2015 Reflections
This past year has been great for us here at Deschutes and we have made many improvements to our processes to enhance efficiencies to responsibly impact our community, our business and our planet.
We are extremely proud to have won the 2015 Oregon Sustainability Awards and celebrate the culture of craft beer with our accomplishments this year. We purchased 5 million kwh of renewable energy, enough to take 763 cars off the road for a year. Our energy savings was 2.25% compared to the prior year and we replaced lighting throughout the production facility with LED using 69% less energy, equating to power for 8 homes in a year. We recycled 404,407 pounds of cardboard and plastic. Our Portland Pub received an honorable Gold Certification through the City of Portland Sustainability at Work program.

As Co-owners of Deschutes we are proud to be recognized in Outside Magazine’s Top 100 Companies to Work for the 3rd year in a row. We celebrated several 5 and 10 year anniversaries in 2015 and continue to add to our amazing team. Our corporate wellness program saw a 20% boost in participation and helped with access to a Krowdfit membership which resulted in 63 winners and $16,425!

Our employees also like to get out into the community and give a helping hand by cleaning up our adopted section of the scenic McKenzie Highway or volunteering during MLK Day of Service.
Protecting Our Rivers

Our namesake river is just a stone’s throw away from both our brewpub and brewing facility here in Bend so it’s important to us to keep it healthy. That’s why we’ve partnered with the Deschutes River Conservancy to keep 1 billion gallons of water in the river by leasing water rights that are not currently being used. Believe it or not, but that’s enough to offset more than 14 times our total water requirements, including our bottling facility, brew pubs, supply chain, hop growers and grain growers!

But we didn’t stop there. We also support The Freshwater Trust and its mission to fix rivers and accelerate the pace and scale of freshwater restoration. In order to protect the rivers, you also have to protect that land. So, we also are proud to support the Deschutes Land Trust, which was conceived over beers at table #26 at our Bend Pub 20 years ago, and the Western Environmental Law Center. To take it one step further, we buy Salmon Safe certified hops from hop growers here in Oregon to brew some of your favorite beers like Black Butte Porter and Hop Trip. It’s a thoughtful approach to environmental protection that is at the heart of our company.

Managing Our Resources

We’re big believers in monitoring the resources we use so we can better manage how we use them. As Edward Deming once said, “What you cannot measure, you cannot manage. What you cannot manage, you cannot change.” Tracking the amount of water, electricity, and gas it takes to brew a barrel of the delicious liquid we call beer requires us to come up with better ways to do what we do and hone in our processes. We’re committed to using 100% renewable energy through Pacific Power’s Blue Sky program and have implemented composting systems at all of our locations (that will save several tons of waste from going to the landfill each year). As we continue to grow and expand our beer making operations, we strive to do our best, and do it better next time.

Keeping It Local

Building strong communities means doing many different things that work together for good. We complement our community giving and involvement by buying local as much as possible. By finding the products we need to help our business run locally, we can help ensure the health of our economy – and that’s good for everyone! At our pubs, we buy local beef from farmers who feed their cattle on spent grain from our brewing processes. We buy our produce from a local farm that nurtures a sustainable growing environment, and participate in Community Supported Agriculture which helps reconnect people with the land that sustains them. And those are just a couple of examples! We seek local partnerships along every avenue of our business – from the brewing process (sourcing local malt and Pacific Northwest hops) to local companies that support the day-to-day operations of our company.