Implementing Green Project Management

Recap of Green Project Management:

Green Project Management (GreenPM) integrates environmental thinking into all of the project management decisions. It is a way to ingrain "greenthink™" into every project management process.

The point about green project management is <u>not</u> that you make every decision in favor of the one that is most environmentally friendly. The point is that you start to take the environment into account during the decision-making process. You might make most decisions the same as you do today. But there might be some decisions you would make differently. Tens of thousands of projects, making hundreds of thousands of different decisions, could make a difference.

Implementing Green Project Management

The implementation of Green Project Management is not a major disruptive event. Green Project Management is designed to be non-threatening and easy to implement. After all, we are bringing more information into the decision making process, but ultimately the same people are making decisions that appear to be best for the business. There are no "green police" looking over your shoulder to question your decisions.

On the other hand, the hope is that there will be a culture shift as GreenThink becomes more embedded. More and more people will be making more and more decisions taking into account any environmental inputs. It only stands to reason that there will be some decisions that will be made differently. But these will be natural given the situation. Again – no green police.

So what does it take to successfully implement Green Project Management?

- **Strong sponsorship.** This is not just a feature of Green Project Management. This is actually a requirement for all culture change initiatives. Let's face it. People don't like to change. It takes a strong sponsor with the leadership, vision and staying power to give the initiative a chance.

- **A commitment to try**. You need to be open to a slightly new way of thinking and some slightly new aspects to your current processes. If you are not willing to try, you will never be successful.

- **Training.** It's true - Green Project Management is a little esoteric. Most people are not going to get the main focus right away. You will need to have some training available. The training does not need to be extensive. You are not training people in fundamental project management. You do need to make sure

people understand what they are doing and how the process works. In the case for Green Project Management, this might take just 2 -4 hours.

- **Process updates**. To really be successful an organization should do a minimum amount of work embedding the green approach into the appropriate templates and processes. This will help reinforce and standardize what needs to be done.

Of course, as you extend Green Project Management further into the organization, you will need to be more sophisticated in your implementation. You can provide different levels of training, collect metrics showing the results, respond to resistance, launch a multi-faceted Communication Plan, etc. Again, this is common with any organizational change initiative – not specific with Green Project Management.

The bottom line is that an organization can get on board with Green Project Management and implement it with very little investment of money. In fact, it can also be implemented with very little commitment of time as well. When it is all said and done ... it is just not that hard. The key is to find a sponsor with the vision and drive to get the process started.

Save the World – Use Green Project Management™

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