

Sustainability comes naturally.

By Bill Gibbons

My involvement in sustainability began at Cook Endoscopy. I've always considered myself a "tree guy" (someone who is concerned with the environment). The movie *An Inconvenient Truth* reawakened the "tree guy" in me. It seemed like at a facility the size of Cook Endoscopy we could make a difference, so we decided to try a few things. Bryan Griswold and Greg Thomas started with brighter, more efficient light bulbs for Cook Endoscopy. Next we worked to eliminate Styrofoam cups, installed water-saving valves, and even developed a recycling center managed by the Cook Endoscopy employees. The things we tried made a difference: 20% less trash, 30% less energy use and a whole lot more people enthusiastic about sustainability.

When we moved to Bloomington in 2009, it was only natural to start asking questions about what we could do here. Those questions led to an opportunity to join a sustainability group that discusses what we are doing, how to present ourselves, and what initiatives we will undertake in the future.

Like many things at Cook, sustainability is just part of what we naturally do. Our company's history includes some important sustainable decisions made by the Cook family, such as renovating and re-purposing multiple buildings in Bloomington and around Indiana. We've always considered the ways that we can reduce our waste, such as using re-usable containers to ship product from one Cook facility to another. Recycling programs have popped up at every facility, like all those bins for confidential documents and office paper. That paper goes first to a shredder and then to a recycling facility.

Even though we are doing more and more around sustainability at Cook, we haven't talked much about it publicly. That just isn't our style. But these days during the contracting process, our customers almost always ask about our policies to protect the environment. Not only do they want to know that the companies they are doing business with are conscious of the environment, but they are under pressure to reduce waste and costs themselves. So we've spent some time writing down our philosophy and some specific information on what we are doing.

We thought Earth Day was a good time to publish our latest Environmental Policy and Report on the Cook website. This year, we are looking at the numbers on things like waste and electricity consumption from our facilities around the world, so that we can have more detailed conversations in the future.

For us, sustainability is simply about taking care of the things that we have today, so that we can still have them tomorrow. We'd love to hear what you are thinking about sustainability, and we'd love to have your help. Drop us an e-mail or comment below if you have ideas or energy to contribute!



Bill Gibbons, global VP of engineering



Bill Gibbons shares a fun moment with a familiar friend.

Bill Gibbons joined Cook Medical almost 15 years ago as a product development engineer and is now the global vice president of engineering. Bill and his wife have two kids and live in Bloomington. When he's not at Cook or with his family, Bill can be found up in the air flying a small plane.