE LEVEL

“The Museum has achieved so many green initiatives over the years. Participating in the Green Business Challenge has allowed us to formalize and prioritize our green efforts, as well as begin to track our accomplishments and strategize future goals. The Challenge team has provided us with valuable resources and contacts designed to support and strengthen our efforts.”

Maria Kveton and Debbie Boyer
 Green Team Co-chairs

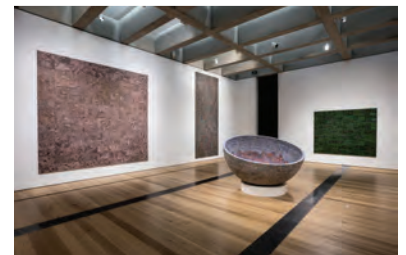
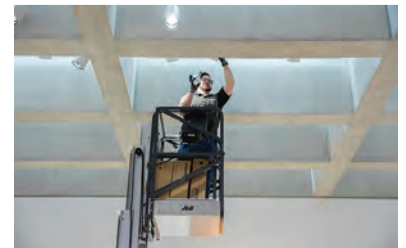


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Accomplishments

- Green Team formed under the Welcome Committee, part of the Museum's Strategic Plan, positions sustainability as a key initiative for resource allocation.
- Created Well + Green Newsletter with sustainability features, resources, and educational tools for staff.
- Hired Recycling-on-the-Go at Art in Bloom in March, our first time composting floral waste.
- Using 100% PCR janitorial paper products. Have committed to purchasing 30% PCR copier stock.
- Enforce a campus-wide no smoking policy.
- Tracking energy with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager since benchmarking in 2016.
- Bottle refilling water stations, installed in 2019, complement reusable bottles for staff.



Innovations

- East Building, certified LEED Gold, set sustainability as a Museum construction standard.
- Acquire works of art made with recycled materials and pursue exhibitions that feature works made from discarded objects and recycled items, such as *Currents 118: Elias Sime*.
- Integrated rain garden into the Sculpture Garden landscape to prevent Loop Road flooding and create a native habitat.
- Used Ameren BizSavers incentives to retrofit Museum lighting; new LEDs fulfilled gallery standards and cut electric bills by 17%. Updated air handlers, HVAC, and hot water coils reduced gas bills by 23%.
- Museum guests are invited to use garage EV charging stations.

Accomplishments

- Rejoined the Green Business Challenge after a seven-year hiatus with a green team we call Sustainable Futures.
- Maps of the Science Center are now solely digital, reducing printing costs and paper use.
- Reduced consumables in both Life Science Lab and the Maker Space areas.
- Formed a Climate Change Task Force, and a statement on Climate Change is nearing completion.
- Installed a bike rack for employees.
- New Science Magazine, the members publication, is now solely available digitally.
- Staff bring their food waste from home to be composted in outdoor GROW gallery.



Innovations

- Education staff attended a Climate Change training, coaching us to have intentional conversations with guests about climate change and action steps to reduce impacts.
- Member Missions were held virtually from April–November 2020.
- One LARGE innovation was donating the first ever “GIANT” pumpkin we grew at the Science Center to our on-site food operation to be turned into pumpkin soup and muffins. It was a fun way to showcase field-to-plate.
- Sustainable Futures team met with staff groups to ascertain perceptions of how Science Center is meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Findings cross-referenced with suggested UN actions and Green Business Challenge goals will set priorities for 2021.



“The Saint Louis Science Center is honored to be a part of the St. Louis Green Business Challenge. Joining the Challenge gave us tools to evaluate our organization’s sustainability practices and create goals for the future. We appreciate the resources the Challenge team provides its members, like the learning sessions that keep our team on track and educated. We are proud to have made this commitment.

Todd Bastean
 President and CEO



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“Native animal and plant population sustainability is at the core of this project. As we plan for the future of the Zoo North Campus—to include a Conservation and Animal Science Center, Wildlife Adventure Park, educational programs, and community engagement—we strive to exist in harmony with the native fauna and flora. As a conservation focused AZA-accredited zoo, we are dedicated to the care of animals, both in the Zoo and in the wild. Knowledge gained from our biodiversity surveys will be essential to make our best decisions in developing the property.

Jo-Elle Mogerman, Ph.D.
Director, Saint Louis Zoo
North Campus



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CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Saint Louis Zoo North Campus Biodiversity Study

Measurable Elements

- Develop a comprehensive list of the fauna and flora species diversity of the project site.
- Create a baseline understanding of the overall biological and environmental health of the project site, including the presence or absence of native wildlife, invasive species and diseases of conservation concern.
- Collect data on the types and quality of the habitats present on the project site.



