

Lessons from the Field

Seattle Mariners - Tips for Getting Started with Greening



Scott Jenkins
VP Ballpark Operations
Seattle Mariners

February 2013 – We asked Scott Jenkins, Vice President of Ballpark Operations with the Seattle Mariners at Safeco Field and the Chairman of the Green Sports Alliance, to give us a few tips on how to get started with greening. Here's what he had to say.

Track Data

- Start by reporting several years of energy and water data using EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager or your league tracking tool.
- Generate a graph of monthly utility use for gas, electric, and water over a 5 year period. This will provide a good baseline indicating historical use.

Engage Staff

- Set a goal of establishing new low water marks for each utility and ask staff (engineering, security, housekeeping, and concessions are all key) to help accomplish this.

Our goal was to save \$100,000 in the first year and we hit that after 6 months. We ended up saving \$275,000 in year one.

- Share with your staff how much is spent on utilities. We all can relate to paying the bills at home. Ask them to guess how much is spent on average each day for all utilities.

If memory serves correct, we were spending about \$4,600 a day before we started the greening program. Because electricity, gas and water appear to be invisible, very few people have any appreciation for how much is spent (wasted).

Imagine throwing twenty dollar bills out the door or off the roof. If you did this, people would call you crazy. We do this every day by being wasteful and inefficient—you just don't see it! \$275,000 is the





equivalent of finding 13,750 twenty dollar bills over the course of a year. That's over 37 twenties a day that we were throwing away before we engaged our staff. Would you stop to pick up a twenty you found lying on the ground? How do you feel when you know you lost a twenty?

- It's not about getting budgets approved to invest. It's about using the investment you are already making in your staff. Of course, there will be suggestions made that require some investment, but when you eliminate waste, you'll have the money to invest and then some.

Start with the Simple Things

There are many simple tasks you can complete to eliminate waste and achieve substantial savings in utility costs. Work with your staff to:

- Shut doors
- Weather strip openings
- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use
- Properly maintain HVAC and plumbing systems
- Set back thermostats when you can
- Install aerators on faucets

Then, think about lighting retrofits and HVAC control and equipment improvements for increased savings.

If you're interested in finding out more about getting started with greening, please contact:

Scott Jenkins at sjenkins@mariners.com

or **Alliance Membership Director David Muller** at david@greensportsalliance.org.

A better way to play.

www.greensportsalliance.org