

City of Lakewood Sustainability Awards  
Category – Community Sustainability Award  
Project Name: DFC Employee Recycling Program  
Project Location: Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO  
Project Achievement Areas: Waste Reduction and Recycling

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Is the Nominee aware of this nomination? Yes

Description of Project:

The Denver Federal Center implemented an employee recycling program that encourages all campus employees and visitors to bring in their recyclable materials from home. The DFC consists of 623-acres, bustling with more than 6,000 federal employees and approximately 600 deliveries and visitors each week. The recycling program includes collecting the following:

- Single Stream Collection (plastic/glass/metal food and drink containers, paper, cardboard, junk mail phone books, etc.)
- Electronics – the DFC hosts annual electronics collection events in the spring for all employees and the surrounding community. Federal employees also have access to year-round electronics recycling at locations inside of the building where they work
- Battery and light bulb recycling – every active DFC building has containers set aside for the collection of light bulbs and batteries that employees are encouraged to bring from home

There are multiple benefits to this program in that:

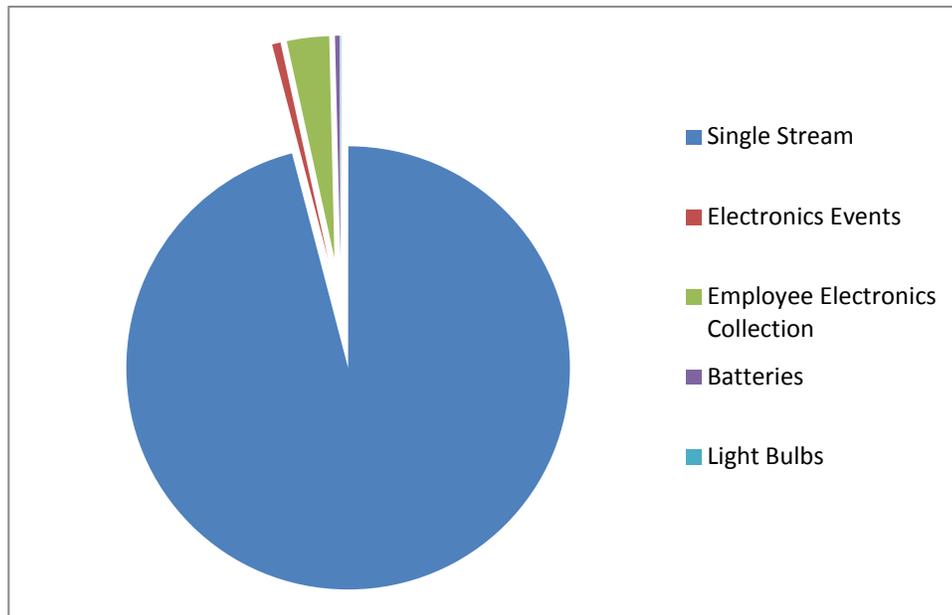
- It encourages people to bring in their recyclable materials from home for convenient disposal
- It promotes employees disposing of these materials in a responsible manner, diverting them from local area landfills
- This service is provided free

Through campus recycling offerings and services, employees are taking what they're learning and sharing that information various ways such as:

- Engaging with local communities and HOA associations helping encourage and identify diversion rates
- Teaching children and working with the local schools to come up with better recycling programs and ideas
- Finally, employees are taking our ideas and working towards implementing similar programs in other federal office buildings

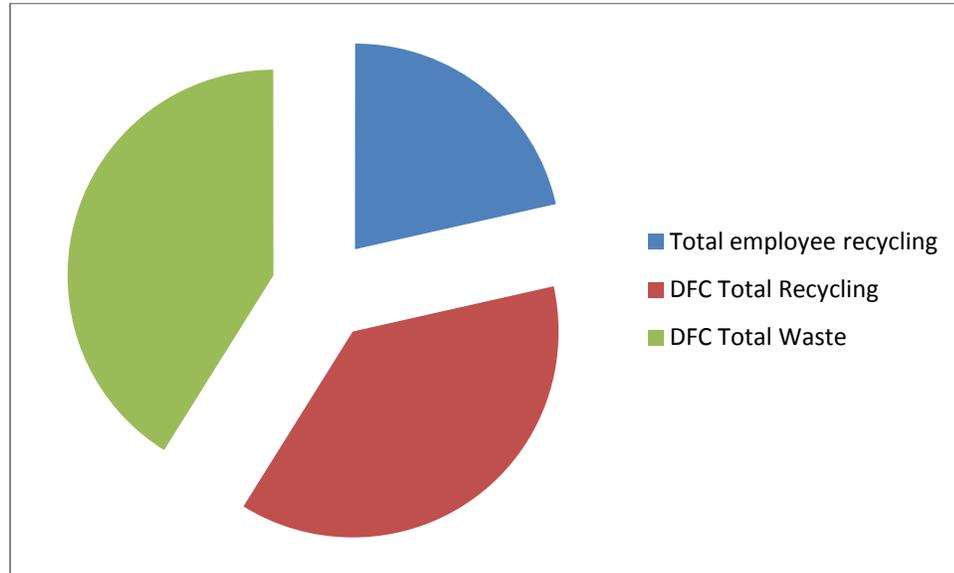
The greatest innovation of our programs is that by encouraging employees to participate in our recycling programs, it teaches them the economic value a strong recycling program has and allows them to make the right decisions with their materials for the right reasons. By inspiring them to get excited about recycling, when we are able to increase our waste diversion programs in our buildings, our customers are enthusiastic participants.

Materials Federal Employees Recycled:



Material	In pounds
Single Stream	616000
Electronics Events	4000
Employee Electronics Collection Events	19638
Batteries	2134
Light Bulbs	330

Percentage of Employee Recycling in relation to entire DFC Recycling and Solid Waste data



Total Waste/ Recycling	In Tons
Total employee recycling	321
DFC Total Recycling	560
DFC Total Waste	615
DFC Total Waste Diversion Rate	48%

For every ton of material kept out of local area landfills, employees at the DFC saved:

- 5,458 Trees
- 4.5 Billion Gallons of Water
- 2.1 Million Cubic Yards of Landfill Space
- 38.5 Million Pounds of Air Pollution
- 244 Million Gallons of Oil
- 2.6 Billion KwHrs of electricity
- 2.6 Million Mega Watts of Electricity that can power 3.7 Billion Homes for one year

The materials that the DFC Federal Employee Recycling program has diverted from local area landfills helps to extend the life of municipal landfills, creates jobs for local area recyclers, and provides a valuable education program to promote the value for waste reduction efforts for everyone.