

# Kansas Green Teams

## Friday Facts



With the dust still flying...the Statehouse expands on waste reduction!

Within the stone walls of the statehouse is a very impressive Green Team. Managing that program is Christine Simons and Jerry Miller with the Division of Facilities Management (DFM) and the Statehouse Custodial Staff who are working together to propel this team and program to new heights.



The Statehouse Green Team was formed in December 2005 with representatives from the Governor's Office, Legislative Administrative Services, Legislative Computer Services, the Legislative Research Department, Revisor of Statutes Office, and Building Housekeeping. With the help of Kansas Department of Health and Environment's State Green Team Coordinator, the "Team" began meeting monthly and was charged with increasing recycling rates, promoting waste reduction, and encouraging the purchase of recycled content products.

An initial waste audit was performed which revealed that at least 40 percent of the waste being discarded was recyclable paper. Cardboard, aluminum, plastic, newsprint, and food waste were also found in significant amounts. The Statehouse started its recycling program with office paper, newspapers, magazines and plastics with stations on each floor. The custodial staff collects material daily, which is taken to their holding area and then to the recycling containers outside. In state fiscal year 2008, the Statehouse recycled a total of 30,287 pounds of materials.



In July of this year, Jerry, DFM, attended the Kansas Green Team Assembly and Awards Luncheon and learned of the rechargeable batteries recycling program. "I had a legislator ask me what we are doing about battery recycling. This program could not have come at a better time", he said. In August, this program was put in place not only at the statehouse, but at other state office buildings associated with facilities management and custodial staff.

Jerry stated that "one of the hardest things for me was learning the green program, not coming from a "green" background, so that I might education others". Jerry does keep the message board up to date on the Kansas Green Teams web site along with signs and posters for the Statehouse.

So what's next for the statehouse? Christine and Jerry of DFM are working on replacing the current trash bags with light weight bags that use less material and are great for the budget, along with more education and the possibility of setting up a network. If past efforts are an indicator of what we can expect in the future, there is no doubt the Statehouse Green Team will accomplish even more environmental improvements. To see more about their program, check out their site at Kansas Green Teams, [Statehouse Green Team](#).



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