

News Release

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Sacramento County Wins Green Leadership Awards

Sacramento, CA. -- Sacramento County received two Green Leadership awards at a Sacramento Business Journal event in the categories of Best Government Agency and Best Collaboration. The awards are presented to those who have taken a leading role in providing a clean future for the region.

The awards recognized the leadership and success of the many green practices and projects of the county and the successes that Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC), in coordination with multiple regulatory agencies, has helped to achieve including three recent major projects:

- **Enhanced Vapor Recovery Phase II at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities in 2009,**
- **Dry Cleaner Outreach and Workshop in 2010, and**
- **Dental Industry Outreach and Support beginning in 2012**

“Sacramento County has long recognized that compliance is more cost effective and business friendly than enforcement,” said Bradley J. Hudson, County Executive. “We’ve been leading the way for twenty years in helping businesses become both green and profitable.”

Highlights of Sacramento County’s Green Leadership:

- New LEED building construction, the most recent being Terminal B at the Sacramento International Airport.
- 20 airport buses were converted to CNG fuel.
- Retrofit of existing facilities by replacing HVAC units and lighting, installing mechanisms that allow the air-conditioning and lighting systems to automatically reduce electric load when there is high demand on the electric grid. These

projects will reduce energy costs by \$240,000/year, reduce electricity usage by 2,600,000 kWhr/year and reduce GHG emissions by 1,000 metric tons of CO2/year - equivalent to planting 750 acres of trees annually.

- Replacement of 700 light fixtures with LED lighting in parking facilities, implemented business operational program that reduces energy use from computers; converted 1,100 streetlights to LED.
- Replacement of fleet with hybrid and electric vehicles, purchase of heavy trucks that operate on liquefied natural gas rather than gas or diesel - significantly reducing the generation of GHG.
- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- Adoption of Climate Action Plan that provides an overall approach to addressing climate change and a framework for reducing GHG, saving money and managing resources.
- Adoption of policies to support sustainable/infill and smart growth development
Construction of the county's first sustainable street that captures and filters stormwater runoff thru natural landscape swales before entering creeks, used recycled tires for portions of paving, and installed roundabouts instead of stop signs to reduce carbon emissions.
- Worked with non-profits to acquire open space along the American River Parkway. Partnerships with SMUD and P, G & E to bring energy efficiency programs and rebates to commercial and residential customers.

BERC is a one-stop, non-regulatory Permit Assistance Center that helps Sacramento County Businesses understand and comply with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. BERC was established twenty years and works on many projects along with the daily one-on-one business consultations to help businesses survive and thrive. No other county has had the progressive awareness to create a resource to attract and retain businesses through compliance assistance rather than regulatory enforcement.

Highlights on BERC's Winning Projects:

Enhanced Vapor Recovery Phase II at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities (EVR)

Workshops and outreach were conducted for gasoline stations in 2009, resulting in Sacramento County and incorporated cities achieving the highest compliance rate in the State of California and the effort helped some station owners stay in business. Since gasoline stations are the second highest tax revenue source in the County, the business retention economically benefitted the region.

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In May 2010, BEREC coordinated a multi-agency workshop for dry cleaners not currently in compliance with SMAQMD rules. Agency participation in workshop included: SMAQMD, BEREC, Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District (SRCSD), Sacramento Metro Fire District, Environmental Management Department, California Air Resources Board, SMUD, and PG&E in addition to the Korean Dry Cleaners Association. BEREC staff conducted 32 onsite visits with dry cleaners.

Dental Industry Outreach

BEREC's Sacramento Area Sustainable Business (SASB) program is rolling out a new program for recovery of Dental Amalgam, patterned after the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies' successful programs.

Because the waste material from dental offices ends up at the Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant where they become a contaminant that is difficult to separate and remove, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has mandated that local sanitation districts reduce the amount of mercury reaching wastewater treatment plants.

BEREC worked with dental offices to adopt a dental-specific plan to reduce the amount of mercury reaching wastewater treatment plants. Dentists are pleased that they will not be subjected to additional regulation, and SRCSD is pleased that efforts to reduce the amount of mercury reaching wastewater treatment plants will be accomplished.

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