



Decatur Cooperative Ministry

Founded in 1969 and has been actively involved in serving those in need in DeKalb County and Metro Atlanta ever since. The organization grew out of a partnership between the principal of Clairemont Elementary School and three Decatur churches. Their common goal was to address community concerns for children with no after-school care. The organization has a long history of encouraging and facilitating collaboration among diverse congregations, groups, and individuals.

With 45 plus years' experience helping families find safe and stable housing, DCM has been able to overcome many changes with our facilities. In order to create environmentally sustainable housing and office space for clients as well as staff, DCM has implemented green efforts in three main areas; Material Reduction, Energy Efficiency, and Water Conservation.

Material Reduction

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This common saying and logo for the worldwide recycling initiative is posted in various locations within DCM's office and shelter. We post these reminders for the 1200 plus volunteers serving dinners to homeless women and children per year. With this volume of people and materials it is important to ensure we are doing our part in environmental sustainability.



Energy Efficiency

With the surprise blizzards in the winter and scorching summers, heating and cooling our facilities can be an expensive endeavor. With our upgrade of programmable Thermostats, DCM has been able to keep a fixed point temperature to lower the overall cost of constantly adjusting our buildings to a comfortable temperature. It allows us to reduce our environmental footprint by using less energy reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production.

Water Conservation

Water is essential part of everyone's life that is often taken for granted. With dry conditions and raising water bills, it is important to be conscious of our usage. Because roughly 48% of inside water usage comes from the toilet and washing machines, DCM has installed low flow toilets and HE washers to reduce the amount of gallons used each day. The installation of these items helps us save roughly 100 gallons of water daily!

To further reduce our water consumption, we have installed wall mounted hand sanitizer stations in our common areas allowing clients, staff, and volunteers the opportunity to kill bacteria without running water.



As an extension of these efforts for, material reduction, energy and water efficiency, DCM has seeking the help of the Grants to Green Assessment Award in 2014. We are hopeful with the results from the assessment we will begin to plan to make greater enhancements to improving the quality of the Atlanta Region.