

## Soldiers Memorial Military Museum

### Getting to Zero Waste with Total Resource Use & Efficiency (TRUE) Certification

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum is a state-of-the-art museum facility honoring local military service members, veterans, and their families. The Missouri Historical Society assumed operation of Soldiers Memorial in November 2015. After receiving a LEED Gold certification, the Missouri Historical Society wanted to strive towards waste reduction to increase local economic growth and reduce the amount of resource dedicated towards operational use.

#### STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

A zero waste program focuses on decreasing the generation of waste mainly through redesign, reduction, reuse, and composting, with recycling as the second to last choice for waste reduction and landfill as the last option. The Missouri Historical Society analyzed the operations of Soldiers Memorial Military Museum to determine whether a commercial waste system would be necessary to support daily operations. After a formal waste audit was conducted by the institution's TRUE Advisor, it was determined that a commercial waste system would not support a zero waste model. The Museum identified all points of waste generation within each department of the Missouri Historical Society and used the information gathered to create policies and procedures for staff, volunteers, and vendors.



Redesign, reduction and reuse were enforced in the creation of the zero waste policy at Soldiers Memorial Military Museum. By resizing and reducing the current waste systems, the Museum saved monetary resources and reduced the amount of waste generated since receptacles are now smaller in office areas and public space. The new waste systems influence how staff and visitors treat waste, asking the question of whether potential waste was used to its fullest potential. Reduction and reuse worked simultaneously within the zero-waste program. Instead of introducing new materials for operational and educational purposes, a tracking system was implemented to help reduce waste before it was generated. A numerical coding system was also used to tag the location of each waste station to identify how much waste was collected and from which department. The coding system allows the administrator of the zero-waste program to continue to educate staff on the proper use of materials to their fullest potential. Missouri Historical Society is anticipating certification by TRUE Zero Waste in June of 2020.

#### ABOUT MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Missouri Historical Society operates Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, while the City of St. Louis remains the building owner. As operators of Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, the Missouri History Museum and the Library & Research Center, the Missouri Historical Society assumes responsibility for its role in environmental stewardship. It seeks to minimize consumption of energy and materials, treat waste responsibly, and make sustainable practices an integral part of all operations so as to reduce the organization's environmental footprint.

#### ABOUT TRUE ZERO WASTE CERTIFICATION

TRUE promotes processes that consider the entire lifecycle of products used within a facility. The TRUE Zero Waste certification program is an Assessor-based program that rates how well facilities perform in minimizing their non-hazardous, solid wastes and maximizing their efficiency in the use of resources. A TRUE project's goal is to divert all solid waste from the landfill, incineration (waste-to-energy) and the environment. Certification is available for any physical facility and their operations, including buildings owned by: businesses, property managers, schools, government agencies and nonprofits. TRUE certification is managed by Green Business Certification, Inc.



**Project:** Zero Waste at Soldiers Memorial Military Museum  
**Project Location:** Saint Louis, MO  
**Project Size:** 38,665 square feet

#### Project Highlights:

- Implemented Paperless Operations in 3 Departments
- Striving for 50 of the 80 possible points for TRUE certification
- Implemented all possible credits within the Hazardous Waste Category



*Pictured above: Employees of the Missouri Historical Society, including staff at Soldiers Memorial Military Museum participate in an office supply exchange.*

#### About USGBC-Missouri Gateway Chapter

USGBC-MGC is a community of members, advocates, and practitioners that gives voice to our commitment to improve human health, support economies, and protect the environment through green buildings. The Chapter serves the community by educating and advocating for green building principles and practices, and believes that everyone deserves access to green and healthy spaces.



*Thank you to St. Louis Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for their support of our Educational Programming & Green Schools Quest!*