



Bay Area Green Business Program

Environmental Values At Work



Store Manager, Patricia Becker, in front of Common Ground



Old calendars are folded and reused as mailing envelopes



Organic fertilizer is available for purchase

Common Ground

559 College Avenue, Palo Alto

650.493.6072

commongroundinpaloalto.org

Certification Date: October 2003, Recertification: 2007

Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to biointensive gardening, a sustainable solution to growing food. The center offers a wide variety of classes and events on organic gardening and sustainable lifestyles. The store sells organic fertilizers, compost and mulch, natural pest control products, high quality tools, and books, magazines, and gift items. Gardeners can choose from over 500 seed varieties and nursery starts, including edible, medicinal, native and ornamental varieties.

Because Common Ground promotes the use of green products and sustainable living, Patricia Becker, Manager of the center, wants their customers to know that they also “practice what they preach.” And practice they do! They use energy efficient lighting, buy recycled products, recycle all of the paper, plastic, cans and compostable material, encourage commute alternatives for employees, and reuse what they can.

One of the reuse efforts Becker is most proud of is turning old calendars into beautiful envelopes used to mail items. “The envelopes make everyone happy; the employee who folds them, the customers who receive them, and the mailperson who delivers them,” says Becker. She’s also proud of the effort they put into buying high quality products from local vendors who pay fair wages to their employees. “Greening your business has so many benefits,” says Becker. “You will increase your business, help the earth and also make your community a better place to live.”

For more information on the green efforts at Common Ground, contact Patricia Becker.