

Do you want to be a green business and don't know where to start? Becoming green means taking steps to increase recycling, to start waste and energy reduction programs, and to establish reuse policies.

Businesses in Solano County now have two resources to evaluate their companies and plan for a sustainable future.

In 2007, Solano County launched a pilot green business program to encourage small to medium-sized businesses that handle or generate hazardous waste to voluntarily undergo a rigorous certification process.

In April 2008, the two locations of the Triangle Digital INX Company of Dixon were certified as green businesses. This spring, Vineyard RV Park was certified as the third green business in Solano County.

The Bay Area Green Business Program was established in 1996 and sponsors include the Association of Bay Area Governments, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, along with seven Bay Area counties. Over 850 businesses and public agencies have been certified as Green Businesses.

For more information about the Solano County Green Business Program contact Narcisa Untal, Solano County Department of Resource Management (707 784-6765, [Nuntal@solanocounty.com](mailto:Nuntal@solanocounty.com)), or log onto [www.greenbix.abog.ca.gov](http://www.greenbix.abog.ca.gov).

Congratulations to Solano County employees who have incorporated the concept of reduce, reuse or recycle into their daily activities. The Public Works Traffic Division strips, cleans, and reuses old aluminum road signs. Public Works Operations uses erosion control devices made from recycled tires. General Services Facilities Operations uses recycled landscape materials and recycles green waste.

The second resource is WRAP, the **Waste Reduction Awards Program** sponsored by the California Integrated Waste Management Board. WRAP recognizes businesses for their commitment to reduce waste through reuse and recycling. The program is not a competition; each business is judged on its own accomplishments.

Since 1993 over 4000 separate California businesses received WRAP awards. They saved millions of dollars by re-thinking their waste. By donating excess material and recycling, they have paid lower garbage hauling fees.

Proactive WRAP businesses go beyond

beverage container or paper recycling. They buy products manufactured with recycled content, reuse materials and create innovative waste prevention activities which provide additional job opportunities.

Anheuser-Busch in Fairfield is totally amazing. They have earned 15 WRAP awards. Here is their WRAP bio: "The Anheuser-Busch brewery brews, packages, and ships approximately 4 million barrels of beer annually. Recycling, water conservation, and energy conservation are a way of life at the Fairfield brewery. In 2007, the brewery recycled 98.4 percent of its solid waste generated. This amounted to 66,576 tons of materials reclaimed or recycled. These achievements are possible through the commitment Anheuser-Busch has made to the tradition of quality, innovation, continuous improvement, and environmental stewardship. Anheuser-Busch believes that environmental, health, and safety excellence is good corporate citizenship and also good business."

Congratulations to Vallejo's 2008 WRAP winners: Dr. Armond Louis DDS, Paul Roberts + Partners, Safeway, SaveMart (Luckys), VALCORE Recycling, and this writer.

The application is online at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WRAP/). You can download one for reference then; in the true WRAP spirit, file it online. The WRAP application deadline is June 15, 2009.

Businesses have begun to think outside the recycling bin with the state-wide push for Zero Waste. Zero Waste is simply "planning ahead" so there is no waste at the end of a product's use. The same applies to energy use. If you don't turn on a machine, you save electricity and don't incur that expense. If you don't use it, you don't pay for it.

Vallejo businesses should contact Vallejo Garbage Service's Recycling Coordinator Lisa LeFebvre at 551-2621 for answers about recycling and waste prevention. Additional business recycling information is available on the Solano County recycling web site: [www.recycle-guide.com](http://www.recycle-guide.com).

*VALCORE Recycling Board Member Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit [www.VALCORErecycling.org](http://www.VALCORErecycling.org).*

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