



City of Santa Clara

Green Business Newsletter

SPRING 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 greenbusinessca.org.

California Straw Ban Effective on January 1, 2019

On Sept. 20, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 1884 into law, which prohibits full-service restaurants from providing disposable straws unless customers explicitly request them. This new law is a step towards reducing the amount of plastic litter that impairs waterways and negatively affects wildlife. The new legislation will become effective Jan.1, 2019. If you would like more information about this new law or would

like technical assistance, please contact Environmental Programs staff at Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov or 408-615-3080.



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



Green Business Spotlight: Handheld Catering



Brenda Ayala of Handheld Catering showcasing an appetizer spread

“Plan out how you’re going to take care of the waste and how to avoid food being wasted. ”

Handheld Catering is a full service catering and event planning company throughout the Bay Area. They are also the first food establishment in Santa Clara to achieve Green Business certification.

We interviewed Operations Manager Brenda Ayala.

City Staff: What inspired you to become a Green Business?

Ayala: We as a team believe in reducing our impact on our Earth. We all love our animals, we all love our nature and our menus focus on whatever is local and seasonal.

City Staff: What were the main challenges?

Ayala: Mainly making the investments for the equipment that meets the requirements, but it’s worth it so we are happy for it.

City Staff: Did you learn anything from the process?

Ayala: Learning the different products that are available that we can use or should not use for many reasons. It’s amazing how many different options there are.

City Staff: Do you have any advice that you would give to restaurants in pursuit of certification?

Ayala: Plan out how you’re going to take care of the waste and how to avoid food being wasted. I would mainly focus on waste products, such as cooking oil.

City Staff: Was there an area in which you did really well ?

Ayala: We were very proud that we had already installed aerators on our sinks and we didn’t have to change any of that. For the refrigerators and freezers, we’ve been focusing on purchasing Energy Star products. Slowly, we are replacing all of our old equipment towards

energy efficient models.

City Staff: What is the next step you are working toward?

Ayala: We want to do a little bit more regarding food waste, possibly having the option to compost safely. Whether we can donate unused food or other options. That’s moving towards what we want to do and to avoid waste in general.

City Staff: How has the Green Business certification benefitted your business?

Ayala: One of the benefits is that we can pass down the education and our clients are actually receiving it well. They are becoming more familiar with seasonality, and understand why we don’t just offer vegetables from a different country. People start to demand seasonal produce more and understand why it is good for you.

Santa Clara Green Power: A Step Towards Sustainability



“It feels good to be involved in a program that benefits our community, our city, and ultimately the planet”

Dr. Jeff Levine
Stevens Creek Chiropractic



Business customers of Silicon Valley Power, the City of Santa Clara’s municipal electric utility, have found a way to go green and meet their sustainability goals through Santa Clara Green Power. Participants of this voluntary program support renewable energy generated from clean wind and solar power. Santa Clara Green Power is an easy and cost-effective way to reduce your business’ environmental impact and be a part of a successful community program.

Santa Clara Green Power offers business participants three options to better fit each participant’s budget and sustainability goals. Program participants support independently certified wind and solar projects located in the United States. In fact, 100% of the solar energy and 50% of wind energy is purchased from projects within Western states.

Dr. Jeff Levine of Stevens Creek Chiropractic, a family-owned chiropractic clinic in Santa Clara, has been a participant since 2009 and believes the benefits of Santa

Clara Green Power go beyond being a cost-effective solution for reducing environmental impact. “It feels good to be involved in a program that benefits our community, our city, and ultimately the planet.”

Businesses who participate are provided with valuable marketing opportunities to differentiate themselves and become Santa Clara environmental leaders. Silicon Valley Power offers a variety of options based on your participation tier, including marketing collateral, social media recognition, and business features.

To learn more about joining the community of local businesses supporting green power, visit www.siliconvalleypower.com/green, call 408-244-SAVE (7283), or email green@siliconvalleypower.com.



Upcoming Events



State of the Valley
McEnergy Convention Center
San Jose, CA
Feb. 15, 2019

GreenBiz

GreenBiz19
JW Marriott Desert Ridge
Phoenix, AZ
Feb. 26 - 28, 2019



USGBC
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Annual Water Conservation Showcase 2018
851 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA
March 21, 2019



City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration
Central Park Pavilion
909 Kiely Blvd., Santa Clara
April 25, 2019



INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE™

Living Future Conference
Hyatt Regency Seattle
Seattle, WA
April 30 - May 3, 2019



Bike to Work Day
Bay Area and beyond!
May 9, 2019

Hazardous Waste Recycling and Disposal

Properly disposing of hazardous waste can be costly and inconvenient. Fortunately, small business owners in Santa Clara have a cost-effective and environmentally sound option to meet their hazardous waste recycling and disposal needs.

Businesses generating under 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month are legally classified as conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs).

California state law permits CESQGs to bring their waste to government-sponsored drop-off programs. The County of Santa Clara offers a program that complies with waste disposal regulations and reduces disposal costs by consolidating small quantities of hazardous waste received from participating businesses.



To participate in the program, please call 800-207-8222 and a representative can estimate your cost of disposal and set up an appointment for you.

Submit questions to be answered in the Green Business Tips section to Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Commercial Organics Recycling

In 2015, the City of Santa Clara adopted a Mandatory Organic Waste Recycling ordinance that requires commercial businesses to separate organic materials from the garbage. Organic waste (e.g. food, yard waste) decomposes in the landfill, producing greenhouse gases (GHGs) that contribute towards climate change. Recycling them can prevent these emissions from happening.

City of Santa Clara efforts began in 2016, requiring businesses that produce over eight (8) cubic yards of organic waste per week to subscribe to organic collection services. As of Jan. 1, 2019, businesses generating four (4) cubic yards or more of solid waste will be required to separate and recycle organic waste to be in compliance.

These efforts will help the City of Santa Clara meet the requirements set forth by Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826), which requires commercial businesses to recycle organic waste, and Senate Bill 1383 (SB1383), which requires municipalities to implement programs to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in landfills 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.

If your business has been notified about the mandatory commercial organic waste recycling requirement, please contact your hauler to inquire about your options for compliance. In addition, city staff is available to assist businesses during this transition. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this requirement, please contact our Environmental Program Staff at Environment@SantaClaraCA.gov or at 408-615-3080.

GO PAPERLESS!

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CONTACT US

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