

Suggestions on How to Make Your Business Greener

Best Practices for Single-Stream (SS) Business Recycling

1. **Make recycling convenient;** put recycling and trash containers next to each other.
2. **Put ONLY THE FOLLOWING items/materials in your single-stream dumpsters:**
 - Clean/empty metal, plastic, and glass containers (cans, bottles, jugs)
 - Clean and dry paper and (flattened) cardboard
3. **DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS CONTAINING RECYCLABLES IN THE DUMPSTER**
 - If recyclables are collected in plastic bags, **EMPTY THE CONTENTS** of the plastic bags into the recycling cart/dumpster
 - Materials in a plastic bag that gets to a recyclables sorting facility will be sent to a landfill without being opened (even clear plastic bags).
4. **DO NOT** put any of the following in recycling bins:
 - Food; forks, knives, spoons; plates, cups
 - Plastic bags, film, and wrap; hoses, rope, textiles or other items that can tangle
 - Yard waste; wood, concrete and other building materials
 - Electronics of any kind (e.g., computers, holiday lights); furniture
 - Medical waste, especially needles
 - Paint, chemicals, oil or other toxic materials

WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT (of the recycling bin)!

5. **Keep your recyclables dry;** keep dumpster lids closed to keep out rain and snow.
6. **Use clear and easy-to-read signs** indicating what items to recycle (and how) and what items not to recycle. (Your hauler can provide printable posters with this information, or use the ones at www.crevecœurmo.gov/recycling or www.recyclingsimplified.com/business-resources/)
7. **Have a designated person/team** responsible for recycling. They should check recycling and waste containers and dumpsters to ensure people are recycling properly and correct problems.
8. **Break down cardboard boxes** to make them flat. This increases the amount of material that will fit in a dumpster, reduces the number of pickups required (and fuel used), and saves you money.

Energy Efficiency

1. Replace incandescent and metal halide lights that are “on” more than 1000 hours a year, with high efficiency fluorescent or LED lights: energy savings will often pay for the extra initial cost in 1-2 years or less, and they have much longer lives, which will save maintenance costs.
2. Turn off lights, computers, and office equipment at night and over the weekend.
3. Consider installing motion/occupancy sensors to turn lights on and off in rooms with many lights, such as meeting rooms.
4. Install **and use** programmable thermostats. Check to make sure they are programmed correctly with appropriate temperature settings at appropriate times; set temperatures up/down appropriately when the building will not be occupied (overnight, weekends)
5. Consider buying fuel-efficient vehicles (e.g., hybrids). For fleet vehicles consider CNG vehicles (our waste and recyclables hauler, Republic Services, uses CNG trucks because they are less expensive and produce less greenhouse gasses than gasoline/diesel vehicles).

Green Energy

There are businesses in Creve Coeur that already use on-site solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and geothermal heating/cooling. Currently there are federal tax credits and “bonus” depreciation benefits available for these types of green energy. These tax benefits will begin phasing out in 2020, so installing these technologies in 2019 has added financial benefits. In addition to the federal tax benefits, Ameren currently has a rebate program for solar PV installations, but that program may also phase out after 2019.

More Information

More information and resources regarding sustainability can be found on the Creve Coeur website: www.crevecoeurmo.gov/sustainability.

For questions about what can or cannot be recycled contact your recyclables/waste hauler or check the website: www.crevecoeurmo.gov/recycling.