



SPOTLIGHT ON... SAIF CORPORATION

AT A GLANCE

SAIF Corporation
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WHAT THEY DO:
SAIF Corporation is Oregon's not-for-profit, state-chartered workers' compensation insurance company.

GREENING ITS FLEET:
SAIF eliminated 23 vehicles from its fleet and added 10 hybrids—saving thousands in gas each year and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PAPER USE:
Setting printers to double-sided printing whenever possible and eliminating paper reports in favor of electronic versions save almost 18,000 reams of paper a year.

SAVING ENERGY:
A more efficient HVAC system and lights throughout the buildings save significantly in the electricity bills.

RECYCLING:
A trash compactor reduces the volume of recyclables, which means fewer pick-ups by the trash hauler. It saves SAIF about \$8,500 a year.



SAIF Corporation's mission to provide affordable workers' compensation insurance is coupled with a dedication to the environment, which has proven to save the nonprofit thousands of dollars a year.

With 650 employees at the main office in Salem, SAIF Corp. had significant paper costs, energy use, garbage hauling fees, and vehicle expenses.

Starting in 2008, Tracy Meyer, corporate projects coordinator at SAIF, and a 'Green Team' of two dozen employees systematically tackled the company's biggest environmental woes. Additional work on the landscaping, lighting, an old roof, and employees' recycling efforts has made SAIF Corp. a leader in sustainable business practices.

Their work earned them EarthWISE certification in 2008.

Paper reduction was one of the first eco-actions tackled by Meyer. In a place where paper is bought by the truckload, simple actions can have huge impacts.

SAIF significantly reduced the amount of office paper by setting printers to double-sided printing whenever possible and eliminating paper reports in favor of electronic versions. The changes meant that SAIF saved 17,450 reams of paper a year—approximately 1,500 trees worth of wood pulp—at a \$21,987 savings.

Despite reducing their paper usage 5 million pages a year, Meyer's team has not completed their work on paper use. Their current goal: paper elimination.

SAIF Corp. reduced their energy use—which reduced their greenhouse gas emissions—by replacing parts of their HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system with more efficient equipment.

Original calculations show SAIF Corp. saving an estimated \$39,000 a year. A new chiller in one building resulted in a 12 percent annual savings over the old one. Calculations in 2011 showed that energy use has dropped 14 percent from 2000.

A waste audit of the two main Salem buildings in 2010 showed that 37 percent of SAIF's garbage could be recycled. To tackle recycling efforts, Meyer created 3-4 minute recycling videos that educated employees about separating their trash from recycling at their desks. The videos are funny yet informative, and they've helped SAIF improve its recycling rate.

In addition, a refurbished trash compactor purchased in 2009 crushes all of the



SAIF Corporate Projects Coordinator Tracy Meyer

recyclables from the main SAIF office in Salem. By reducing the volume of the recyclables, SAIF Corp. has saved more than \$8,500 a year on hauling fees—plus prevented 65,000 pounds of recyclables that used to be mixed into the trash from heading to the Marion County waste-to-energy facility. The garbage hauler was also able to substantially reduce the number of trips to SAIF for garbage pickup because of the reduction in the volume of trash.

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The Fleet Manager's scrutiny of SAIF Corp.'s fleet of vehicles is another way the nonprofit found ways to be more environmentally friendly while also saving money.

By studying and reviewing vehicle usage, SAIF was able to reduce the fleet size by 23 vehicles in the past 2 years. The fleet also gained 10 hybrid cars between 2007 and 2011, and new guidelines allow employees to use their own vehicles more often, which can save the commute to the office to check out a fleet vehicle. These new strategies meant that SAIF used almost 2,500 fewer gallons of gasoline in 2011 compared to 2010. At \$3.50 a gallon, SAIF saved \$8,750 in gasoline alone in 2011.

SAIF's fleet strategy has meant a 9 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions since 2007.

Also, the purchase of additional vehicles from now on always includes a consideration of fuel efficiency and the right size vehicle for the job. With the increased use of personal cars, several articles in the employee newsletter focus on how to drive cars in the most economical way possible.

The nonprofit has taken another step by partnering with Willamette University students to study whether electric vehicles would be a cost-effective strategy for SAIF's vehicle fleet. Those results will help shape future buying guidelines.

To further its sustainability, SAIF Corp. employees have researched other environmentally friendly practices. A grant from Marion County helped

SAIF purchase reusable mugs for the employee café. Employees will be given discounts for using the reusable mugs. In turn, SAIF officials hope to see a reduction in garbage volume from paper cups.

A look at electricity costs has meant that all exit lights in SAIF buildings are being replaced with the super-efficient LEDs (light-emitting diodes). By 2013, two other buildings will be switching their main lights to the more efficient T8 fluorescent bulbs—in just one of the smaller buildings, the switch will save an estimated 61,765 kilowatt hours a year or \$4,886 annually, according to Energy Trust of Oregon.

A review of the cost of an eco-roof meant the purchase of a white reflective roof in 2012 on one of SAIF's Salem buildings, which will keep the cost down of cooling the building. But the eco-roof research generated a lot of interest, and SAIF officials expect more discussion about an eco-roof on one of their one-story Salem buildings in the future.

A partnership with University of Oregon landscape architecture students is helping SAIF Corp. save the hundreds-

year-old oak tree in its courtyard. Per student recommendation, SAIF is experimenting with two different kinds of eco-lawn to find out which one will replace the traditional lawn. Replacing the current lawn with a more drought tolerant eco-lawn will reduce water bills while saving the native Oregon white oak tree which thrives on less water.



Oregon white oak on SAIF campus

EarthWISE Certification
SAIF Corporation received its
EarthWISE certification in 2008.
It was awarded the Mid-Valley
Green Awards EarthWISE
Business of the Year in 2010.



WANT TO DO THIS AT YOUR BUSINESS?

Marion County's EarthWISE program can help. Visit mcEarthwise.net, call 503.365.3188 or email Earthwise@co.marion.or.us