



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County
New Program Aims to Help Businesses “Go Green”**

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County today announced the launch of a new program designed to help businesses throughout the county “go green and save green.”

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County (GBPSBC) recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability. It also helps businesses save money and enhance the environment. Businesses work with a checklist tailored to their industry type to address waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy conservation, water conservation, air pollution prevention, and transportation. The program is free of cost, voluntary, and offers assistance and incentives, including an official Green Business certification and promotion upon completion of the recommended actions.

The GBPSBC is a County-wide effort partnering local governments and agencies, non-profits, utilities, and chambers of commerce. (See list of partners, below). "The City of Santa Maria is happy to be a part of this county-wide effort to work with local businesses," said Richard G. Sweet, P.E., Director of Utilities for the City of Santa Maria. "It is an important resource to assist local businesses to become resource efficient and save money."

The program will initially offer certification for the office/retail sector, restaurants, automotive shops, and hotels. In the coming years, additional business types will be added to the program.

“We hope that the Green Business Program will help local businesses and individuals realize the benefits of going green-both for the environment and for their bottom line,” said Dave Davis, Director of the Community Environmental Council, a program partner. “We see it as a very important step in reducing our region’s dependence on fossil fuels and helping to stop global warming”.

The program will also enable the public to find and support businesses that care for our environment. Certified Green Businesses can display a window decal, and consumers will be able to search for businesses on the program's website, <http://www.greenbizsbc.org/index.html>

Nikki Ayers, Co-Owner of Ayers Automotive Repairs, has been active in the development of the program. She believes what is good for our environment is good for her business. "We recently replaced our lighting, with the help of SCE, and now realize a savings of approximately \$200.00 per month on our electric bills," said Ms. Ayers.

To view a YouTube video of six local businesses and other program partners discussing their participation in the Green Business Program, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPbGpn2WLVA>

Contact information for those businesses featured in the video is available upon request.

Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County Partners

City of Buellton
City of Carpinteria
Carpinteria Sanitary District
Carpinteria Valley Water District
Community Environmental Council
Golden State Water Company
City of Goleta
Goleta Sanitary District
Goleta Water District
Goleta West Sanitary District
Montecito Sanitary District
Pacific Gas & Electric
City of Santa Barbara
County of Santa Barbara Waste Reduction
County of Santa Barbara Water Agency
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce
City of Santa Maria
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
City of Solvang
Solvang Chamber of Commerce
South County Energy Efficiency Partnership
Southern California Edison
Southern California Gas Company
Summerland Sanitary District
Traffic Solutions

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