

ECO-STANDARDS



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The Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce requires that members have certain sustainable business practices and will continually raise the bar on these standards. The eco-Standards program, developed by the Center for Sustainable Solutions (a 501(c)(3) affiliate of the Green Chamber) will be made available to American businesses through the American Green Chamber of Commerce with the intention to combat “greenwashing” and provide a much needed benchmark for environmentally responsible business practices. These eco-Standards will provide clear guidelines and encourage progressively levels of commitment to ensuring an environmentally sustainable economy.

The mission of the American Green Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Center for Sustainable Solutions, is to provide tools for American businesses to be global leaders in sustainability.

The tiered eco-Standards are designed to motivate and incent members to increase their engagement in sustainable practices. Members who attain a higher level of eco-Standards will enjoy preferential promotion and visibility through online directory placement and other marketing opportunities. This program and subsequent tiers are currently in development and will launch in 2010.

LEVEL ONE MEMBERSHIP ECO-STANDARDS:

COMPANY PRACTICES

- Designate at least one person in your organization to coordinate sustainability efforts, implement an environmentally preferred purchasing program and/or coordinate other organization-wide environmental policies.

WASTE REDUCTION

- Implement a program to recycle or reuse at least two of the following: cardboard (corrugated cardboard boxes), paper, plastics, metals (steel, aluminum, etc) and recyclable glass.
- Purchase copier and printer paper materials made from a minimum of 30% post-consumer content to conserve resources and to support the recycling market.
- Program copiers/printers to print duplex (double-sided) as default if option is available.
- Donate or recycle used/surplus: office equipment, office furniture, office supplies, etc.
- Refill spent toner cartridges, or send to the retailer/manufacturer/or an appropriate recycling vendor for recycling or remanufacturing.
- Properly dispose of all spent fluorescent tubes and CFL's. (Do not throw in the garbage). To locate local resources and recycling centers to reduce your environmental impact for these and other materials visit www.Earth911.com .
- Prevent e-waste. Recycle or donate old electronic equipment (such as computers, printers, cell phones, and pagers). Recycle or properly dispose of batteries to a hazardous waste program, such as www.rbr.org .

ENERGY

- Turn off and/or unplug office equipment that is not required to operate after business hours to avoid passive energy consumption, including small electronics and personal items.
- Program all computers and printers to use power saving measures after 30 minutes. Turn computers and printers off at the end of day.
- Use programmable thermostats or manually set temperature for after hours by several degrees (ex: 85 degrees summer, 65 degrees winter).
- Turn off all non-emergency lights after business hours.
- Perform maintenance at intervals recommended by the manufacturer on all HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and refrigeration systems.
- When replacing incandescent light bulbs, replace with energy efficient bulbs (ex: fluorescent, CFL or LED) or ENERGY STAR rated fixtures.
- Check air filters regularly and clean or change as needed (monthly for disposable, 3 months for permanent).

WATER CONSERVATION

- Post signs in restrooms and kitchen areas encouraging water conservation.
- Install low flow aerators with flow rates not to exceed 0.5 gpm for lavatory sinks.
- Adjust exterior sprinkler durations seasonally and water during non-daylight hours only. Test for proper coverage and leaks on a monthly basis and repair/correct as needed in a timely manner.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

- Keep company vehicles well maintained to prevent leaks, minimize emissions and encourage employees to do the same, including keeping tires properly inflated.