Qualitative Elements

- Contribute to scientific knowledge of native, exotic, and invasive Missouri wildlife and plants.
- Advance our understanding of resident and transient wildlife, using the site and existing ecosystems, so that future development of this land occurs in responsible ways that enhance biodiversity and mitigate invasive species.
- Inform us of potential threats (disease, predation, etc.) to our future animal collection on the project site.
- Engage the local community in native wildlife research and conservation; postponed for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Illustrate that accredited zoos value scientific exploration and provide resources to conduct groundbreaking research that explores native animal and plant species conservation, animal population health and management, habitat preservation, education and public engagement.



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Accomplishments

- Established sustainability tracking practices enabled the Cardinals to document cost and energy savings from utility usage, significantly decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a shortened baseball season that began in late July.
 - Cost savings for electricity amounted to 43.27% compared to 2019, and usage decreased by 34.95%.
 - The cost savings for gas totaled 91.89% in 2020 compared to 2019, and energy savings amounted to 95.71%.
 - Petroleum usage decreased by 70.15% in 2020 compared to 2019, which led to cost savings amounting to 78.06%.

Innovations

- The St. Louis Cardinals partnered with Anheuser-Busch, Fox Sports Midwest and the American Red Cross to host a blood drive at Busch Stadium in April, when the Red Cross urgently needed blood and platelet donations. Space here allowed for adherence to social distancing guidelines, and additional safety measures protected all donors and staff.
- “Step Up to the Plate” teamed up the Cardinals and the Kansas City Royals this summer to fight hunger in our cities. Cardinals Care, the team’s community foundation dedicated to improving the lives of children, partnered with St. Louis Area Foodbank, Royals Charities, and Harvesters-The Community Food Network. Fundraising launched August 24, when St. Louis hosted the Royals, and concluded with the last game of the series in Kansas City on September 23. Our goals: \$15,000 to fund 100,000 meals for each foodbank, plus raising awareness about the importance of fighting hunger.



“The global pandemic has presented challenges and economic hardship to every industry and the Cardinals are no exception. Sustainability remains a high priority as we look for more ways to conserve energy and minimize expenses in 2020 and going forward. The cost savings and reduced consumption with a fan-less season were significant and eye-opening. Hopefully we can use this as an opportunity to reset and lower our resource use for conservation in the future.

Hosei Maruyama
Director, Facility Operations & Planning



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APPRENTICE LEVEL

Sustainability is core to our broad mission at St. Patrick Center. We strive to create sustainable futures with our clients and their families, through housing and livelihoods. This ethic extends to our environmental passion: just as economics can impact generations of a family, our global family shares the ecological impacts of our decisions. As our staff and clients work to improve recycling, we cultivate the opportunities that green jobs present, supported by partnerships with groups like the St. Louis Green Business Challenge. Sustainability grows potential in all of us, clients, staff, and organization alike.

Michael Neimeyer
Job Developer



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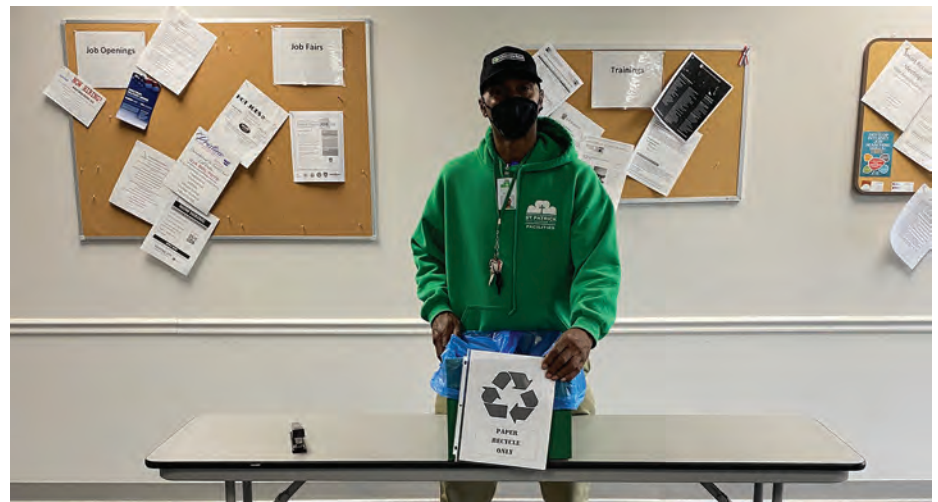
Accomplishments

- Started recycling class for Building Employment Skills for Tomorrow (BEST) janitorial training at St. Patrick Center to broaden knowledge to find employment.
- BEST Crew implemented the recycling program in partnership with facilities.
- BEST painted green boxes for paper recycling.



