

# Green Businesses in Sunnyvale

## *Environmental Values at Work*



**Joe Lapuz, Toyota Parts Manager in front of the Green Business sign**



**Toyota has a closed loop car wash system so the water doesn't go into the storm drain**



**Paper recycling bins are set up by printers and in each office**

### Toyota Sunnyvale

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Certification Date: May 2006

The General Manager, Adam Simms at Toyota Sunnyvale, is very involved in the Sunnyvale community, so when he heard about the Green Business certification program, he got on board. "We want to be a role model for the community, especially in the Silicon Valley where everyone is so aware of environmental change," says Joe Lapuz, Parts Manager.

The building Toyota operates out of is fairly new, so some of the environmental efficiencies like energy efficient lighting and low flow toilets, were already installed. "We did add a comprehensive paper recycling program as a result of the certification program," says Lapuz. "We generate lots of paper, so it made sense to implement," Now parts, service and sales office areas have desk-side boxes for paper recycling as well as trays for paper reuse. In the parts shop, staff recycles metal parts that are no longer useable as well as cardboard shipping boxes.

Some of the other initiatives the company has implemented are:

- Using electronic mail as the primary method to communicate with staff
- Promoting other certified Green Businesses in the area
- Using safer products in the service shop like low-copper brake pads, longer lasting synthetic oils, and less toxic antifreeze
- Installing window film to reduce solar heat gain
- Closed loop water recycling system for car wash, radiator flushing, and parts cleaning
- Educating employees on junk mail reduction and other environmental topics
- Participation in Sustainable Silicon Valley and other green events to promote their hybrid vehicles.

"Getting certified was not too difficult," says Lapuz. He advises businesses to get employees on board and involved in championing the changes. "If employees are involved they are more likely to take initiative to make environmental change for themselves and for the company," says Lapuz.

For more information on the green efforts of Toyota please contact Joe Lapuz.



**To learn how your business can become certified as a Green Business, contact the Santa Clara County Green Business Program at 408.282.3180 or visit the website at [greenbiz.sccgov.org](http://greenbiz.sccgov.org)**

