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Kansas Pollution Prevention

Awards

and

Recognition

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Western Resources Recycling Electric Transmission Poles

In the spring of 1998, Western Resources' Green Team began working with private sawmills to cut used electric transmission poles into dimensional lumber to be used for environmental projects. While Western Resources has had a long-standing practice of giving away the used, small distribution poles for reuse, the larger, 50-80 foot transmission poles were not in demand and had to be landfilled. So far, more than 9,000 board feet of recycled lumber have been milled and used in Green Team Projects and landfill costs avoided by recycling these poles have exceeded \$21,000. Completed power pole lumber projects include environmental interpretive signage, bridges, a handicapped - accessible wildlife observation platform, and environmental classroom shelter, a bird viewing blind and over 1,000 bluebird, kestrel and wood duck nest boxes.

This project shows a creative use for used materials, which in turn assists in providing enhanced environmental experiences for the public.