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## **More Santa Clara County Businesses Go Green**

*Countywide Program recognizes new Green Businesses that make a difference*

**San Jose, Calif.** - Business owners, elected officials and local governments came together today for an awards ceremony to recognize 16 businesses that were certified as "Green Businesses" in fiscal year 2005. Supervisor Liz Kniss, Chair of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, presented certificates to representatives of the newly certified Santa Clara County businesses to honor their environmental achievements.

"The County's Green Business program is an excellent example of how local governments can encourage residents to invest in the environment," Kniss said. "Every business that is certified through this program is helping to create a healthier county."

The Santa Clara County Integrated Waste Management Division oversees the County's Green Business Program. The Green Business Program encourages and assists local businesses to identify and implement sustainable practices to prevent pollution, protect water quality, conserve water and energy, reduce generation of waste, and increase recycling. These practices can save businesses money while also protecting the environment.

"Stanford is very pleased to receive Santa Clara County's certification as a Green Business," said Therese Brekke, Stanford University spokeswoman. "The partnership Stanford formed with the Green Business Program through this certification process was a rewarding experience."

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The County's Green Business Program staff, in concert with Santa Clara Valley Water District and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, works with businesses of all types to improve environmental performance and achieve green certification in Santa Clara County. By providing free water, energy, and waste audits, businesses can identify and correct operating inefficiencies.

“Working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and PG&E helped us identify ways we could reduce the amount of resources we use, as well as our monthly bill,” said Adam Sanchez, president of Al Sanchez Volkswagen Mazda.

Many local municipal departments have also been certified as Green Businesses. The County of Santa Clara Department of Agriculture, City of Sunnyvale Senior Center, and the City of San Jose Environmental Services Department have all led by example by becoming certified Green Businesses. Besides being a vital partner, the Santa Clara Valley Water District is also a Green Business!

“The Santa Clara Valley Water District's alternative energy programs are an example for other organizations that being ‘green’ is good for saving natural resources, increasing the efficiency of your business, and, in the case of public agencies, saving the taxpayer money,” says Stan Williams, CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Beginning in July, the Santa Clara County Green Business Program expanded countywide to facilitate working with more businesses. The Green Business Program's goal is to certify at least 52 businesses in fiscal year 2006.

“The Green Business Program proves that businesses can prosper AND show their concern for the environment,” says Anthony Eulo, Program Administrator, City of Morgan Hill. “Green business makes good business sense, and our local companies are helping us prove that.”

For more information about the Green Business Program in Santa Clara County call Gretchen Hayes at 408-441-4329 or go to <http://greenbiz.sccgov.org>.