

SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL OF VENTURA COUNTY

S- PROGRAM ACTION OPTIONS

3-1-07 Draft

Introduction

The Sustainability Council's "S-Program" is intended to promote sustainable practices that will lead to a more equitable society, a sounder economy, and a healthier environment (the Three "E"s of Sustainability). Listed below are suggested actions for each of these categories. Program participants pledge to take such action. The list is not exhaustive; it is meant to illustrate possible options. People are encouraged to submit other alternatives to the list.

General Actions

- Prominently display the S-Program logo
- Distribute information about the program
- Register on the program's website
- Post actions being taken with time frames
- Submit to audits of practices
- Serve a mentor to other parties
- Share ideas and information to advance the program
- Promote the program among peers, customer and associations

Actions Promoting an Equitable Society

- Pay a "living wage" as defined for local conditions
- Pay employees for jury service
- Provide incentives to employees who vote in elections
- Support local charities and non-profit organizations
 - Donate 1% of gross profits to local charities
 - Provide expertise such as legal and accounting services
 - Promote employee service on boards of directors
 - Donate surplus supplies and equipment
 - Underwrite cost of a youth sports team
- Begin an intern program for students
- Hire youths during the summer
- Provide for employee dispute resolution via union representation or alternate means
- Have no significant worker safety violations

Actions Promoting a Sound Economy

- Use "life-cycle" cost analysis in purchasing practices
- Give purchasing preferences for "green" products and services
- Bank with a locally owned institution

- Purchase goods and services from local suppliers
- Give purchasing preferences to firms using sustainable practices
- Provide “green” products as alternatives to all standard products sold
 - Non-toxic cleaners if toxic cleaners are sold
 - Recycled paper if “virgin” paper sold
- Limit compensation range between highest and lowest paid employees to a ratio of 15 to 1
- Allow shareholders to vote on executive compensation
- Invest in apprenticeship programs to provide training and jobs to residents

Actions Promoting a Healthy Environment

- Have no significant violation of environmental regulations
- Have an environmental audits conducted
 - “environmental footprint”
 - Carbon footprint
- Water Conservation
 - Reduce landscape water usage
 - Watersense program for wise landscape irrigation
 - www.epa.gov/watersense
 - Request an audit by water provider
 - Install water-conserving toilets and faucets meeting current stds.
- Reduce electrical energy demand
 - Replace incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights
 - Install solar photovoltaic panels
 - Have an energy audit conducted
 - Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
 - Southern California Edison
 - Install sensors and times to turn off lights when not in use
 - Install natural light sources such as skylights
 - Send employees to energy training seminars
 - Purchase highest “Energy Star”-rated equipment and appliances
- Reduce natural gas energy demand
 - Have an energy audit conducted
 - Southern California Gas Company
 - Install solar water heater system
 - Install on-demand water heating systems
 - Lower thermostat setting for gas heaters (68 degrees)
- Reduce transportation-related fuel demand
 - Conduct more business electronically
 - Allow telecommuting for employees
 - Use bicycles for business where possible
 - Provide secure parking for employee/customer bicycles

- Establish a ride-sharing program for employees
- Change out fleet vehicles to electric or ultra low emission versions
- Provide discounted or free bus passes or vouchers

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle

- Request a waste audit
 - City of Ventura Recycling Office
 - Ventura County Environmental & Energy Resources Division
- Have a recycling program
 - Have designated recycling containers for waste hauler
 - Source separate major waste streams
 - Reward employees with money saved thru recycling
- Purchase recycled materials as feedstock
- Resell waste items on a waste exchange
- Offer incentives to customers who do not use bags
 - Enter them into a drawing for prizes
 - Offer re-usable bags (e.g. canvas) in lieu of paper or plastic

Exceed Title 24 Building standards for new construction or remodeling

- Ventura County Green Building Council

Minimize or eliminate the use of toxic materials

- Install new finishes (e.g. paint) and coverings (e.g. carpet) that are non-toxic and that emit low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

- Use non-toxic cleaning products

- Use non-toxic raw materials in manufacturing wherever possible

Plant appropriate trees to clean air, sequester carbon, reduce heat

- Tree People Use website

Pay Carbon-offset fees for air travel