



living GREEN! working GREEN! thinking GREEN!

Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Going Green Recognition Program

This recognition program is sponsored by the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce with the intention of encouraging the community to implement green practices that conserve community resources while helping businesses thrive.

As a participating business you can receive recognition in several ways, including:

Recognition in Chamber Publications

Recognition on the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce Website

Recognition at Good Morning Cherokee Networking Breakfast

A "Going Green" window cling for your business or vehicle

The Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Going Green Recognition Program showcases the environmental efforts of your business and encourages green business practices while helping you save money. The programs are free and everyone is encouraged to participate.

To be considered for recognition, you must be a member of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce and demonstrating efforts of green business practices. Your business may also be recognized for a specific project or initiative that can be used as a model for other organizations.

To participate in the program you must commit to basic green business practices.

There are seven categories included in the program:

- Solid Waste Prevention
- Recycling
- Purchasing
- Energy Conservation
- Water Conservation and Water Quality
- Transportation
- Involving Stakeholder (employees, customers, and/or suppliers) in greening your business

Green Business is good business! In addition to helping the environment, it can save your business money and is valued by your customers and employees. We look forward to your participation in the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Going Green Recognition Program.

Take the Pledge

"I pledge to use environmentally friendly practices personally and in my business."

Signature _____

Date _____

Business name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Minimum Requirements:

To be recognized under the program, your business must pledge to strive for continuous improvement in greening your business and commit to specific requirements. Companies with 1-5 employees must commit to 4 overall requirements.

Additional Requirements:

Based on the number of employees in your company, you must also commit to more requirements:

- 6 to 20 employees must commit to 7 overall requirements
- 21 to 50 employees must commit to 10 overall requirements
- 51 to 100 employees must commit to 12 overall requirements
- 100 + employees must commit to 15 overall requirements

Waste Prevention

- Reduce copying: use electronic distribution to avoid unnecessary document printing, and set copier and printer defaults to two-sided
- Regularly update/purge your mailing list
- Take steps to reduce the amount of junk mail received
- Use marketing materials that require no envelope
- Reuse package and shipping materials
- Offer reusable shopping bags and/or discounts for those who use them
- Replace individual containers with refillable dispensers
- Use reusable rather than disposable products (dishes, towels, boxes, bags, containers)
- Other (describe): _____

Recycling

- Recycle paper, glass, metal, and plastic
- Recycle boxes, pallets, pallet wrap, and wood debris
- Recycle toner and ink jet cartridges
- Recycle used cooking oil
- Compost food and landscape waste
- Other (describe): _____

Purchasing

- Buy office paper with at least 30% recycled content
- Purchase and use safer, more eco-friendly alternative(s) to a previously-used product for janitorial, pest control, and/or facility maintenance
- Purchase biodegradable or compostable "to go" food containers
- Purchase more materials in bulk
- Use low-emission building materials when remodeling
- Purchase used furniture, equipment or materials
- Exchange or donate unwanted furniture, equipment, scrap materials, etc.
- Purchase from other "green" vendors or service providers
- Purchase more materials and supplies locally
- Other (describe): _____

Recycling Energy Conservation

- Track energy usage and share data with employees
- Replace incandescent bulbs and/or old T12 fluorescents with energy efficient lighting
- Use motion sensors, timers or other lighting controls
- Unplug chargers when not in use
- Use "Energy Star" equipment
- Update insulation or windows (including tinting)
- Use programmable thermostat
- Have an HVAC or refrigeration tune-up
- Use renewable energy (i.e. solar)
- Other (describe): _____

Water Conservation & Water Quality

- Use aerators and/or auto shut-off on faucets
- Install commercial ultra low-flow toilets
- Install pre-rinse spray nozzle in kitchen
- Regularly check for and repair leaks in restrooms
- Install low-water or no-water landscaping
- Clean outdoor areas with a broom instead of hose
- Use recovered wastewater
- Rain barrel/rain garden
- Other (describe): _____

Transportation

- Implement policies/practices to encourage employee walking biking, carpooling, transit and/or telecommuting
- Use teleconferences or web conferences rather than traveling for face-to-face meetings
- Schedule regular tune-ups for business vehicles; check tire pressure regularly; check for "ground staining" regularly
- Use hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles
- Other (describe): _____

Involving Stakeholders

- Involve employees in developing your green business plan; get their input
- Provide training for employees on implementing green business practices
- Inform suppliers and/or customers about your green business interests and efforts; solicit their suggestions
- Encourage "green" practices by your customers
- Other (describe): _____

Optional: Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce member businesses are also eligible to be recognized under this program for a specific project, process change or initiative that can be used as a model for other organizations. Please attach a description of your efforts.

To participate in the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Going Green Recognition Program, submit this completed commitment to: Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 4998, Canton, GA 30114 or info@cherokeechamber.com or fax to 770-345-0030.

If you have questions, please call 770-345-0400.