Innovations

- Collaborated with EarthWays Center to develop Green Maintenance content for St. Patrick Center's BEST janitorial training, including the what-why-how of recycling and green cleaning with a special focus on COVID-safe protocols.
- Networking through the Challenge to potential employer connections for our clients, in areas of business housekeeping and facility support, recycling plant operations, forklift operations, and ecological landscape maintenance.



Accomplishments

- Helped 103 homeowners go solar through Grow Solar St. Louis and Grow Solar Metro East, placing 883kW of clean renewable energy into our community.
- Reduced transportation greenhouse gas emissions by implementing remote presentations, sales conversations, and educational webinars.
- Committed to carbon neutrality in our operations.
- Planted 12 trees at Creve Coeur Lake Park with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri.



Innovations

- Completed B Corporation re-certification.
- Installed 100kW solar array at St. Louis headquarters office, which offsets 100% of electricity use.
- Installed 10 Electric Vehicle charging stations for fleet, employees and visitors.
- Purchased carbon credits from Native Energy to protect forests in REDD Valley in Tanzania after completing greenhouse gas inventory.



“The St. Louis Green Business Challenge and its network of progressive companies aligns with our mission to care for others by creating a path for clean energy and a sustainable economy that honors our values and contributes to everyone’s healthy, shared future.

Eric Schneider
Director of Business
Development



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“Sustainability is a priority at the USB CDC, even during these challenging times. Thanks to the Challenge in 2019, our Green Team imagined a long list of activities for employees, some queued up for 2020. To keep our actions effective and results impactful, we focused this year on developing a Green Team strategic plan, to further integrate green goals and actions into our work and culture at the USB CDC. We look forward to sharing our progress as the plan unfolds, and we thank the St. Louis Green Business Challenge for continuing to inspire, educate and guide our region’s businesses to prioritize sustainability.”

Zack Boyers
Chairman & CEO



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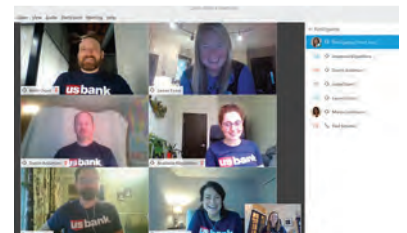


CHAMPION INNOVATION PROJECT

Developing a Sustainability Plan for USB CDC

Measurable Elements

- Invested nearly \$1 billion in renewable energy projects (solar and wind) in 2020 which will produce over 2,000 gigawatts of power. These investments will prevent emission of over 75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere during their life cycles. U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation finances about 15% of all solar in the United States annually.
- Contributed 120 volunteer hours to nonprofit organization LOVEtheLOU, a movement of restoration working to reverse the trends of poverty and racism in the City of St. Louis.
- Contributed over 60 volunteer hours to St. Louis Food Bank, providing canned goods for the food pantry, and deep cleaning St. Louis Catholic Academy before students arrived in the fall.



Qualitative Elements

- Hosted a facilitated planning session to determine the future strategy and structure of the Green Team, and to prioritize initiatives.
- Announced \$1.15 million in grants in August 2020 to more than a dozen African American-led Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) partners and, in partnership with the U.S. Bank Foundation, a grant to the African American Alliance of CDFI CEOs. This is part of U.S. Bank’s overall \$116 million commitment to addressing social and economic inequities.
- Pivoted to having all 430+ employees work from home in March 2020 as the pandemic swept across the country. This move reduced vehicle miles traveled and carbon dioxide output, and also reduced electricity, water and resource use on-site.



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Sustainable Solutions For You!

As the Missouri Botanical Garden's Sustainability Division, the EarthWays Center enriches lives and protects plants and our environment by educating and connecting people to practical sustainable solutions where they live, learn, work, and play.

We coordinate multiple programs to advance sustainability in the region, with services for:

- Businesses
- Local Communities
- Individuals and Families
- Homeowners and Renters
- Professionals
- Schools
- K–12 Students and Educators
- Universities and Colleges



Through the **St. Louis Green Business Challenge**, EarthWays Center helps companies of all kinds and sizes make sustainability work, in policy and practice.

We can also customize fee-for-service consulting for sustainability certification, planning or implementing company-specific green projects, boosting employee education and engagement—and more. Let EarthWays help develop the Sustainable Solution that works for your business.



The Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center

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