



LOCAL BANK EXPLORES NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO GO GREEN

From Construction to Coffee Cups, Blackhawk Bank Is Taking Steps to Help the Environment

ROCKFORD, IL (February 28, 2009)—Blackhawk Bank, with recommendations from its GOLD Committee, has recognized opportunities that will help the organization lessen its impact on the environment. After reviewing these options, Blackhawk identified two areas where immediate action could take place, which include improving and standardizing recycling efforts and reducing its amount of Styrofoam waste.

Even though the bank has made dedicated efforts to maximize electronic records and documentation, it still must use a significant amount of paper. The bank regularly communicates with all employees, reinforcing the importance and benefits of recycling its paper. Because the bank deals with a large number of confidential documents, Blackhawk shreds all documents before recycling.

As a solution to reduce Styrofoam waste from used coffee cups, the bank is providing all of its employees with a reusable Blackhawk Bank mug and is exploring earth-friendly, cost-effective options for clients visiting the bank.

“Though these are just a couple steps toward going totally green, Blackhawk is focused on moving in that direction,” said Terri Burdick, Senior Vice President, Administration & Operations. “Blackhawk is encouraging our employees to be a part of this process by having them suggest any opportunities they see that will help us be more environmentally friendly.”

Blackhawk has demonstrated its commitment to green initiatives on a macro level by using an innovative, environmentally friendly building process in the construction of its eighth banking center located on 11th Street in Rockford. The newest facility, which opened in December 2008, was made from prefabricated materials that offer many environmentally friendly benefits such as fewer waste products.

“The 11th Street location is unique in that it was built in a factory, taken apart and shipped to the construction site in Rockford to be put back together,” said Burdick. “Blackhawk saw many advantages in choosing this innovative construction process. We received a high-quality, cost-efficient facility that is also environmentally responsible.”

Blackhawk operates eight banking centers in Beloit, WI; Roscoe, Machesney Park, Rockford, Belvidere and Capron, IL. For more information about the bank, log onto www.blackhawkbank.com.

###