

City of Vernon, CA

Current City Focus, Sharing Ideas, Success Stories, Future

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Current City Focus, Sharing Ideas, Success Stories, Future

- City Focus
- Sharing Ideas with and between local businesses
- Roundtable
- Survey Questions
- Survey Results
- Success Stories
- Now and In the Future



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Current City Focus

- **March 6, 2008**
- Compliance with State mandated recycling goals: reducing the amount of trash sent to landfills by more than 50% compared to the amount of trash land filled in 1990
- Working with the City's solid waste consultants
- Provide solid waste assistance program for Vernon businesses
- Free on-site waste reduction surveys
- Provide technical assistance
- Review solid waste generation and recycling practices
- Provide recommendations to reduce waste generation and improve the recycling of waste materials.

Current City Focus

- An integral part of the development of a Sustainability Action Plan for Vernon is reducing the impact of greenhouse gases (GHG) caused by human activities
- Some solutions to reduce greenhouse gases:
 - efficient use of energy and water
 - effective transportation planning
 - prudent management of natural resources and waste
 - natural habitat protection
 - public awareness, promotion and education



Green Survey

- Sectors Surveyed
- Parallel to GUMI's focus

- Metals Fabrication
- Furniture Manufacturing
- Food Processing
- Apparel Manufacturing



Green Survey

- Survey Purpose
- reflect and assess green efforts
- why greening may not be a part of your company focus at this time
- financial Commitment
- identify resources
- positive impacts from greening their processes



Green Survey

- What does green mean to you?
- Why should you care?
- Are you going green? If not, why not?
- Are you leading or participating in greening your business?
- Why are you going green, what are the drivers? Morality, economic, regulatory, marketing, other?
- Is the process, so far, beneficial or detrimental?
- What are your challenges: process changes, cost, labor, education, regulation, other?
- How are you measuring your success?
- Do you belong to an industry-specific association?
- If yes, is that association active in greening?
- Are you receiving some sort of green assistance from your association?
- Are there energy impacts associated with your greening?
- Are there workforce impacts associated with your greening?
- What have been best management practices or innovations created or implemented as part of your greening process?
- What will keep you motivated or involved in going green?
- What kind of government or industry assistance would you like to see: tax incentives, regulations, education, utility rebates, other?

Green Survey

- Results
- Commonalities
- Most: trying to go green
- Most: green is beneficial
- Challenges: cost, education, process changes
- Workforce and energy impacts; mostly positive
- Assistance: tax incentives, utility rebates and education; (regulations were not circled once)

Success Stories

- Metal Fabrication Facility:
- Sensor Lights
- Recycling Bins
- EnergyStar equipment



Vernon Success Stories

- Landscaping Timers
- Motion Sensors in Warehouse
- Segregation Bins
- Employee Suggestions
- Waterless Urinals



Vernon Success Stories

- Furniture Manufacturing Facility:
- Thinking “green” is “SMART” thinking
- SMART = suppliers, materials, associates, retailers, tomorrow
- Sustainable practices suppliers
- zero waste programs to eliminate waste to landfills, use earth-friendly Materials
- Associate/employee education, training, and participation in tracking measurable objectives
- working with Retailers on product design and packaging processes to utilize renewable and recycled materials
- Acting with foresight today to ensure a healthier Tomorrow

Vernon Success Stories

- Food processing facility:
- Social and environmental responsibility
- Develop robust business relationships focused on sustainability
- Carbon Footprint, LEED certification, product life cycle
- Waste survey --- what were they disposing in trash: paper, glass, metal, ?
- Recycling, skylights, mfg efficiency
- Waste diversion leads to GHG decrease



Now and In The Future

➤ **What Can We Do Here in Vernon?**

- use energy-efficient light sources such as the proper fluorescent tubes
- install light sensors in meeting rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, file rooms and other partially used spaces
- use manual-flush, low-flow toilets
- convert to air hand-dryers in bathrooms (really saves on the solid waste generated by paper towels)
- place recycle bins in all offices and common use areas
- utilize recycled paint and recycled carpet
- landscape with drought-tolerant, native California species of plants
- develop voluntary “going green” programs for local businesses
- maintain and support waste surveys



