

Wellness group lauds Port company's weight loss drive, other efforts

Franklin Energy Services of Port Washington has been named one of "America's Healthiest Companies" by the Wellness Council of America.

The Gold Well Workplace Award recognizes the company for its commitment to the health and well-being of its employees.

Seven benchmarks were used to measure the company's wellness support, including having at least 80% of its employees participate in a wellness initiative.

Franklin Energy's initiative was an eight-month weight loss challenge with a commitment to donate a dollar for every pound lost to the American Diabetes Association.

"It is invigorating to obtain an 82% participation rate and have our staff motivate each other and exceed our weight loss goal of 1,000 pounds," said Franklin CEO Paul Schueller.

"We know that healthy employees lead to happier and more productive employees. Our staff is in better health with the weight loss, and donating \$1,275 to ADA was an added benefit."

The company has a Wellness Committee that focuses on educating and providing employees with resources for success. The committee has organized Bike to Work Days, promoted participating in a variety of group activities and organized company-wide wellness competitions.

"Not only has Franklin Energy created a world-class wellness program, but it has also worked to integrate wellness programming into its vision and mission," said David Hunnicut, president of the Wellness Council.

"Franklin is forging new ground in workplace wellness — linking health promotion objectives to business outcomes."

The company will be presented its award at a dinner Sept. 25 in Milwaukee.

Last year, the company finished second in the Milwaukee Business Journal's Healthiest Employers Awards program for companies with fewer than 1,000 employees.

Franklin Energy has 350 employees in 11 states. Its corporate headquarters are on the second floor of the Smith Bros. Marketplace building on Franklin Street.

The company contracts with utilities, municipalities and states to provide energy-efficiency programs to commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential customers.