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**MIDWEST RECYCLING CENTER EMPLOYEE ELIMINATES 10.5 TONS OF CO2\* EMISSIONS FROM THE ATMOSPHERE OVER THREE YEARS BY USING COMPANY CAR FOR CARPOOL**

**ST. LOUIS, MO., Dec. 18, 2014 . . .** As a 2014 St. Louis Green Business Challenge participant, Midwest Recycling Center (MRC) is committed to taking steps to improve the environment. And as the organization continues to look for new ways to go green, one employee at the organization’s electronics and appliance recycling processing facility in Park Hills, Mo. has singlehandedly saved 10.5 tons of emissions\* over the past three years as a result of the company car access he’s enjoying for his daily carpool to and from work.

In recognition of his hard work with MRC and his always positive attitude, Kevin Hankins, warehouse manager of the Park Hills facility, was presented with a Chevy Cruze in 2011. Since starting with the company in 2007, Hankins has been making a daily 50-mile commute to and from his home in Hillsboro, Mo. to his Park Hills workplace. With three other MRC employees living along Hankins’ route, MRC management encouraged them to consider riding to work with Hankins. Once the carpool was established, MRC sweetened the deal by presenting Hankins with the affordable and fuel-efficient Cruze, and also picking up the cost of fuel.

“To this day, Kevin is still picking up two employees almost daily, and the decision to give him a company car has really been a win-win for everyone,” said Ryan Wilkey, Business Development Consultant with Midwest Recycling Center. “Not only are the individuals in his carpool enjoying a free ride to work and putting fewer miles on their personal vehicles, they are also doing their part to help the environment and our air quality.”

For Hankins, carpooling has become a way of life that he’s come to greatly enjoy.

“MRC has a really big heart, and the car was a great reward,” noted Hankins. “Having the ability to carpool is saving all of us money, and we also get a chance to talk about the day ahead on the way in. I plan to continue carpooling as long as the company will let me!”

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**MRC presents carpooler with company car**

**First and final add**

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability, MRC is working to promote healthy, sustainable lifestyles to its employees, and has recently provided literature to all of its employees highlighting the benefits and importance of carpooling. The company also joined the St. Louis Green Business Challenge in April in an effort to learn how the organization can do its part to help St. Louis become a more sustainable city.

Since getting involved with the Challenge, MRC has implemented a corporate “green team” and has developed an official sustainability plan.

“MRC has always been very proactive in our efforts to be more sustainable, but the Challenge offers deadlines and friendly competition designed to encourage organizations like ours to put real plans in place and implement them,” noted Wilkey. “It can be easy to procrastinate on sustainable projects and efforts when you’re busy with the day to day operations of the company. The Challenge helps to combat this by motivating organizations to get the job done.”

The Clean Air Partnership is a proud sponsor of this year’s St. Louis Green Business Challenge. Created in 2010, the Challenge is a partnership between the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Regional Chamber which helps spread sustainable business practices through the St. Louis region. This year, 88 companies, representing more than 100,000 employees collectively, are participating in the Challenge by working to implement strategies to reduce energy, waste, water and impacts on our region’s environment.

To learn more about the St. Louis Green Business Challenge, visit [www.stlouisgreenchallenge.com](http://www.stlouisgreenchallenge.com), or call Eric Schneider at (314) 444-1148. For information about the sustainable efforts underway at Midwest Recycling Services, visit <http://midwrc.net/>. To learn about ways you can do your share to help reduce emissions and improve air quality in the region, visit the Clean Air Partnership’s website at [www.cleanair-stlouis.com](http://www.cleanair-stlouis.com) or find the organization on Facebook or on Twitter at @gatewaycleanair.

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***\*Emissions reduction information calculated via an emissions calculator at*** [***http://www.carbonify.com/carbon-calculator.htm***](http://www.carbonify.com/carbon-calculator.htm)

*The Clean Air Partnership was formed in 1995, led by the American Lung Association, St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, Washington University and others, to increase awareness of regional air quality issues and to encourage activities to reduce air pollution emissions.*