

The Greener Davis Digest

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Become Certified as a Davis Green Business!

CITY LAUNCHES GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

On October 12, the City of Davis took another environmental step forward, launching a newly renovated green business program.

Partners for a Greener Davis (PFGD) is a free, voluntary program that allows Davis businesses the chance to be recognized by the City and the community for their environmentally responsible business practices.

"Becoming a Green Business Partner through the program is simple," says Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis and one of the PFGD Coordinators. Businesses interested in becoming certified as a Green Business Partner can visit the PFGD website, www.cityofdavis.org/pw/greenpartners, and download the checklist for their business. Using the checklist, a business demonstrates the requisite number of environmental elements they are implementing or participating in. The checklist contains four main elements—Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, Water Conservation and Pollution Prevention.

Gold, silver, and bronze certification status is awarded to each Green Business Partner based on the number of items completed on the checklist. "In order to receive certification, a business must complete the required number of items in EACH section of the checklist", says Gilbert. For example, in order to become gold



Partners for a Greener Davis

certified, a business must check enough items for gold certification in ALL categories. Each section of the checklist clearly states how many items must be completed to achieve gold, silver, and bronze certification status.

Currently, only the Restaurants, Café and Food Service Industry checklists are available. In the coming months, checklists for automotive, medical, office/retail, property management and paint and remodel contractors will become available.

Although the name of the program and some of the elements are new, this is not a new program. The Partners for a Greener Davis (PFGD) program builds upon a pre-existing program—Partners for a Cleaner Davis—which started in 1998, and provided a

basic framework for the current green business program.

"The PFGD program was crafted by combining elements from several different successful green business programs in California" says John McNerney, Wildlife Resource Specialist for the City of Davis, and a PFGD coordinator. "Most notably, elements from the Association of Bay Area Governments and the City of Sacramento's programs were reviewed and tailored to fit the Davis community."

The City encourages all businesses to become certified. "There are many reasons why a business would choose to be a Green Business Partner," says Gilbert. "Saving energy, water and raw materials saves you money. Sending less trash to the landfill can also save you money." Employees will enjoy a safer workplace and will have one more reason to take pride in their work. The program also promotes Green Business Partners to the public and other businesses.

Businesses that are certified under the Partners for a Greener Davis Program will receive a plaque to place in their window and a certificate with the Partners for a Greener Davis logo and the year in which they were certified. Green Business Partners will also be recognized in a variety of other ways, including newspaper mention, Partners for a Greener Davis website listing, a spot on the Davis Government Channel and other media as available.

"Many businesses may already qualify as Green Partners", says Gilbert. "A business can get credit for green things that they are already doing—anything from recycling to using less toxic cleaning detergents." The standards were designed to fit most businesses, but if certain measures are not applicable or feasible for a businesses facility and operations, they may request an exemption or demonstrate alternative measures.



A business that wishes to become certified as a Green Business Partner can find all the information about the program and download the checklist from the Partners for a Greener Davis website (www.cityofdavis.org/pw/greenpartners). Interested businesses can fill out the certification checklist and hand deliver, mail, or email the completed checklist to:

Partners for a Greener Davis Program
City of Davis
Public Works Department
1717 5th Street
Davis, CA 95616
pwweb@cityofdavis.org.

For more information, see the PFGD web page, www.cityofdavis.org/pw/greenpartners, or contact the City of Davis Public Works Department at 757-5686.

