

For immediate release

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Sodexo engages employees on environmental issues

Sodexo, a leading provider of on-site service solutions, has revealed the winners of its Green Spark initiative which invited employees to submit their ideas to help make Sodexo a greener, more environmentally-friendly place.

To engage employees on environmental issues, Sodexo asked them to submit green ideas that would be simple enough to implement across the company and be cost-effective. Around 50 ideas were received and three took the top spot after being voted for by employees using an online voting system on the company's intranet.

The Green Spark initiative supports the company's Better Tomorrow Plan, its worldwide sustainability strategy to 2020, by engaging employees on environmental issues and by helping to protect the environment – two of the plan's key commitments.

By engaging with employees, Sodexo is taking its environmental initiatives to the next level. Through communication and consultation, the Green Spark initiative has also created a network of 50 Green Spark champions who will form a consultative group to help design and deploy environmental initiatives.

The three winning ideas to be implemented in the business are:

Coffee grounds for customers' gardens

At sites that sell coffee, Sodexo will offer used coffee grounds to employees and customers for use in their gardens as fertiliser. Old coffee bags will be used to package the grounds and there is potential to stop over 200 tonnes of used coffee grounds going to waste. A donation to the Sodexo Foundation's STOP Hunger initiative will be suggested for each bag of coffee grounds. This green idea was suggested by Mel Burley, account director, Sodexo Independent Schools.

Environmental performance reporting templates

A series of electronic templates will be created for Sodexo sites to insert their environmental performance data and information. The templates will be used to communicate information, performance and raise awareness of environmental activity with clients and customers. This green idea was submitted by Chris Barnes, district support manager, Sodexo Corporate Services IFM.

Eco suggestion boxes

Sodexo will introduce an eco suggestion box at each site enabling its employees to complete a feedback card suggesting improvements to the environmental management at the site. This green idea was submitted by Gary Landon-Jones, shift manager, Tillery Valley.

Mel, Chris and Gary will now work closely with Sodexo's environmental manager, Paul Bracegirdle, and his team, to implement their green ideas across the business.

Paul Bracegirdle, Sodexo environmental manager, said: "This is the first time we have run an initiative like this and I have to say I am really impressed at the amount of great ideas we received. I think employees across the business felt empowered to come up with ideas that could actually make Sodexo a more environmentally-friendly place. I'm looking forward to working with the three winners but coming up with the ideas was just the first step – we all have a lot of work to do."

You can find out how the Green Spark initiative began by watching Paul Bracegirdle invite employees to submit their green ideas – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCim2SY7vaU&feature=related>.

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