



Missouri State Recycling Program

Office of Administration | General Services | 573-751-3384

Jefferson Building Clean Up

SEPTEMBER 2021

Have you ever had to clean out a garage or basement that's full of years' worth of accumulated...junk? Items you think you'll use again one day, or that are still useful that you don't want to throw away just yet, or maybe something that's broken that you hope you'll get around to fixing? Now imagine that but in a state office building, with years and years' worth of furniture, office supplies, electronics, and more! That was the situation the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) found themselves in when the Thomas Jefferson State Office Building needed to have the storage areas in the basement cleared out before it could undergo renovations next year. In undertaking the monumental task so the contractors had space to work, DESE reached out to the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) for assistance.

The MSRP was able to secure the necessary resources to recycle:

- 5,860 pounds of cardboard
- 6,430 pounds of paper
- 598 pounds of metals
- 20 pallets of electronics
- Countless items were shared on [MOREuse](#), which were given new uses throughout state government

The recycling contractors made special pickups, and the Missouri State Agency for Surplus Property was able to provide additional recycling containers on short notice, making it possible to recycle this massive volume of material over a two-week period! While much of the material and items were recycled, there were 2,336 pounds of trash collected as well.



After two weeks of cleaning, these once full storage shelves, are nearly empty.

DESE's Continuous Improvement Coordinator, Jake King, worked alongside Rob Didriksen, the State Recycling Manager, to help facilitate the cleanup. King praised the attention to detail and work ethic shown.

"I have been impressed with the level of involvement each office has had with this cleanup project. Many team members worked hard to clear out unneeded and unused items, which led to several tons of material being removed from the basement and a number of reusable resources being distributed across the state," King stated. "This was one of my first large projects with DESE, and I was happy to be a part of it. While this work is not yet completed, our fellow team members have taken the first, important step on this big project, and did a great job."

Didriksen echoed King's praise about
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WE WANT YOU TO MEET THE CHALLENGE!

America Recycles Day (ARD) was first celebrated on November 15, 1997. Since then, ARD has been celebrated from coast to coast. The Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) wants to challenge state agencies to consider hosting an ARD event in your office this year. Below are links to resources for ideas and organizational tips to consider.

State agencies hosting an ARD event between now and the end of 2021 can receive a box of pens made from recycled materials to promote the event.

For additional information about ARD, click [here](#).

For resources to organize an America Recycles Day event, click [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASE

In fiscal year 2021 (FY21), OA's Facilities Management Design Team engaged in several "green" carpet installation projects. "Green" carpet means that it has a minimum 35 percent recycled content and the modular backing for these carpet tiles are PVC-free. PVC is a type of plastic that is common in carpet products and has potentially harmful characteristics to human health. The Missouri State Recycling Program applauds FMDC's decision to purchase more than \$68,000 of this carpet!

Meet Your MIRC MEMBER DOUG VAUGHT

Doug Vaught has been a driving force for change at the Public Service Commission (PSC). As the overseer of the Public Service Commission Building Mail Room, he knows the importance of recycling and how it reduces waste. PSC recycles paper, plastic bottles, and aluminium cans.

Though Vaught has been with PSC for several years, he did not begin his current role as a MIRC member until October 2019.

"I oversee all PSC mail that is delivered to all 10 floors of the building," Vaught said of his support services technician duties.

Vaught was soon drafted into the Missouri Interagency Recycling Committee (MIRC) after his promotion.

"It came with the position. I thought it was great," he said, explaining that the tradition of being a MIRC member went hand in hand with the position.

Vaught has found being involved with the Missouri State Recycling Program (MSRP) very helpful. He has downloaded recycling sign resources from the MSRP



Doug Vaught

site and has placed printed copies in areas that help define what can and can't be recycled. This helps reduce contamination.

Vaught is always looking for ways to save money. He was excited when the MSRP decided to send a weekly paper collection

survey to determine if a collection was necessary for that particular week. Vaught fills out this survey every Monday, which notifies the recycling contractor only when his five bins are full of paper. He said this has saved money by cutting the costs of unnecessary pickups.

Since Vaught has been spreading the news about recycling, team members around him have caught on.

"People are recycling more now, than before," he said, adding that many team members have made recycling a daily part of their lives.

Vaught is a firm believer in the phrase, "recycling makes a difference."

Vaught is an Iberia graduate and was in the United State Marine Corps for six years. He loves spending time with his wife and six children. In his free time, he is an avid CB radio user and is a member of the local CB radio club. While not in the office, you may be able to spot him on his yellow 1952 Minneapolis Moline tractor in parades in Jefferson City.

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the teamwork that contributed to the successful project.

"The DESE management team did a fantastic job of organizing and managing this major undertaking to clear out the Jefferson Building basement," Didriksen stated. "An astounding 60 pallets of paper, cardboard, metal, and electronics are now being recycled!"

RIGHT: Several pallets of electronic waste will be recycled from the basement of the Thomas Jefferson State Office Building.

BOTTOM: Pallets of material were gathered during the cleanup that will be recycled.



RECYCLING TIP

Want to know how much money your agency is saving by using MOREuse? It's easy!

Download the cost avoided form on the [MOREuse](#) site by logging into your account. On the right side of the page next to the Message Board you will find the dashboard. To download and see how your agency is doing, click the "Export to Excel" link.

Once your file is downloaded, you will be able to view all information in an Excel spreadsheet. This information tracks all property being given or taken on MOREuse. Each item is assigned a value and that value is added together to arrive at the "cost-avoided" figure. This document is a great way to track your agency's savings.