

The Plaza Tavern

2013 MPower Champion



Company Info

The Plaza Tavern is a 2013 MPower Business Champion and is committed to encouraging and implementing sustainable business practices.

Getting Involved

The Plaza is considered the only eco-friendly dive-bar in Madison, focusing on energy reduction, waste reduction, and purchasing more locally sourced food and beverage items. The Plaza has been in business for over 70 years and is continuing to innovate their business practices with fresh and inspiring ways that are economically, environmentally, and socially valuable.

Highlight: MPower Sustainability Project



Compost and Waste Reduction

Project overview

During the program year with MPower, The Plaza Tavern undertook a project called *Composting and Waste Reduction*. The objective of the MPower project was to reduce waste outputs – i.e. trash, recycling, organics, and fryer oil. The Plaza's Green Team, comprised of a bartender, manager, custodian, and the owner, oversaw this project. In order to implement waste reduction practices, The Plaza Tavern set up a composting system with the City of Madison's Organics, and communicated to its employees the importance and benefits of sorting waste and reducing landfill waste.

Outcome

As a result, the Plaza Tavern has successfully reduced its landfill waste by an estimated 600 cubic feet since the project launched less than 6 months ago. Before this project began the Plaza required a large dumpster for its landfill waste; they now use a bin the size of a regular city trash receptacle, saving money and space. In addition to waste reduction, this project has increased employee engagement with the Plaza's sustainable efforts, which has spread to their customers and community.

Moving Forward

Composting and Waste Reduction was one of five MPower projects that were implemented during the program year. Other sustainable projects include: increasing locally sourced beer offerings, partnering with Kard Recycling to increase recycling effectiveness, and installing motion sensitive hand towel dispensers in the bathrooms through their partner, EZ Office Products. Katya Szabados, the Plaza's Bartender and Sustainability Manager states, "Buying local and using the least amount of resources is a main criteria for future projects, vendors, and staff."