

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Green Business Program Santa Barbara County Certifies First Green Businesses

***Companies to be honored at breakfast event
Friday, February 6, 7:30 am
Hotel Mar Monte, Santa Barbara***

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County, which officially kicked off in mid December, will celebrate the first Santa Barbara County businesses to receive the Green Business certification. Local businessman William (Bill) E. Hayward, of Hayward Lumber Company, a leader in sustainable business efforts will address attendees at a breakfast event on Friday, February 6, 7:30 am at the Hotel Mar Monte in Santa Barbara.

The first companies to be certified are: Allen Associates and the Isla Vista Food Co-op. Allen Associates, located in Santa Barbara, specializes in residential and commercial green construction. The Isla Vista Food Cooperative is a member owned natural foods store that is open to the public.

“The remarkable thing is that our program officially launched just six weeks ago and already two businesses have been certified; over 20 are in the process; and over 30 more have contacted us and are ready to take the steps necessary to become green business certified, said Program Director Frances Gilliland. “It really speaks to the collective interest of our business community to become models of green and sustainable action,” added Gilliland.

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County is a county- wide effort partnering local governments, agencies, districts, non-profits, utilities, and chambers of commerce. (See list of partners below).

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability. It also helps businesses save money and enhance the environment. Businesses address waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy efficiency and conservation, water conservation, air pollution prevention, and transportation with a checklist tailored to their industry type. The program is free, voluntary, and offers assistance and

incentives, including an official Green Business certification and promotion upon completion of the recommended actions.

The program will initially offer certification for the office/retail sector, restaurants, automotive shops, and lodging establishments. In the coming years, additional business types will be added to the program.

“There is a real desire on the part of consumers, not only to take their own steps to be green, but to patronize companies that are also models of environmental stewardship,” said Tim Mahoney, Public Affairs Manager with the Southern California Gas Company. Also as part of the breakfast event, The Gas Company will be presenting their Energy Smart Award to Mission Linen Supply.

The Green Business Program will also enable the public to find and support businesses that care for our environment. Certified Green Businesses can display a window decal, and consumers will be able to search for businesses on the program’s website, <http://www.greenbizsbc.org/index.html>

For more information and to view a YouTube video of six local businesses and other program partners discussing their participation in the Green Business Program, go to www.greenbizsbc.org.

Contact information for the businesses being certified and for those featured in the video is available upon request.

Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County Partners

City of Buellton

City of Carpinteria

Carpinteria Sanitary District

Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce

Carpinteria Valley Water District

Community Environmental Council

Golden State Water Company

City of Goleta

Goleta Sanitary District

Goleta Water District

Goleta West Sanitary District

Montecito Sanitary District

Pacific Gas & Electric

City of Santa Barbara

County of Santa Barbara Resource Recovery & Waste Management

County of Santa Barbara Water Agency

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce

City of Santa Maria

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce

City of Solvang
Solvang Chamber of Commerce
South County Energy Efficiency Partnership
Southern California Edison
Southern California Gas Company
Summerland Sanitary District
Traffic Solutions

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