



2012

Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner



Life Technologies



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The Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards recognize organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the implementation of sustainable practices, the demonstration of measurable results, and the continual improvement of environmental performance. Read here how this award winner achieved its environmental success and continues to move forward along the path to sustainability.

What innovation or set of results are you most proud of?

We are most proud of our energy reduction projects because they have been the most impactful in reducing utility usage and costs for the company. Over the last two years, we have upgraded lighting, added lighting sensors, removed unnecessary lighting, replaced older boilers with Energy Star rated boilers, and changed the set points for air conditioning and heating in office environments. We also have a strong commitment to green chemistry principles and have reduced hazardous waste through new lab protocols and products. Life Technologies has developed new products that can be shipped at ambient temperature without the use of Styrofoam coolers which has led to a reduction in dry ice consumption. Our most innovative results have come from the help of



our site Green Committee. As part of our Race to Zero Waste campaign, they have helped us achieve a 76% recycling rate in our warehouse and laboratory buildings. In addition, they have started recycling programs for some of our more difficult materials to recycle, such as writing instruments and coffee pouches.

How do you involve employees from all parts of your organization in your environmental programs and projects and how do you keep them motivated?

We have a very active Green Committee that has representation from each department on site. The Frederick site also has a Find a Better Way Day each year where employees showcase their innovative projects with the senior executives of Life Technologies. Sustainability and employee engagement are two of the areas of focus during this day. We also have a Caught Being Green Rewards programs to reward employees for practicing



“green” behaviors. Twice a year, the Green Committee hosts a fair for the site. Each table at the event has different Frederick Environmental Sustainability initiatives for the employees to learn about, such as energy reduction and environmental friendly procurement. In order for employees to be entered into the raffle and to receive a free gift during these events, they must visit at least three tables.

What have been your biggest obstacles and how did you overcome them?

One of our biggest obstacles has been getting accurate weights for our waste and recycling streams that are difficult

to weigh. We meet with our waste and recycling vendor at least quarterly to verify actual and estimated weights. We are still in the process of overcoming this obstacle. Another obstacle we had was making sure everyone on site is aware of how to recycle each type of material, particular because we have employees that live in different counties. To overcome this, we include recycling procedures in the new hire orienta-



tion presentation and employees complete yearly training on site specific recycling and other environmental sustainability procedures. The Green Committee has worked hard to clearly label the various types of recycling bins and post signage with directions on how to recycle different materials.

For more information on environmental best practices at Life Technologies, visit the Maryland Green Registry website at www.green.maryland.gov/registry and click on List of Maryland Green Registry Members to view member profiles.

The Maryland Green Registry is a voluntary program that promotes and recognizes environmentally sustainable practices in organizations of all types and sizes across the State. Visit the Maryland Green Registry website at www.green.maryland.gov/registry for tips and resources designed to help organizations set and meet their own goals on the path to sustainability.

