

Staff donate energy savings to good causes

GRIF.LV

Staff at GRIF were delighted to be able to contribute to the work of the Latvian Childrens Fund. This provided an extra motivation to people to try to maximize the savings and make a valuable contribution to the Fund, which has been offering support to those who need it most for the past 20 years.

Pēteris Celmiņš, Commercial Director, GRIF

HIGHLIGHTS

- Energy savings of € 644 on electricity, gas and water
- Donation of € 200 to the Latvian Children Fund.
- Technical and other support provided by Social Economy Foundation, Latvia.
- The energy saving campaign ran from June to Dec. cutting electricity (by 3%), gas (27%) and water consumption (32%).



The Latvian Children's Fund was the destination for energy saving donations

SUMMARY

The Latvian's Children Fund has benefited from the energy saving efforts of staff at GRIF, a leading personal protective equipment supplier in the Baltics. GRIF signed up to Donate Your Energy in 2009 and agreed to donate 30% of energy saved to the Latvian Childrens Fund. The Social Economy Foundation (SEF) collaborated with GRIF to explore the most effective way for staff to achieve energy savings and contribute to the donation to the charity. SEF provided support to help GRIF employees target electricity, gas and water savings at their office, shop and service centre. The company cut electricity, gas and water consumption by 3%, 27% and 32% respectively.

About Donate Your Energy

Donate Your Energy is a scheme to help companies cut their energy bill by providing incentives to staff to save energy. The incentive provided is that the company agrees to donate a proportion of the energy cost savings to a charity/ies selected by the staff. In this way staff feel that they are contributing something to the greater good instead of just saving energy to save the company money.

Background

Established in 1992, GRIF Ltd. (www.grif.lv) is a leading personal protective equipment (PPE) wholesale supplier in the Baltics. The company developed its business supplying work clothes, gloves, footwear and other PPE in Latvia, and its sewing shop produces a wide range of working clothes according to clients' requirements, fully compliant with Latvian and European standards. Working more than ten years in work safety, GRIF has earned the confidence of many enterprises and organisations in Latvia.

The company signed a Covenant Agreement in May 2009 and agreed to run a Donate Your Energy awareness campaign and donate 30% of energy saved to the Latvian Children Fund.

The situation

Skilled staff and high quality standards in service are major features of GRIF's operations, so cutting energy waste matched corporate objectives. From the very beginning of its history GRIF has been at the forefront of applying proven management techniques and effective staff motivation methods. Donate Your Energy presented an opportunity for the company to address energy waste, staff involvement and improve corporate social responsibility.

A greater focus on costs as a result of the severe economic and financial crisis and a successful track record in working with SEF, provided GRIF with an ideal platform on which to implement Donate Your Energy.

The solution

The energy saving campaign was implemented from June to December, 2009, at the company's support and retail centre where its office, shop and service centre are located.

Heating being a major energy consumer was one of the main targets for action, along with lighting, water consumption, building ventilation, computers, office equipment and electricity for non-critical work processes.

Actions taken

An energy awareness workshop was held to kick-off the campaign, where staff were briefed on Donate Your Energy and the energy saving opportunities available to them. The measures ranged from greater use of task lighting to powering down computers, and temperature control to switching off equipment instead of leaving it on standby.

Among the measures implemented were:

- Introductory workshop for staff.
- Appointment of individuals responsible for energy saving in all premises.
- Lighting switch-off and greater use of local/task lighting.
- Use of multiple socket outlets (extension leads) with switches to facilitate switching-off.
- Promotion of day-to-day water saving actions.
- Automatic power-down of computers after a period of inactivity.
- A ventilation regime for working premises with periodical airing through windows.
- Heating temperature control and lowering of thermostats when premises were unoccupied, e.g. at weekends.
- Use of fliers, posters, stickers and other promotional material, including regular memos from company management.



GRIF staff were keen to contribute to the charity donation by cutting energy waste.

SEF consultants also discussed the energy monitoring methods which could be used, and regularly visited the

company, meeting the personnel involved, discussing their achievements and solving problems.

Results

In just six months the company achieved the following savings:

- Electricity consumption down 3%
- Gas consumption down 27%
- Water consumption down 32%

A total of € 644 was shaved off the energy bill, and staff were delighted with the outcome and encouraged that 30% of their energy saving efforts were going to a good cause, the Latvian Children's Fund, amounting to € 200.



The GRIF retail outlet was among the premises where significant energy and water savings were made

Lessons learned

Some key factors for the success of Donate Your Energy were identified by SEF consultants and GRIF management:

- Staff selection of the charity was a strong motivator to engender ownership of the campaign.
- Appointing somebody responsible for energy saving in each department is essential.
- Introductory workshops for staff are an effective tool to get people on board.



For further information contact

Alexander Gamaleyev

Social Economy Foundation

T. +371 67 334 346 · E. info@sef.lv

<http://www.energyxchange.eu/en/donate.php>