

facilities located in Washington and Rosslyn, VA. A merging of locations made the newly renovated historic Sidney Yates Building their new home. The consolidation of offices not only reduced leasing costs by \$5 million annually, it also eliminated \$200,000 per year as shuttle services are no longer needed between work sites.

Telework training sessions through AgLearn, a program that lays out responsibilities and benefits of the telework program, included training that upon completion, identifies those employees eligible to telework. Teleworkers are provided with equipment to perform their jobs from home offices, including laptops and Voice over Internet Protocol, or "softphones," that plug into laptops and receive calls

from other remote locations.

In 2013, the program's success can be measured by the increase in telework hours, as that figure has nearly doubled from 3,700 hours to 7,300 within a year. As a result of its telework program, The USDA Forest Service has shown a reduction of 815,000 vehicle miles traveled per year and saves 41,161 gallons of gasoline annually.

For more information on the USDA Forest Service program, contact Ms. Lenise Lago, Associate Chief, Business Operations Llago@fs.fed.us; Phone: (800) 832-1355

STATE DEPARTMENT WINS BTWD EMPLOYER CHALLENGE

After breaking the record for registrants in 2013, Bike to Work Day (BTWD) 2014 did it again! Held on May 16th, this year's BTWD event had more than 16,800 registered bicyclists, an increase of 14%!

Helping to lead the way was the State Department with 279 riders, of which 89, or 32%, were first time registrants.

State Department employees registered at 38 of the 79 pit stops throughout the region. The top three most attended pit stops for State Department employees were:

- VA - Arlington - Rosslyn 61 registrants
- DC - Georgetown Waterfront Park 25 registrants
- DC - Freedom Plaza 19 registrants

"By having such terrific passion and enthusiasm for bicycling, the State Department has become a model for other agencies," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections.

The State Department joins four other area employers in the top five for this year including National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Orbital Sciences Corporation.

The continued success and growth of BTWD can be attributed to the influx of new riders each year. "Additionally," said Ramfos, "bicycling to work has lots of potential to grow since the average bike commute in the Washington metropolitan region is 3.4 miles each way, and 17% of all Washington area commuters live less than 5 miles from work."



Bicycling to work is not something one has to do every day. In fact, the average number of days per week for bicycle commuting in the region is three.

So, plan on encouraging your employees to participate next year and see if you can be one of the top regional employers for BTWD 2015!

Watch for more information on BTWD 2015 at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

