Green Business Program

Narcisa Untal
1:15–2:30 p.m.
Program Overview

A voluntary, environmental recognition program for small-to-medium sized businesses who go beyond regulatory compliance to implement environmentally-sound practices in four areas:

- Solid and Hazardous Waste Reduction
- Pollution Prevention
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Conservation
Agency Partners

- Solano County
- Cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo
- Air Districts
- Water Agencies
- PG&E
- Garbage Haulers
- Wastewater Agencies
Program Target

Category 1

- CUPA* regulated/permitted businesses who handle and generate hazardous materials and waste that are toxic, reactive, ignitable or corrosive in REPORTABLE quantities greater than 55 gallons, 500 pounds or 200 cubic feet of a compressed gas at any time.
- i.e., auto repair/body shops, dental offices, printers, dry cleaners
Program Target (continued)

Category 2

- Businesses who handle and generate hazardous materials and waste in quantities BELOW the regulated/permitted thresholds.
- i.e., restaurants, cafes, hotels, retail stores

Category 3

- Businesses that do not use or handle hazardous material or wastes but implement environmentally-friendly practices and measures voluntarily.
- i.e., florists, homeopathy
Green Business Program
Bay Area:
Participating Counties: 9
Green Businesses: 1,456
California Network of Green Business Programs
Program Elements

- Compliance with Environmental Regulations
- Plus verification that at least specified number of measures implemented in four areas:
  - Pollution Prevention
  - Water Conservation
  - Energy Conservation
  - Solid Waste Reduction / Recycling
Industry-Specific Checklists

Checklists describe standards, list recommended practices:

- Auto Body
- Auto Repair Shops/Dealers
- Dental
- Garment Cleaners
- Printers
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Landscapers
- Office / Retail
- Wineries

A General Standards checklist is available for businesses that do not fit an industry-specific checklist.
Applicant Process

- Business enrolls and receives checklist
- Coordinator verifies compliance with regulators
- Business submits completed checklist
- Coordinator schedules on-site P2 & other audits
- If standards met, business recognized by county/city: receives certificate, decal, listing in website / directory
- Recertification on 3-year cycle or when business moves or changes ownership
Pollution Prevention

Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Use least-toxic products available
- Store hazardous materials securely and rotate to use oldest material first
- Use “dry” cleanup methods for spills
- Recycle/reuse antifreeze onsite
Water Conservation

Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Replace older toilets with high efficiency models
- Plant native and/or drought tolerant landscaping
- Install aerators on faucets
- Use high-velocity rinse dish nozzles
Energy Conservation

Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents; T12’s with T8’s or T5’s
- Install timers or occupancy sensors
- Use Energy Star office equipment
- Turn off lights in rooms when not in use
Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Recycle paper, cardboard, containers, etc.
- Purchase recycled content products
- Set printers and copiers to double-sided printing
- Send memos by email or post in a central location
Benefits to the Business

- More constructive relationship with government
- Compliance assistance
- Improved access to incentives/rebates
- Roadmap for environmental improvements
- Cost savings
- Healthier workplace
- Employee motivation/productivity
- Positive recognition/PR
- Competitive edge
Benefits to Partners

- Improved compliance
- Help to achieve agency P2/conservation objectives
- Facilitated ongoing education and improvement
- Businesses recruited into incentive/awards programs
- Interagency cooperation/coordination
Reducing Hazardous Waste

“Large quantity generators are highly regulated, have significant cost incentives, expertise, and the advantage of economies of scale .... Small businesses do not have this level of oversight, expertise, or economies to drive them. Often these wastes go to less secure landfills under the small quantity exemption. (a) meaningful way to reduce hazardous waste generation in the Bay Area is to partner with small businesses in the way we have.”

– Supervisor Mark Luce, Napa County and Retired Chevron Manager
Q&A