

Eight North Bay small businesses recognized as ‘climate-smart’

By BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF REPORT – May 5, 2011

Eight North Bay companies were among [23 small businesses](#) the California Air Resources Board [recognized Tuesday](#) at its second CoolCalifornia.org Small Business Award ceremony for “climate-smart actions.”

The award-winners were selected from 85 applicants. Criteria were actions taken to save money and improve operations, facilities and practices while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Steps taken include installation of compact fluorescent light bulbs, solar panels and energy-efficient computer servers, elimination of toxins and solvents, use of environmentally conscious products, and adding automated thermostats and lighting fixtures.

Winners were ranked by 20 two-person teams of scorers made up of staff from public agencies and private businesses. Air board staff and leadership further reviewed scores and conducted site visits and environmental reviews.

Five businesses received the Business of the Year award for demonstrating “exceptional” climate change management practices and communication. Eighteen, including seven from the North Bay, were acknowledged with the Climate Leader award for proactively reducing their impacts on the climate and communicating this information to their employees and customers. Certificates of recognition were given to nine, including one local company, for taking steps to establish innovative, more sustainable business practices.

Climate Leader

[Chavez Trucking](#), Dixon

Employees: 58

The construction materials hauling company replaced 16 old trucks with new trucks through the Sacramento Emergency Clean Air Transportation program (SECAT) and trained drivers on fuel-saving driving techniques. Fuel cost savings were \$80,640 a year.

[Lafitte Cork and Capsule](#), Napa

Employees: 16

The supplier of premium cork stoppers to wineries across North America installed energy-efficient lighting and Energy Star appliances.

Lafitte [won the Small Business Excellence award from the program in 2009](#). Only two North Bay companies won that year.

Paragon Label & Mrs. Grossman's, Petaluma

Employees: 29

The full-service, pressure sensitive label company replaced all air compressors with energy-efficient compressors. All water-based ink waste is sent to a recycler and turned into fuel blends.

Quivira Vineyards and Winery, Healdsburg

Employees: 25

A certified organic winery since 2005, Quivira is an environmentally conscious winegrowing and winemaking company. It uses a steam-cleaning machine to significantly reduce water and detergent use. The company also installed solar panels.

Silverado Brewing Company, St. Helena

Employees: 34

This full-service restaurant and microbrewery serves local organic and sustainably produced food. The company replaced their lamps with energy-efficient lighting, insulated hot water pipes, increased recycling and purchased less toxic cleaning solvents.

Synergy Solar & Electrical Systems, Inc., Sebastopol

Employees: 6

Synergy designs and installs solar photovoltaic and energy-efficient lighting. The company replaced its water heater with a new on-demand gas water heater and installed dual-pane windows.

Zan Media, Novato

Employees: 3

The digital video production company implemented energy-efficient practices and educates the community on ways to foster sustainability.

Honorable mention

[Tamalpais NatureWorks](#), San Rafael

Posted: <http://www.northbaybusinessjournal.com/33761/eight-north-bay-small-businesses-recognized-as-climate-smart/>



Small businesses honored for keeping California cool.

By ADAM POLLACK – May 4, 2011

[Cool California](#) honored two small businesses in San Diego for taking green actions that reduce their business' impact on the climate. The Small Business Awards were given to 23 companies that do business in cities throughout California on Tuesday, May 3.

[Recon Recycling LLC](#) in the city and [Telework Research Network](#) in Carlsbad were given two of the nine certificates of recognition awarded at the California Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Sacramento. This is the second year the [Air Resources Board](#) has given out the awards.

Twenty two-person teams made of 1 judge from a public agency and 1 judge from a private business scored the companies.

The ranking climate finishes came during the May month governor Jerry Brown declared *California Small Business Month* on Monday.

The businesses that employ fewer than 100 employees take pride in protecting the environment against the greenhouse gases that form a warm blanket in the air and warm up the temperature. Both San Diego companies do work in environmentally

friendly fields. The recycling company begun from scratch three years ago collects plastic and glass containers, aluminum cans, cardboard and paper from local condominium complexes and IKEA, and Phil's Barbecue and the House of Blues. Telework, a telecommuting broker, created a calculator businesses can use to save on the fuel costs employees build up during commutes and cut back on greenhouse gas emissions. Just enter the fuel costs, number of employees, and days per week they work from home.

The top Business of the Year Award winner was Arkin Tilt Architects in Berkeley. The designer of alternative construction systems, such as strawbale and rammed earth, uses non-toxic and recycled materials. They also replaced their computer systems with energy efficient systems that reduced the carbon emissions released during energy production.

Their solar panel angles are changed twice per year.

Employees can save fuel costs and reduce gas emissions easily by driving one of the company's electric or biodiesel cars. The company also converted an AWD Audi to a car that runs on E85 ethanol.

Eighteen companies achieved enough climate saving win to earn a Climate Leader award.

Posted: <http://www.examiner.com/public-policy-in-san-diego/small-businesses-awarded-for-keeping-california-cool>



Lafitte Cork & Capsule, Silverado Brewing Company win awards

By NAPA VALLEY REGISTER STAFF – May 9, 2011

The California Air Resources Board awarded Lafitte Cork & Capsule a CoolCalifornia Small Business Award at a ceremony recently held in Sacramento. The company installed efficient lighting and Energy Star appliances. Lafitte Cork & Capsule, a supplier of premium cork, sells to wineries across North America.

Silverado Brewing Company in St. Helena was also awarded the Climate Leader award.

Posted: <http://napavalleyregister.com/business/601ae3c8-7a9a-11e0-83d7-001cc4c002e0.html>



Small Businesses Recognized for Climate-Smart-Efforts....23 top small businesses saved money, cut climate impact.

