



# Green Business Program Standards

## *Environmental Values at Work*

The Green Business Standards presented below define what a business or public agency must achieve to be certified “green.” Businesses in over 20 different industries have successfully met the standards and are now recognized as Bay Area Green Businesses.

There is great flexibility in how the standards can be achieved. The Green Business Program checklists provide additional information and suggested implementation measures. Measures previously implemented will be considered towards achievement of standards. Participants can request alternatives or exemptions for measures which are not feasible for their company.

## **Compliance Plus**

To be a green business, first bring your operations into compliance with all environmental regulations. Then go beyond compliance to meet the general practices and targeted resources conservation and pollution prevention measure which are summarized below.

## **General Practices**

1. Monitor and record rates of water and energy usage and solid and hazardous waste generation
2. Provide three on-going incentives or training opportunities to encourage management and employee participation
3. Inform your customers about your business’ efforts to meet the Green Business standards
4. Assist at least one other business in learning about the Green Business Program and encourage them to apply

## **Resources Conservation and Pollution Prevention**

### **Water Conservation**

1. Conduct an indoor/outdoor water balance or assessment (if your business has not already had a water use assessment, the Green Business Coordinator will arrange for one)
2. Implement all applicable simple conservation measure
3. Implement 3 of the suggested or industry specific water conservation measures

### **Energy Conservation**

1. Have your local energy utility or an energy service company conduct a commercial energy assessment (if your business has not already had an energy assessment, the Green Business Coordinator will arrange for one)
2. Perform regular maintenance on heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system
3. Implement 2 alternative technologies and 5 behavioral changes

#### Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

1. Conduct a waste reduction assessment of solid waste streams
2. Implement solid waste reduction and recycling measures:
  - Reduce paper waste in 5 different ways
  - Incorporate waste reduction methods in your business in 5 ways
  - Segregate and recycle or reuse 5 types of materials from your solid waste streams
  - Purchase 3 recycled or used materials/products for your business

#### Pollution Prevention

1. Conduct an assessment of your facility to identify pollution prevention opportunities
2. Implement pollution prevention measures:
  - Implement 6 good housekeeping and operating practices
  - Implement 3 material, product, technology or process changes
  - Reuse or recycle hazardous materials/wastes in 3 ways
  - Prevent contamination of storm water and runoff by implementing 4 measures
  - Implementing at least 3 measures with the goal of reducing vehicle emissions