

Walking the Talk of Resource Conservation

Bourne's Energy Inc. – Conserving Resources at the Office, Morrisville

When a Bourne's Energy fuel delivery truck powered by biodiesel drives by, it's clear to see that the company is dedicated to walking the talk of saving energy. Additionally, when moving into their new office on Main Street in Morrisville, the company was careful to make many energy efficient upgrades including a solar hot water heater, low flush toilets and energy saving lighting. Not only is the company known for making these obvious and large scale investments in conservation, but also its employees do many seemingly small actions at the office that have a big impact.

Lori Barkyoumb, Bourne's Marketing Director, says that the energy company, "is asking employees to practice what they preach" as they go about their work at the office, and a number of initiatives enable them to do so. For instance, at 2:00 each afternoon, the heat in the office is turned down, and prior to going home, employees turn off power strips that supply energy to office equipment. The company also conserves energy by using lights that have sensors so that they turn off when no one is in a room. In the kitchen, employees compost their food waste and recycle any parts of their lunch packaging that they can. Instead of a water cooler and all of its small paper cups or a vending machine selling bottled water, Bourne's has a water fountain that spouts filtered water. Conserving resources also occurs in the copy room. Comical signs stating, "PC files, not paper piles" remind employees to think before they print, and workers also use one-sided paper that winds up in the recycling bin as scrap paper.

Bourne's is an energy company that understands that small changes in one's home can have big effects on the resources needed to heat and cool that home. Clearly the company and its employees also realize that small changes in office procedures can go a long way in conserving resources.

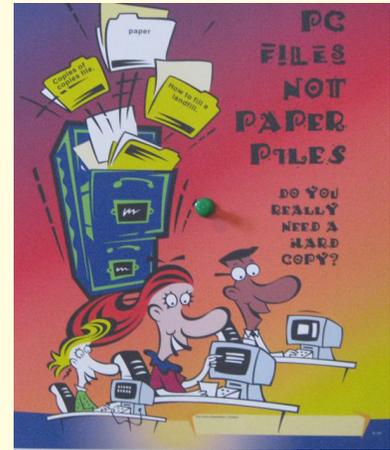


Image provided by Lori Barkyoumb

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15



Sharing is More Than the Kind Thing to Do

Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District – Portable Skidder Bridge Rental Program and Regional Hydroseeder Project, Morrisville

As children we are taught that it is kind to share. The simple act of sharing is more than just kind however it also is a practice that both reduces consumption and promotes community. The Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District (LCNRCD) illustrates that it understands the benefits of sharing through two programs that promote the simple act.

The LCNRCD participates in the Portable Skidder Bridge Rental Program, an initiative that is overseen by the Vermont Division of Forestry. Portable Skidder Bridges can be used to cross streams when logging, in order to reduce non-point source pollution that normally results from stream bank and bed disturbances. Loggers can contact the LCNRCD to rent a Portable Skidder Bridge in Lamoille County for just \$100 per month. Not only do the bridges help to reduce pollution, but as LCNRCD Director Kim Komer explains, the bridges also, "give loggers easier access to where

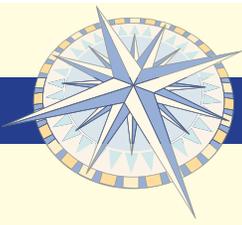


Image provided by LCNRCD

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they're going and prevent loggers from having to worry about fines, muddying up equipment, etc." The Portable Skidder Bridge rental program is a win-win situation for both the loggers and our state's water quality.

The Regional Hydroseeder Project is a second LCNRCD initiative that promotes sharing while helping to protect our waterways by reducing non-point source pollution. In the early 90's, the LCNRCD obtained grant funding to purchase and maintain a hydroseeder to be shared among several municipalities. The hydroseeder is used to apply grass seed along roads. This vegetative stabilization helps to prevent erosion, undermining, and washouts, which pollute waterways and cost local governments tens of thousands of dollars each year to correct. Though here it is tools and equipment rather than toys, that lesson we learned as children about sharing nicely, has economic and environmental benefits as well.

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15



Piles of Compost as Exciting as Piles of Snow for Ski Resort

Stowe Mountain Resort – Composting Initiative, Stowe

Stowe Mountain Resort (SMR) has received a great deal of recognition for its environmental commitment. It was the first mountain resort in the United States to receive a "Green Community Award" from Audubon International. Spruce Peak at Stowe received the honor for implementing a wide array of environmental projects and initiatives. The resort protected over 2,000 acres of wildlife habitat through a pair of conservation easements. Efficiency Vermont helped the resort to build energy efficient cabins. Plus, SMR financially supports public transportation and encourages its employees to ride-share.

In addition to all of these achievements, SMR also has implemented an impressive composting program. Rob Apple, Planning Manager at Spruce Peak at Stowe, explains that the program began "when the resort formed a composting committee, that quickly found a farm willing to take our food scraps." The resort started to compost food waste from the back of the kitchen in Stowe Mountain Lodge, and after a year wanted to expand its efforts, so staff began working with the Central Vermont Solid Waste District (CVSWD). SMR became one of 110 businesses that participate in the composting program run by CVSWD, which transports SMR's compost to Grow Compost in Moretown.

This project, which began in just one kitchen, has had a sizeable impact. In the first nine months of 2010, SMR diverted 75 tons of waste from landfills by getting it transported to Grow Compost. And while Rob Apple says that it can be a challenge to implement composting in some of the resort's older kitchens with limited space, he and the resort are committed to expanding the program. Furthermore, using a calculator based upon compost offsetting fossil fuel derived fertilizers as well as decreased greenhouse gas emissions compared to those in a landfill, CVSWD estimates that SMR saved approximately 6,700 gallons of gas by composting rather than throwing away its food scraps. The resort then buys soil back from Grow Compost for use in its own landscaping. Just as each chair on the ski lift circles back to its start, so does the food waste at Stowe Mountain Resort!



Image provided by Stowe Mountain Resort

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