

IS YOUR DEPARTMENT GREEN 2?

Skies are turning grey, but we're still getting greener here at SJC! At our last Green Committee meeting, more departments revealed the progress being made to improve their environmental stewardship.

Behavioral Health (Carmen Murillo): BH has been recycling paper and writing instruments. They are doing more scanning and using electronic documents. Waste Management brought them dumpsters for recycling, and they requested deskside containers from Public Works, Solid Waste. After only one week, they reduced their trash pickups from five times per week to three times at the California Street facility. Carmen estimates that without any further changes, annual savings would be \$10,368. This has encouraged them to look at their other offices.

Environmental Health (Robert McClellan): Under the guidance of a green sub-committee, EH prepared for their recent move by scanning documents and switching to electronic forms. They recycle paper, batteries, and CRV.

EEDD Worknet (John Solis): Worknet reduced paper by switching to electronic documents, including correspondence with their various boards. They collect bottles and cans, putting the CRV refunds towards office picnics and their holiday party. John credits the increase in participation to having a goal that benefits everyone. They would like to recycle more paper.



Ag Commissioner/Weights & Measures (Terry King): Terry is an "army of one." They recycle paper and cardboard through the Records Center. Office recycling containers are placed by copiers, in central areas, and at desks. They also recycle batteries and toner cartridges.

Office of Emergency Services (Art Bentley): The department was recently divided and blended with other departments. Much of their office at the Ag Center is now unoccupied. They are leaving lights off in empty areas. They are also reducing paper and recycling batteries and toner cartridges.

Ag Center: The UC Cooperative Extension also resides in the Ag Center. The UCCE coordinates the use of the meeting rooms and kitchen. They have recycling containers throughout for public use.

County Clerk (Rachel DeBond): The Board uses large amounts of paper, and they have been working diligently to transfer items to electronic form. Desks now have large recycling containers with small garbage containers that hang off of them. They are reducing lighting, recycling batteries, and using the backs of paper to make notepads. They may replace water bottles with pitchers and reusable cups at events and meetings.



Public Works (Elisa Moberly): Fleet maintains several vehicles using alternative fuels, including two electric cars. They test most engine fluids and only change them when necessary. They employ many environmentally preferred techniques to keep our cars and trucks running cleanly. In the spring the County Green Committee will be touring their shop, with its upgraded lighting system, to check out the new electric cars.

Recycling services will be assessed and upgraded soon. Lighting systems at the Solid Waste facilities are being upgraded. The department also provides environmental services for the public, including litter abatement on County roads, Household Hazardous Waste Facility for residents, and small business hazardous waste program.

County Hospital (Jon Drake): As one of our largest energy consumers, the Hospital is now going out to bid on a large energy reduction plan.

Miscellaneous Updates: **Human Services Agency** added that they are looking at controls to improve their energy consumption. The **District Attorney's** office has been using the fax confirmation pages to make note pads.



Information Systems Division (Gail Downer Elliott): Paper consumption has been reduced through the use of electronic documents. A program shuts computers down when not in use for an extended time. They are recycling paper and batteries.

Probation (Susan Guzman): In addition to recycling paper and CRV, their boys' camp has started a "Dignity Farm," where they make mulch from their organic waste.

County Counsel (Christina Rubianes): The office has been recycling CRV, paper, and toner. They are scanning and emailing more to avoid printing. They recently donated old legal books to a new law office, a great example of Reuse!

Commute Connection made appearances at the San Joaquin County Admin Building and Public Works during Ride Share Week October 1-5. We set the record for sign ups at an event! You can still sign up and give ridesharing a try. You'll get access to a list of commuters who live near you and work near you during the same hours.

Check it out at www.CommuteConnection.com.