By KIM HAMILTON – May 4, 2011

Yesterday the California Air Resources Board awarded Murphys' Outer Aisle Foods a Cool California Small Business Award at a ceremony held in Sacramento. Outer Aisle Foods operates a Community Supported Agriculture program and provides members with local, organic, and sustainably harvested products. The company installed solar panels at their market and reduced water use via drip system at their organic farm.

SACRAMENTO - The California Air Resources Board held its second CoolCalifornia.org Small Business Award ceremony today, honoring 23 small businesses from across the state for their climate-smart actions. The program recognizes California small businesses that demonstrate leadership and made notable, voluntary achievements toward reducing their climate impact. "These California small business owners demonstrate passion and conviction for reducing their impact on the environment," said ARB Chairman Mary D. Nichols. "And they continue to think of ways to improve operations and save money while educating their peers, clients and employees about climate-smart actions."....

The 23 award winners were selected from 85 competitive applicants, representing a variety of business sectors. These businesses took an array of actions to save money and improve their operations, facilities and practices while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Steps taken include installation of compact fluorescent lights, solar panels and energy-efficient computer servers; elimination of toxins and solvents; use of eco-friendly products; and, adding automated thermostats and lighting fixtures.

- Five businesses received the Business of the Year award for demonstrating exceptional climate change management practices and communication.
- Eighteen were acknowledged with the Climate Leader award for taking proactive steps

to reduce their impact on our climate and communicating this information to their employees and customers.

- Nine were awarded certificates of recognition for taking steps to establish innovative, more sustainable business practices.

These businesses come from 20 California cities and represent 15 industries, including manufacturing, trucking, food service, printing, laundry, hotel, agriculture and construction.

The award winners were ranked by 20 two-person teams of scorers comprised of staff from public agencies and private businesses. ARB staff and leadership further reviewed scores, and conducted site visits and environmental reviews to arrive at final decisions.

CoolCalifornia.org is an online resource providing all Californians with the information and tools they need to take climate action. The website features money-saving actions, climate calculators, case studies and links to financial incentives to help individuals, small businesses, local government and youth gain the knowledge needed to take simple steps for a sustainable future.

For more information, visit www.coolcalifornia.org.

List of the award winners:

Businesses of the Year

Arkin Tilt Architects, Berkeley
ATDynamics, South San Francisco
Dixon Ridge Farms, Winters
Hero Arts, Inc., Richmond
Orchard Hotels, San Francisco

Climate Leaders

Chavez Trucking, Dixon
Citadel Environmental Services, Inc., Glendale
Community Business College, Modesto
Conejo Awards, Thousand Oaks
Domus Development, LLC, San Francisco
Green11, San Francisco
Greenshops, Bakersfield
Lafitte Cork and Capsule, Napa
Light & Motion Industries, Inc., Monterey
Nortons Cleaners Inc., Placentia
Outer Aisle Foods, Murphys
Paragon Label & Mrs. Grossman's, Petaluma
Quivira Vineyards and Winery, Healdsburg
Royal Hawaiian Honey, Oakland
Silverado Brewing Company, Saint Helena

Synergy Solar & Electrical Systems Inc., Sebastopol
Three Squares Inc., Santa Monica
Zan Media, Novato

Certificate of Recognition
Berkeley Olive Grove 1913, Oroville
Choicelunch, San Ramon
Koolfog, Inc., Palm Desert
Licata Chiropractic, Inc., Arcadia
Recon Recycling, LLC, San Diego
Stanford's Restaurant, Walnut Creek
Tamalpais NatureWorks, San Rafael
Telework Research Network, Carlsbad
Waste Less Living, Pasadena

Posted:

http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN_user_op=view&ANN_id=24554



Sustainability award to NatureWorks

By MARIN SCOPE STAFF – May, 11, 2011

Tamalpais NatureWorks was recognized as a Cool California 2010 small business by the California Air Resources Board on May 3, in Sacramento.

A certificate of recognition was awarded for the company's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including recycling, natural resource conservation, zero-waste initiatives and the production of sustainable furniture, using wood salvaged from new construction sites, building deconstruction projects and felled trees.

Tamalpais NatureWorks is located on B Street in San Rafael and offers custom furniture as well as joinery kits so people can build their own furniture.

Posted:

http://marinscope.com/articles/2011/05/11/news_pointer/news/community/doc4dcb2751



Royal Honey Awarded for Sustainability

By NATURAL PRODUCTS MARKETPLACE NEWS STAFF – April 19, 2011

OAKLAND, Calif.—Tropical Traders Specialty Foods LLC, the parent company of [Royal Hawaiian Honey brand](#), was a 2011 recipient of a CoolCalifornia Small Business Award, administered by the California Air Resources Board. The program recognizes small California businesses (fewer than 100 employees) that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and taken action to reduce their energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions and made notable, voluntary achievements towards reducing their climate impact.

In 2007, in partnership with [Carbonfund.org](#), Tropical Traders performed a product life-cycle CO₂ analysis on its Royal Hawaiian Honey line to determine its carbon footprint. This calculates how much energy is consumed in the production, shipping and distribution of all of the components that go into each container of Royal Hawaiian Honey, including glass jars and plastic tubs, the production and printing of its label, the amount of energy used in bottling the honey, and shipping from the Big Island to markets on the U.S. mainland. Once this figure was determined, the energy used is offset by investing in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. By taking responsibility for its carbon footprint and neutralizing its emissions, the Royal Hawaiian Honey label is working within its industry to make a difference.