



Case Study: Total Gas & Power

On the 16th floor of 1201 Louisiana Street, Total Gas and Power has set an example of what it means to be a green and sustainable office. Total's participation in the 2011 Houston Green Office Challenge, led by the corporate office manager, Celicia Brignac, was a complete success. Celicia was kind enough to give the HGOC team a tour of the office and tell us about the changes they have made.

Energy

As a trading floor, this office requires a large number of computers and monitors that gives off excessive heat. This is a common problem seen with trading desks, data centers, control rooms and any room that contains large amounts of electronics. Rather than straining the HVAC system, Total installed individual fan units that remove the hot air from the room. This highly efficient method saves energy and keeps employees comfortable at the same time.

Energy Saving Changes:

- Increased office temperature several degrees to 74-75°
- The air conditioning automatically shuts off overnight
- All computers are set to hibernate after 5 minutes.
- Motion controls in every room turn off the lights after 5 minutes of inactivity

Waste & Engagement

Celicia admits that cutting down on waste was the most difficult task; however many effective changes have been made. She points out that every desk has its own bin, so now employees can just turn around in their chair to recycle a soda can. Walking past the copier room, she has taped fliers to the walls reminding employees to print double-sided. Before, Total went through six boxes of paper, and now they have reduced consumption to four.



Other waste changes:

- Eliminated bottled water
- Employees were given canteens and use a water dispenser
- Kitchen is equipped with reusable dishes
- Individual printers are not allowed
- Post-consumer products are generally used

Transportation

Total does have a commuter transportation program which had limited success in the past. In year two of the HGOC, Celicia hopes to improve the transportation incentives by taking advantage of car pooling and promoting the Nuride program (www.nuride.com).

Celicia explains that the HGOC scorecard provided a great guideline to what changes should be made, and with senior management on board and a huge team effort, Total has come a long way. "Our employees can go home happy and comfortable with the fact that they work at a company that cares about the environment and their carbon footprint," she says. Total raised their baseline score of 30 to a Gold status score of 77, earning them 2nd place in the "Most Improved" category.