

Maine Tobacco Prevention Success Story

Robbins Lumber Makes Health a Business Priority

Summary

Robbins Lumber, a fourth generation Maine family business, champions a Tobacco-Free workplace policy making support for the employees a priority. Catherine Robbins-Halsted, Business Manager, makes implementing a tobacco-free work environment an important step in continuing to grow a healthy business.

Need/ Issue

According to Maine Public Health Association more than 20 in 100 adults in Waldo County are cigarette smokers, 20.3%, the 8th highest rate in Maine. With a high rate of tobacco use, established smoking areas and employees smoking in their vehicles at work, going to a completely tobacco-free work environment required support of the entire administrative team.



"I've wanted to address tobacco use for a while. So the timing of the policy support was great, thanks!"

- Catherine Robbins-Halsted

Results/ Success

Robbins Lumber is creating a healthy business environment that the next generation can step into. A business champion collaborated with the supports offered by the local Tobacco Prevention Partner to promote a healthy tobacco-free work environment, the whole company addressed concerns about a comprehensive tobacco-free policy, and they made tobacco treatment for staff a priority, making this new policy a reality.



Intervention

A wellness champion beyond work, Catherine is a member of the Wellness Committee at her local school district. This is where Catherine and the local District Tobacco Prevention Partner connected in September 2019, beginning the process for implementing a tobacco-free workplace policy. After e-mailing, planning meetings, the administration team's approval, several months of employee communication, employee support options made easily available, and sign placement, the tobacco-free policy was put in place on July 1, 2020.

Sustainability

As stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, addressing tobacco use through policy is a key strategy for eliminating harmful exposure to secondhand smoke. The company's strong administrative commitment to this policy change and supportive practices for employees creates a climate of healthier and restorative social norms.

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