



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Compact fluorescent bulbs and natural light brightens the work spaces at Opus



Toner cartridges from the copy machines are all recycled



Used binders are saved and reused for many projects

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At a regular staff meeting at Opus Environmental, a consulting firm that helps utility companies oversee infrastructure upgrades, employees voiced their interest in certifying the company as a Green Business. Alex McGraw, Opus Vice President, took on the challenge of leading the certification process. “We had heard about the program previously and knew it was something we should take on, so we just did it,” says McGraw.

“We already had quite a few of the environmental initiatives in place,” says McGraw “so it wasn’t too difficult to complete the certification checklist.” Compact fluorescent lights were installed throughout the office and natural light from both the windows and skylights brighten work spaces, so energy use is kept to a minimum. They use light sensors in spaces with infrequent use and have instituted a policy that all electronic devices be turned off when not in use. They also provide commuter checks to employees, a way to use pre-tax dollars for the purchase of public transportation passes.

To avoid the use of disposable paper products, they stock their kitchen with reusable dishes and cups. They recycle paper, cardboard and beverage containers, as well as, toner cartridges from their copy machines. They purchased used office furniture from the online classified ads, Craigslist. “I don’t care if the office equipment and file cabinets are new as long as they work,” says McGraw. They also buy recycled content office paper, file folders, and paper towels. During the certification process, they learned more about “green” cleaning products and now require their cleaning company to use them.

“The checklist used for certification is handy, it validates the things you are already doing and reminds you of things you haven’t thought of,” says McGraw.

For more information on the environmental efforts of Opus Environmental, contact Alex McGraw.