

A New Environment For Spring Manufacturers

I'm sure by now everyone is aware of the environmental issues we face today. Sometimes we are not sure what to believe in terms of Global Warming and it's impact on the Earth, however all that you need to do is walk around you community and I'm sure you can see that pollution and waste in all forms is a problem. There is an effort underway to work on this problem. It is known as Going Green or some might know it as "Sustainability".

We as spring manufactures need to be doing our part to help with these challenges. The Kirk-Habicht Company has been working with the Regional Manufacturers Institute of Maryland, and also the Community College of Baltimore County in efforts to educate manufactureers on simple "grass roots" solutions to this problem. Kirk-Habicht recently had Mike Rothmeier of Simple Solutions who is working with the above organizations. He came in for a review of our company's latest efforts, and what he and our employees discovered was that the company is actually doing far more than we had thought we were. Obvious things are recycling of paper, plastic and glass but the use of lighting, equipment upgrades, waste water systems, along with the use of oven's and fans to your advantage, whether it's summer or winter.

There are many things you are probably doing currently, but it is important for you to do a walkthrough evaluation (or "Waste Walk") to determine what more you can be doing. You will definitely surprise yourself.

There is also a movement to incorporate Lean into Going Green. Using the Lean Toolbox to reduce or eliminate process waste is a valuable way to help become a Greener manufacturing facility, and save money while you're "doing the right thing".

To see how Lean might help you and your bottom line, there is more information on the EPA website as well as toolkits to assist you. These toolkits and other info can be found at the following links:

www.epa.gov/lean

www.greensuppliers.gov

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