

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GREEN TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. GREEN WITH TRAVEL

The Employment and Economic Development Department has just implemented a Green policy requiring a reduction of staff travel within the County. The objective is to promote a travel policy that will reduce the carbon foot print. It shall be the responsibility of every staff to minimize the need for local travel within San Joaquin County during office hours by requiring the following:

1. Avoid taking trips that are not mission critical.
2. Identify the shortest route to your destination.
3. Plan your site visits when you are out in the field to handle multiple visits to minimize the use of gasoline.
4. For staff out in the field that have to schedule site monitoring visits, establish travel routes that will be more effective and efficient.
5. Avoid daily trips.
6. Have other staff who are already out in the area, drop off items for you.
7. Respective Supervisors and Managers will monitor the mileage reimbursement reports to ensure we all work towards minimizing our travel activities and are minimizing the carbon foot print.

II. INCREASE TELECONFERENCE CALLS THROUGH WEBEX

The department continues to expand its use of WebEx to conduct telephone conference call meetings with Partner Agencies and WorkNet Center staff to minimize the need for travel.

EEDD has extended an invitation to any County Departments that want to hold Regional Partner Agency meeting using the WebEx system.

Training activities with staff at all the WorkNet Centers are now participating in training activities via WebEx and eliminating the need for travel to other locations.

III. EEDD's EARTH DAY 2011

In conjunction with Earth Day 2011, San Joaquin County EEDD's Green Committee organized an event for staff to increase their knowledge in the areas of recycling, reducing and diverting waste.

Using a “passport” type activity, participating staff visited numerous vendor booths, including Allied Waste, the Solid Waste Division of San Joaquin County Public Works, Commute Connection, UCD Master Gardener program, Vision Paint Recycling and the Council of Government’s Ride Share program. To encourage staff participation, the Green Committee procured prize donations (including passes to the Monterey Bay Aquarium) for those staff that visited each booth. EEDD Management contributed by providing donations for pizza and drinks (all served on recycled products) for all attendees.

Vendors provided information on appropriate methods for composting, where to appropriately dispose of different types of waste, and how to plant an eco-friendly garden. Staff participated in a “What Was I Before” activity featuring items that were recycled, including a ruler made from denim jeans and facial powder made from walnut shells. With Public Works e-waste truck on site, staff had the opportunity to dispose of old computers, televisions and small appliances. EEDD Management contributed by providing donations for pizza and drinks (all served on recycled products) for all attendees.

Scheduled to be a bi-annual event, the EEDD Green Committee will continue to recruit additional vendors to keep staff aware of the latest information in not only our “green” efforts at work, but also in our own homes.