



City of Santa Clara Green Business Newsletter

FALL 2019

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GREEN BUSINESS?

A Green Business operates efficiently and strengthens its bottom line through its operations.

A Green Business Certification gives businesses a marketing edge to environmentally conscientious customers. The path to achieving a Green Business Certification can also be an excellent team building exercise that boosts company morale.

To learn more about the Green Business certification process, visit www.greenbusinessca.org.

Give Back to the Community

Is your organization interested in making Santa Clara a better place to live and do business? If your answer is yes, we invite you to join the Adopt-a-Spot Program! Take an active role in the community by choosing a public spot in need of litter abatement.

You pick the spot and set your own dates and times for cleanups. The City provides training, tools (buckets, trash pickers, gloves, etc.), and bagged trash collection services.

With a commitment of four cleanups a year, a sign with your organization's name will be posted near the adopted spot, and your efforts will be recognized via social media. This is a unique opportunity for your organization to display its civic pride along a well-traveled route.

To learn more about the Adopt-a-Spot program, contact the City of Santa Clara Environmental Programs Division at Environment@santaclaraca.gov or call 408-615-3080.

Environmental Programs
Department of Public Works
City of Santa Clara
1700 Walsh Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050



Green Business Spotlight: City of Santa Clara Corporation Yard



Photo: City of Santa Clara Corporation Yard office building

"The checklist may seem like a daunting task to get through, but some measures can easily be checked off as many buildings already have most of the upgrades that were required."

The Environmental Programs Division of the Department of Public Works provides outreach to the community on how to be more sustainable and reduce its carbon footprint. Attaining Green Business Certification was the pinnacle in our efforts to create a greener and more sustainable community. The department worked with the County of Santa Clara to encourage Santa Clara businesses to become Green Business Certified over the last few years. We felt we could better understand the process and could help more businesses if we underwent the certification process and became certified ourselves.

The checklist may seem like a daunting task to get through, but some measures can easily be checked off as many buildings already have most of the upgrades that were required. However, there were a few measures that

required a little more effort. We had to collaborate with other city divisions to find out what type of heating/cooling systems we have, what type of paper and cleaning products were being used, what type of lighting was installed, what the water pressure was, etc. Once we gathered this information, we made sure our supplies and appliances met the Green Businesses certification requirements.

Some existing efforts included: 1) Having garbage and recycling bins at every desk. Each break room has additional food scraps containers to collect food scraps; 2) Collecting food scraps for recycling 3) Collecting hazardous waste like paint and batteries for proper disposal: 4) The shared use of a hybrid vehicle.

New measures included: 1) Installing motion sensors to ensure lighting was only on

when rooms were occupied; 2) Updated the City's cleaning products to use only non-toxic green certified products.

The Environmental Programs Division plans to move forward by helping get other city facilities certified and aiding other business through the process. Certifying the Corporation Yard allowed us to understand the effort that is needed to complete the checklist so that we can have a better understanding of the process and challenges.

Getting our office certified has increased the morale of our staff. It also provided an opportunity for education and awareness of why we implemented new measures.

For other business that are considering certification, know that this certification lets the community know you are doing what you can to create a better more sustainable community.

PLATESCRAPE Grant Opportunities



*“The
PLATESCRAPE
cleans dirty
dishes easily
and requires
just a fraction
of the water
used before.”*

Few of us think about how much water restaurants use to clean plates. Most commercial kitchens use a spray nozzle that can spray 1-5 gallons of water per minute! Not only are we talking about hundreds of gallons a day of clean drinkable water, but this water is heated to 120° Fahrenheit wasting valuable energy!

Regardless of the environmental impact of washing dishes, we have all stared at a stack of dirty dishes begrudgingly wishing there was an easier way to clean them.

PLATESCRAPE was invented to do just that!

The PLATESCRAPE cleans dirty dishes easily and requires just a fraction of the water used before.



PLATESCRAPE is a bucket with interlocking brushes that, once filled with water, removes food waste from a plate as easy as one, two, three. PLATESCRAPE can pre-sanitize over 600 plates with just 4.5 gallons of water!

PLATESCRAPE is partnering with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to find out how much water can be saved! If you run a restaurant or hospitality business located in Santa Clara County, you qualify to be one of the grant recipients!

Grant Details

- Each location will receive \$2,000 upfront for participating
- 2-week test (one week with PLATESCRAPE and one week without)
- Minimally invasive (won't affect operations)

Please email Nate@platescrape.com if interested in participating.



Upcoming Events



Advanced Water
Purification Center Tours
4190 Zanker Road, San Jose
Book a Tour at
www.purewater4u.org



ACTION FOR A
Acterra HEALTHY PLANET

Electric Vehicle Workshop
Congregation Beth Am
Los Altos Hills, CA
September 8, 2019



VERGE Conference
Oakland
Convention Center
Oakland, CA
October 22-24, 2019



California Coastal
Cleanup Day
www.cleanacreek.org
September 21, 2019



Silicon Valley Innovation &
Entrepreneurship Forum
Santa Clara Convention
Center, Santa Clara, CA
Sept 7-8, 2019



Social Capital Markets
Conference
Fort Mason Center for
Arts & Culture
San Francisco, CA
October 22 -25, 2019

Silicon Valley Power Rebates for Businesses



Silicon Valley Power (SVP) offers a variety of rebates to help businesses save energy and reduce your carbon footprint. If you're remodeling, upgrading or starting new construction, SVP is ready to assist you with planning expertise and incentives that maximize cost savings and energy efficiency. If you're not sure where to start, one of our energy engineers can meet with you to perform a walk-through of your building and provide a free energy survey to help identify potential energy efficiency improvements and calculate applicable incentives and the project payback period. We will walk you through all of the steps necessary to receive project preapproval for a rebate, review multiple bids and submit the appropriate paperwork. If you are looking for a contractor, we can also refer you to one of our Trade Allies. Contact one of our energy engineers at savemoney@siliconvalleypower.com or 408-615-6650 to schedule an appointment.

Green Business Tips : How to Prevent Illegal Dumping

It is an unfortunate reality that illegal dumping occurs in commercial and industrial areas. Here are some things you can do to discourage this activity:

1. Store all garbage, recycling and organic waste in a designated enclosure. Well lit enclosures discourage illegal dumping.
2. Keep container lids and enclosure doors closed. Increase service if there is overflow. If you'd like to install a lock on your containers, contact your hauler.
3. Keep property tidy—maintain

your landscaping, remove litter and clean-up graffiti immediately. To report graffiti, call the Department of Public Works at 408-615-3080.

4. In some extreme cases, a security guard or surveillance cameras can deter illegal dumpers.

If you witness illegal dumping in progress, call the Santa Clara Police Department at 408-615-5580. Be prepared to give a vehicle description (license plate, make, color, etc.). If possible, take photos as long as you can do so in a safe manner.

Have a green business tip or question?

Submit them via email to

Environment@santaclaraca.gov.

GO PAPERLESS!

To access or subscribe to this newsletter electronically, visit www.SantaClaraCA.gov/GreenBiz.

CONTACT US

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Environmental Programs

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