

STARTING A GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

Why Green Business?

- To help business understand and comply with regulatory requirements.
- To help promote green business practices to industry in a simple and comprehensive format.
- To help business go beyond compliance by introducing pollution prevention and other measures that help reduce:
 1. Hazardous and non-hazardous waste,
 2. Energy consumption,
 3. Water use, and
 4. Pollution.

What Is A Green Business Program?

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.

What Does a Green Business Program Offer?

In general, by working collaboratively with local businesses a Green Business Program brings regulatory agencies together to produce:

- A single source for environmental compliance information,
- A consolidated set of environmental compliance requirements,

- Information on useful strategies for resource conservation and pollution prevention,
- Public recognition programs for environmentally responsible businesses, and
- Better working relationships among regulatory agencies and businesses.

What Are the Benefits of A Green Business Program?

For Regulatory Agencies:

- Improved Compliance
- Better Working Relationships With Business
- Reduced Costs by pooling resources (combining inspector training programs or publishing a single newsletter)
- More Efficient Inspections through inspector cross-training and other information sharing

For Participating Businesses:

- 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

For the Public:

- 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

STARTING A GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

