



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Conexions purchased reusable dishes and flatware for their cooking classes and office meetings



Food scraps are collected in the kitchen for off-site composting



All of the cleaning products and dishwashing and hand soaps are environmentally friendly

Conexions

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conexions.org
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A large umbrella is needed for the five projects that Conexions houses. The non-profit organization, which sprang from Foundation for Global Community when it closed its doors, works to develop solutions for the environment, the economy, and social systems. “We work collaboratively with other organizations to align ourselves as individuals, as well as a region, with the Earth’s systems,” says Samantha Schoenfeld, Director of Conexions. They host speakers who support living ecologically, organize group dialogues to deepen awareness of relationships to the environment, and provide cooking classes that focus on locally and organically grown food, as just a few of their activities.

“We figured we couldn’t provide the services and outreach we do without the Green Business certification,” says Schoenfeld. Some of the “green” steps they took prior to moving into the building were to paint the interior walls with low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, and install carpet squares free of chemical backing that are easily replaced when soiled. When they updated the kitchen, they located a used dishwasher and refrigerator through Freecycle, installed used countertops constructed of green building materials, and incorporated used cabinets. In addition, the building has low-flow toilets, aerators on the faucets, and energy efficient lighting.

Waste reduction measures implemented in the office include purchasing “green” cleaning supplies and recycled content paper products, and recycling all of their paper, cans and bottles. They have also invested in ceramic dishes for their cooking classes and meetings to avoid disposables. Most of their employees bike to work or drive low-emission vehicles. Additionally, they collect food scraps from their cooking classes for an employee to compost off-site.

“Environmental change happens in many different ways,” says Schoenfeld. “Sometimes it’s one person or a grassroots effort, but however it happens, it is nice to have a group of people who can work together!”

For more information on the environmental efforts of Conexions contact Samantha Schoenfeld.