

From the Cincinnati Business Courier

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2015 Green Business Awards winner: Cincinnati Financial Corp.

Large private/public winner

Green Building

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Cincinnati Financial Corp is waiting to learn if its 1.2 million-square-foot corporate headquarters will receive a coveted LEED certification from the **U.S. Green Building Council**. If approved, it will be one of the largest existing buildings in Ohio to achieve that status. The outcome is expected by late March.

Cincinnati Financial owns and conserves 30 acres of woods around its Fairfield headquarters. It also promotes employee carpools and has improved recycling, energy efficiency and indoor air quality at its facility. It even bans tobacco use on campus.

"Our associates are very engaged in our green efforts, and they use our suggestion system to periodically offer up new ways we can positively impact our environment," said [Tom Scheid](#), vice president of facilities and inspection service.

Roughly 10 to 15 percent of headquarters employees use the carpool program. CFC reimburses drivers \$1 for each fellow employee driven one way and offers reserved garage parking for carpoolers. A section of the company's Intranet allows employee carpoolers to connect with one another. The result is a 35 percent reduction of single-occupant car commuter trips.

CFC also improved the fuel efficiency of its own fleet by 7 percent from 2010 to 2013, by adding more fuel-efficient cars.

Inside the building, CFC installed HVAC and lighting controls to better manage energy use. This resulted in an 11 percent reduction in annual electricity usage since 2008.

"In 2014, we upgraded the building automation systems in each of the towers," Scheid said. "These digital controls allow our team to actively manage our lighting, cooling and heating needs from a central location."

The company also ramped up its recycling efforts. Last year, 262 tons of paper and 21 tons of cardboard were recycled, and more than 4 tons of aluminum cans and plastic bottles were collected. There are plans to install even more recycling centers at headquarters.

CFC also recycled 30,000 pounds of electronic equipment and media through a specialized vendor. Employees organized a community shred day that yielded 3,800 pounds of recycled paper.

The company also uses a green janitorial service and sustainable office supplies and equipment, such as recycled paper, Energy Star computers and appliances.