

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	<i>Starting a Green Business Program (Environmental Finance Center Region IX)</i>
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Publication Type	Article - Journal
Publication Date	Unknown
# of Pages	2 pp.
URL	http://www.efc9.org/publications/pdf/greenBus/SGBP_O.pdf
Summary	Starting a green business program would help the public, participating businesses, and regulatory agencies to focus on improving the environmental health of our planet. Through this effort, the program would be able to establish better regulatory understanding and compliance, green business practices, public recognition programs of environmentally friendly businesses, resource conservation and pollution prevention plans, and improved working relationships between businesses and regulatory agencies.
Key Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Improved Compliance.” ▪ “Better Working Relationships with Business.” ▪ “Reduced Costs by pooling resources.” ▪ “More Efficient Inspections through inspector cross-training and other information sharing.” • Participating Businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Streamlined Compliance Process.” ▪ “Better Communication with Regulatory Agencies.” ▪ “Leveling of the Playing Field.” ▪ “Public Recognition.” ▪ “Cost savings associated with reduced use of hazardous substances and more efficient technologies.” ▪ “Improved employee health and safety.” ▪ “Improved access to latest hazardous and solid waste reduction technology and practices.” • Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Identifying Environmentally Responsible Businesses.” ▪ “Greater Environmental Awareness - Understanding that the choices they make impact the environment, for better or for worse.” ▪ “More Ways to Participate.”
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main players that would be essential to support, fund and approve the program. • Acquire the approval and financial support to progress ahead. • Identify any other players. • Gather a core team and decide upon a timetable for the meetings. • Expand the core team to include, “industry associations, green industries; financial representatives, and the press.” • Formulate a strategy • Construct an implementation plan. • Organize an event to get the program started.
Definition of “Green”	The definition of a “Green Business Program” is as follows: “A Green Business Program can take many forms and have many different goals. A Green Business Program can exist to simply bring business into compliance or it can work to help business go beyond compliance. It can focus on a single industry or a neighborhood or encompass the entire city and all industry within city boundaries. A Green Business Program may choose to reduce or eliminate specific hazardous materials or it may focus on recycling or resource reduction. In effect, a Green Business Program can be whatever a community wants it to be.”
Methodology	Literature Research
Data Sources Cited	N/A
Report Geography	Davis, California, which is the part of EPA’s Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Pacific Islands, Tribal Nations)
Green Occupations Cited	N/A
Green Industries Cited	N/A
Keywords	Energy Consumption; Environmental Compliance; Green Businesses; Green Business

	Practices; Hazardous and non-hazardous waste; Pollution; Recycling; Resource reduction; Water use.
Legislation Cited	N
Bibliography (Y/N)	N
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