

Going Green With

January 2009



In June 2008 the employees of South Central Indiana REMC formed a Go-Green Committee. Our goal is to try to find ways to be more environmentally responsible both as a company and a community. As part of our community outreach we have been invited to write a monthly go-green article. We would like to take this opportunity to share some of the ways our company has been going green.

SCI REMC was making green efforts even before the committee was established by recycling items like scrap metal, used motor oil, old tires, pallets, and batteries. We also offer free energy audits to help our members learn to conserve energy.

The first project of the Go-Green Committee was to start new recycling initiatives for SCI REMC employees. Our company now recycles Cardboard, Newspaper, Mixed Paper, Plastic Bottles, and Aluminum Cans. We have declared every Friday Recycling Day and encourage employees to bring recyclables from home.

Our recycling has already saved us money. Since installing a cardboard compactor we have compacted approximately 13,000 lbs. of cardboard. If this cardboard was laid out like an average garage floor (poured 4" thick) it would cover more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. Recycling cardboard has saved \$6,295 in disposal fees, and along with \$3,009 savings from recycling 7 dumpsters of pallets we have saved \$9,304.

In the future we would love to open up all our recycling initiatives to the community, but we lack the facilities at this time. However, we would like the community's help with our Cell Phone and Compact Fluorescent Bulb (CFL) recycling campaigns. Anyone can drop off used cell phones (no accessories please) and used CFL bulbs at our office.

The proceeds from the new recycling initiatives will be donated to a local charitable organization selected by SCI REMC employees.

In addition to the recycling, we have added a Go-Green Tip of the Week to our employee newsletter, and have been using our Light Reading newsletter to share green tips with our members. The next project for the committee is to launch a go-green website.

If you have questions or comments please send them to: askus@sciremc.com.

Go-Green Tip of the Month

When possible choose bamboo products. Bamboo is one of the greenest materials around. It is not a tree but rather a fast-growing grass. Most bamboo is grown in China and very little pesticides are used. Since it is so fast growing, it is much easier to maintain healthy bamboo forests.

Sites to search:

- www.gogreenbamboo.com
- www.americanbamboo.com
- www.originalbamboofactory.com