

Green Business Program Santa Barbara County

Since 1994, the Green Awards Consortium has honored up to five businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations in Santa Barbara County each year that have taken actions above and beyond their basic missions to protect, preserve, and improve the environment in such areas as solid waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, energy conservation, hazardous waste reduction and recycling, and pollution prevention of the air, water, and soil. During its 14 year existence, over 70 local organizations have been honored for their environmental achievements.

After learning of existing Green Business Programs across several areas in California and with the urging of the community, the Green Awards Consortium decided to replace the Green Awards Program with a multi-jurisdictional Green Business Program for Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC). Under the Green Business Program Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC), businesses will be offered positive incentives and free assistance to encourage them to implement actions that protect, preserve, and improve the environment above and beyond their compliance with applicable regulations. Businesses meeting these criteria will be certified as “green” businesses.



Funding for the GBPSBC is being provided by a diverse group of agencies and organizations such as County of Santa Barbara agencies, municipalities, chambers of commerce, water districts, sanitary districts, utility companies, and a nonprofit organization. The County of Santa Barbara is administering the program and has contracted with a consultant to help implement the program.

Goals and Objectives

- *To help businesses integrate environmental responsibility into their operations in a manner that is sustainable as well as profitable;*
- *To promote environmental ethics in Santa Barbara County by preventing pollution of the air, water, and soil;*
- *To establish a positive relationship among governmental agencies, the business community, and the public.*

Benefits to Certified “Green” Businesses

- *Will receive free, convenient, time-saving assistance;*
- *Will save money by lowering costs and increasing productivity;*
- *Will increase the ability to protect, preserve, and improve the environment;*
- *Will be able to attract new customers through free advertising in a directory of certified “green” businesses; advertising in Chamber of Commerce membership directories, websites, and publications; and recognition on website for GBPSBC: www.greenbizsbc.com.*
- *Will receive a sticker logo for display at business site;*
- *Will serve as a model for businesses on how to improve their environmental performance;*
- *Going through certification process can foster a positive, proactive relationship with local compliance inspectors that can help avoid liability, fines, and other penalties;*
- *Will improve employee morale by ensuring a safer, healthier workplace.*



Process to Become a Certified Green Business

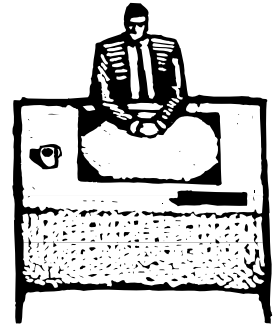
A business that is interested in becoming a certified “green” business should contact the Green Business Program Director by calling (805) 705-1686 or by sending an e-mail message to: coordinator@greenbizsbc.org. The business will be asked to complete a brief application. The Program Director will then conduct a compliance check by consulting with applicable regulatory agencies to determine whether or not the business has any pending violations or past serious violations. The business will then be asked to complete an extensive checklist for its sector.



The Program Director will discuss the checklist with the business by offering guidance and suggestions regarding required and optional measurements. The Program Director will also make the business aware of various programs that can save the business money. Once the business has implemented a sufficient number of measures to qualify for certification, it will notify the Program Director, who will then conduct a follow-up visit for verification purposes.

Additional Information on Green Business Program Santa Barbara County

The anticipated launch of the GBPSBC will be in November 2008 or February 2009. During the program’s first year, businesses in the following sectors will be eligible to apply for certification: general office/retail, restaurants, lodging establishments, and automotive shops. In the second year, it is anticipated that hospitals, schools, and wineries will be eligible. Eventually, the program will be open to businesses in all sectors.



**For more information, please contact the
Green Business Program Director at:
(805) 705-1686
or by sending an e-mail message to:
coordinator@greenbizsbc.org.
You may also visit the program’s website:
www.GreenBizSBC.org.**

