

## Case Study

# MITHUN

ARCHITECTS + DESIGNERS + PLANNERS

### Mithun is awarded for its innovative bicycle program!

#### The Situation

Mithun is an architecture firm that specializes in sustainable design in urban settings. As an environmentally sound company, Mithun wanted to expand their bike program to encourage more employees to bike.

Bicycling has become part of the office culture at Mithun and is recognized as an important element of climate stabilization. It has found a way into projects and design activities, and is supported and participated in at all levels in the firm.

#### Bicycle Program Elements

To encourage employees to go green, Mithun provides resources to staff to reduce their carbon footprint, including transit subsidies, vouchers for regular bike commuters, and a fleet of bicycles. Employees have bicycles available to them to use for mid-day meetings, errands around their downtown Seattle office, or the commute home.

Mithun offers its employees a number of amenities to encourage their employees to bike to work and make the commute and convenient as possible including:

- on-site bike storage and space for extra gear;
- locker rooms with showers;
- bike safety and maintenance classes; and
- bike tune-ups on site provided through the Cascade Bicycle Club.

#### Awards

In 2008, Mithun was overall winner for Washington CEO's Greenest of the Green Award. Mithun also participated in Cascade Bicycle Club's Bike to Work Month, where 40% of staff biked or walked to work during the month of May. Participation expanded across the firm, from the President and CEO and teams of principals, to Mithun's professional and support staff.

Mithun also shared its storage facilities with another firm in the neighborhood to encourage its staff to ride. Because of the company's support of the Bike to Work Month program, they were honored by Cascade with the 2008 Doug Walker Lifetime Achievement Award, the first time the award was given to a firm, rather than an individual.



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#### Quotes

"Bike commuting provides freedom from gas prices, traffic, and the guilt of carbon emissions associated with driving. It's also a great chance to work in some exercise and stay in touch with the environment around me."  
– Susan Olmsted

"As a daily bike commuter, I greatly appreciate Mithun's support of alternative transportation options for employees. Knowing there is a hot shower and a dry bike rack at the other end helps me get out the door on rainy winter mornings." - Brendan Connolly

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