



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Jerry Meek, Utility Operations Manager, stands next to the Green Business logo outside the Café.

Guckenheimer Food Service

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For the last decade Guckenheimer Food Service has been working hard in their kitchens to support the environment. The company provides food preparation and service to businesses across the nation and was recently certified as a Green Business for their environmental efforts at the Courtyard Café, at Roche Palo Alto. “We have always been conscientious of how food is prepared and where it comes from,” said Frank Lapetina, Chief Operating Officer for the Northern California Corporate office. “We prepare food from scratch and buy organic produce and hormone-free foods. We are also concerned about what we serve the food on,” says Lapetina. They buy recycled content paper products and have eliminated foam and plastic take-out containers and cutlery and replaced them with ones made from both sugar cane and potato starch. They have also noticed that their customers are using the take-out containers less frequently in favor of glass plates.



Food scraps in the kitchen are collected for composting

Another exciting effort that was recently implemented on site is the food composting program. The scraps left over from food preparation are collected in the kitchen, then emptied into a giant digester. Water and wood chips are added to the food scraps, then the mixture is agitated for a period of time until it decomposes. Once the composting process is complete, employees can take the rich material home to use in their own gardens or it can be used to enrich soil in the planted areas around the Roche campus.



Compostable and biodegradable take-out containers are available for Café patrons

“Today it has become more and more important for us to be ahead of the curve,” says Lapetina. “We are very aware of how we operate and we see the benefit of following environmental guidelines and buying environmental products for our future. We hope other companies do the same.”

For more information on the green efforts of Guckenheimer Food Service, contact Frank Lapetina.