

Devens Eco-Efficiency Center

Committed to helping area establishments reduce operating costs, make more efficient use of resources, and minimize environmental impacts.

33 Andrews Parkway, Devens

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www.ecostardevens.com

Accomplishments in 2011

Increasingly businesses are realizing that the implementation of more environmentally-friendly practices not only protects resources and makes customers and employees feel good about their association with the firm, but it also benefits the bottom line. The non-profit Devens Eco-Efficiency Center provides assistance and services that help companies improve the sustainability and profitability of their operation. The following paragraphs highlight activities the Center was involved with throughout 2011 and announce the availability of free waste reduction assistance in 2012. Contact Director Dona Neely to learn how its services can benefit your facility.

Hazardous waste put in its place

The big accomplishment for 2011 was the opening of the Devens Regional Household Hazardous Products Collection Center in July. The “Devens HHW” provides a convenient service for the residents of Ayer, Bolton, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, and Townsend. Businesses located in these towns that generate less than 220 pounds or 27 gallons of toxic waste per month can also use the service. The facility, located at 9 Cook Street behind the DPW, is open 9a—noon on the first Wednesday and following Saturday of the month, March—December, to collect hazardous products such as oil-based paint, rechargeable batteries, cleaning solvents, fluorescent bulbs, etc.



This expanded service, which was previously offered only twice per year, will minimize the threat that toxic products pose to children, pets, water supplies, and the local environment. Learn more at www.devenshhw.com.

Learning better practices



The EHS Roundtable brought local professionals with environmental, health and safety responsibilities together on a monthly basis to learn about and discuss a range of subjects critical to their profession. Topics included OSHA updates, employer liabilities, and return to work programs. The Compliance University, facilitated by a representative from the State's OTA (Office of Technical Assistance), provided a review of new environmental regulations and helpful resources. Additionally, local professionals interested in green building practices benefited from roundtables on Sustainable Housing at Devens, Building for Water and Energy Efficiency, and Design for Reuse – Sustainable Design and Deconstruction. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for roundtable and workshop announcements send an email dokaneely@ecostardevens.com.

Waste not, want not

The Great Exchange facilitated the diversion of an estimated 50 tons of materials that were destined to go to the landfill to reuse opportunities in 2011. In addition to making better use of resources, the participating 37 businesses, non-profits and municipalities saved over \$25,000 from avoided disposal or purchasing costs. This unique program has repurposed over 400 tons of “treasures” since its launch in 2007. Examples include packing materials, outdated inventory, scraps that can be used in art projects, and unwanted furniture. To view a list of items and benefactors visit www.ecostardevens.com. Contact Dona at dokaneely@ecostardevens.com or 978-772-8831 if your firm is interested in exchanging and saving!



Local champs!

Each year students at the Parker Charter School take additional steps to green their school and they are to be commended on their progress. In addition to recycling the traditional paper, plastic and glass, they also collect food scraps. Students feed lunch leftovers to worms that turn the organic material into compost that is used to fertilize the organic garden on the school grounds. Students are also responsible for planting, maintaining, and harvesting the fruits and vegetables that are served in the school lunch program. Kudos to the kids - and of course their teachers.



Employees get out for spring cleaning



A variety of community betterment projects were organized to provide local workers an opportunity to get outside to celebrate Earth Day. Twenty-four volunteers picked up nine bags of trash on a nature trail behind Evergreen Solar, cleared a mile-long stretch of the Goddard Trail and spruced up the gardens around Verbeck Gate, Sweetheart Rock, and Sherman Circle. Thanks to folks from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Devens Commons Center, Devens Enterprise Commission, Devens Recycling Center, and Shriver Job Corps for their great work.



We spread the good word

The Eco-Efficiency Center was invited to share an overview of its program offerings and accomplishments at several conferences, including: the American Planners Association National Conference, Northern Tier Energy Sector Partnership Conference, and Sustainable Communities Conference. The Center was also introduced to members of the Ayer Shirley Lions Club and attendees of the Devens Business Roundtable.

Plans for 2012

Taking out the trash

The Center is providing a variety of waste reduction services free of charge to facilities in Devens, thanks in part to grants from the USDA and DEP. The assistance will enable firms to establish or strengthen recycling programs, compost food waste and divert unwanted materials for reuse by others. The implementation of these types of programs can reduce a facility's waste disposal costs, enhance a company's appeal to employees and customers, eliminate the risk of fines for non-compliance with the State's waste ban, and preserve environmental resources. New waste reduction initiatives are already being worked on at Bristol-Myers Squibb, the Hilton Garden Inn, Johnson Matthey Pharma Services, and SpringHill Suites and Devens Commons Center. Email or call today to learn how your firm can benefit from this offering.



How can we help you?



Are there opportunities to reduce costs by managing resources more efficiently in your facility's operations? Is there interest in engaging employees in the development of sustainability programs that will enhance the firm's image internally and externally? To learn more about how the Devens Eco-Efficiency Center can help the business or organization improve environmental performance and save money visit www.ecostardevens.com or call Dona Neely, Director, at 978-772-8831 x3304.

Be green and prosper!

Devens Eco-Efficiency Center is a non-profit entity that has been providing award winning programs and services to area businesses and organizations since 2007.