

# Kansas Green Teams

## Friday Facts

[www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org)

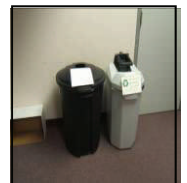


### Green Team Profile Social and Rehabilitation Services - Wichita Region Finney State Office Building

First row from left to right: Misty Heiser, Julie Brown, Bruce Brown, Megan MacPherson; Second row from left to right: Mike Watson, Kim Decker, Eric Dyer, Kyle Masterson, Gary Kerr. Not pictured: Debra Schumacher

Kansas Green Teams were created as a way to make a difference by incorporating environmentally responsible practices into daily routines at work, schools and home. The Social and Rehabilitation Services - Wichita Region (SRS) has done just that.

The Wichita SRS Office employees saw a need for recycling so a group of individuals who were passionate about helping the environment met to decide if there was anything they could do to help conserve resources. The team was started in December 2007, at the Finney State Office Building in Wichita, KS. There are 541 SRS employees and over 200 other state employees in the building. The Green Team set up a recycling program for paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles. Other "green" efforts include employee education related to duplexing documents (double-sided printing and copying), shutting off office lights, and taking the stairs in lieu of the elevator. They also purchase recycled paper and reusable pens.



Can crushers

The Wichita SRS held a kickoff event "Green Day 2007" which featured a model office teaching what could be recycled. The founders of a local recycling center participated to explain the fundamentals of recycling. They also gave building staff a list of tips on what they could do to help the environment and asked that they pick one tip that they would commit to for a year as a pledge to help the environment.



2008 Waste Audit

The green team staff attended the statewide 2008 Green Teams Assembly and Awards and learned about waste audits. They subsequently conducted an audit of their building and found out that 14% of their total waste was plastic. In response to this information, the Green Team kicked off a plastics recycling contest in January 2009 to see which floor could collect the most plastics. They had an overwhelming response. In the first week, they collected 3,698 plastic bottles and are still going strong with one weekly 50-gallon trash bag being recycled for each of the seven floors.



Plastic recycling



In recognition of their efforts, The Wichita SRS received an award for the Best Recycling Program at the 2009 Green Team Assembly. Much of the Wichita SRS Green Team's success has resulted from the dedication and leadership of Megan MacPherson who is the Green Team Project Coordinator. However, without the input and hard work of the entire team, the total building success could not have occurred.

Pictured in photo: Aaron Dunkel, KDHE, Mike Watson, Wichita SRS, Megan MacPherson, Wichita SRS and William Bider, KDHE

The Wichita SRS is considering many new ideas including an e-waste collection program for the employees and a cardboard recycling effort. The Green Team has started to work on a paperless program. Their IT department has also found a way to print just certain parts of lengthy reports, saving a significant amount of paper.

Changing people's frame of mind was their greatest challenge. Megan MacPherson said, "Making changes in your lifestyle can be overwhelming, but by making one simple change you CAN make a difference". One way the Wichita SRS Green Team did this was through employee education, including their Green Newsletter, seminars, and signage.

Their building recycling program has become so popular that staff are now bringing materials from their homes to be recycled! For more on this team, go to the [Wichita SRS Green Team](#) on the Kansas Green Team Website, [www.kansasgreenteams.org](http://www.kansasgreenteams.org)

Keep up the good work Wichita SRS and the Finney State Office Building!



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