



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Wendy Quaccia from the Chamber shows off reusable canvas bags that are offered for sale



New purchasing standards require 35 percent post-consumer recycled content paper



Laser cartridges are collected and refilled by a local cartridge recycling organization

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce

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Certification Date: November 2007



The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce has always been dedicated to supporting the business community and economic development of Palo Alto, but more recently has added environmental support for the business community as well. In November 2006, the Palo Alto Business Goes Green Committee was formed with the goal of providing both Chamber and non-Chamber members a forum for discussion and education regarding environmental issues. In addition, the committee is a resource for Green Business certification by devoting a section of their website to information on getting certified and providing mentorship to businesses just starting the process. “We felt we should be a resource and knowledge base for the community regarding environmental issues,” said Carol Flaherty, Office Manager. “We also believe in the necessity for businesses to do their fair share to lessen their impact on the environment.”

The Chamber has implemented many initiatives in their office. They retrofitted all of the lighting fixtures with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs, put motion sensors in rooms that are used infrequently, and recycle all of their office paper, beverage containers and copier and fax toner cartridges. In addition, they switched to a custodial service that uses only non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning supplies. They also changed their purchasing standards so they now buy 35 percent post-consumer recycled content office paper and recycled content paper towels. To reduce waste, they have put extra effort into eliminating unwanted junk mail and periodicals and they sell reusable canvas shopping bags to the public.

“The process to “green” our office has been quite easy and has not affected our office lifestyle. I encourage businesses to get started in the certification process right away,” says Flaherty.

For more information on the green efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, contact Carol Flaherty.