



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Family Services, Inc.

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Private nonprofit social service and behavioral health organization

Member since August 2011

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

Family Services, Inc.'s (FSI's) "Green Team" was developed in the spring of 2010 to help achieve FSI's strategic plan objective of developing and implementing a "Go Green" plan across the organization that reduces costs and is socially responsible. The Green Team's mission is to empower and engage employees and clients in practices that are ecologically responsible and cost-effective in order to reap economic and environmental benefits. The Green Team is made up of at least one person from each of our departments, making it possible to address the diverse needs across the organization. With the help of the Green Team's leadership and organization, many ecologically smart practices have been developed and implemented throughout the organization. The Green Team meets once a month to discuss various "problem areas" throughout the organization that could be addressed in an ecologically smarter way. Problem solving is conducted, and eco-friendly solutions are proposed to Senior Leadership for implementation. Programs, activities and events are also planned by the Green Team to involve employees and spread awareness. Education is provided through monthly "Green Tips" that are emailed to the entire agency to encourage and engage employees in eco-friendly habits in the workplace and at home.



Annual Environmental Goals

In FSI's July 2010 - July 2013 Strategic Plan, an objective was put in place to commit to environmentally responsible practices. Below is the language used in this plan:

- I. *Develop and implement a “Go Green” plan across the organization that reduces costs and is socially responsible.*
 - a. *Recruit volunteers to serve on an agency wide “Green Team/Committee” which is comprised of various levels of staff who represent different programs*
 - b. *Identify “going green” actionable items and feasibility of implementing said items*
 - c. *Identify target dates for implementation*
 - d. *Report progress in quarterly report*
 - e. *Research grant opportunities to fund special “going green” projects and incentives*

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Family Services uses Full-Brite Cleaning Services, Inc., a cleaning company that supplies us with eco-friendly paper products. Furthermore, in an effort to reduce the amount of waste produced by the staff kitchen, the Green Team took on the project of “greening” our kitchen in September 2010. Staff were asked to bring in unwanted dishes, silverware and mugs to replace the expensive and wasteful paper and plastic products that had been used. A “Dishwasher Duty” calendar was established to distribute the responsibility of loading and unloading the dishwasher amongst staff. Since this initiative, the building has saved \$135 a month, yielding a total of \$1,620 since the project’s start.

Our Early Head Start program must use disposable paper goods when working with children and families for sanitation reasons. To address this issue, FSI purchased compostable plates, cups and flatware from our office supply supplier, First Call. This allows for sanitation to be maintained, while also being environmentally responsible. First Call sells a variety of eco-friendly products, and FSI hopes to expand the use of eco-friendly office supplies throughout the agency.

Waste

Recycling

As a nonprofit, being “green” reaps extreme economical benefits. The Arc of Montgomery County Maryland collects FSI’s recyclable items such as office paper, plastic, glass and cardboard since 2004. Since the implementation of the Green Team, the amount of items being recycled has drastically increased as a result of education and distribution of clearly labeled recycling bins throughout the agency. Between July 2010 and June 2011, FSI has recycled 9,846 pounds.

The Green Team is currently in the process of working with a company called RecyclePlace.com, to whom FSI can sell used ink cartridges. This initiative will be marketed to employees and local businesses with whom we partner. We will have boxes for collection of used ink cartridges throughout the agency.

Energy

Renewable Energy

FSI has a total of 20 residential properties serving clients with severe mental illness. Since October 2010, six of these properties are enrolled in Pepco's alternative energy program using Washington Gas Energy to receive 5% wind energy supply for one year. In October 2011, energy consumption will be reevaluated; FSI hopes to expand the use of Pepco's alternative energy program to the rest of the residential properties, as well as to our commercial properties.

Transportation

Employee Commute

In honor of the International Car Free Day (Thursday, September 22), Family Services is challenging its employees to go without a car, or reduce the amount of reliance on a car ("Car Lite"). Employees are encouraged to carpool with fellow colleagues, or use public transportation to commute. The Green Team is helping coordinate carpools and public transit routes. Employees are encouraged to take a pledge at <http://www.carfreemetrodc.com/>. Once a pledge is taken, the employee is automatically entered for a chance to win prizes from the "Car Free Metro DC" organization.

Other

- A tradition over the holidays at FSI is to have a "Door Decoration Contest." Prizes are awarded to individuals and programs who decorate their office door with the most creativity and festivity. In December of 2010, the Green Team joined in on this contest, challenging staff to use recycled materials when decorating their doors. This challenge was very well received, as employees got extremely creative in their holiday decorating. A "Greenest Door" prize was awarded to an employee who made angel ornaments out of Coca-Cola cans!*



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

