

A NEW APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOR BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

What a difference 24 months makes!

EBS President Jim Jacobs, is the Past President and a current Director of the Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD). EBS is involved with not only sustainable business enhancements that most businesses and public agencies can achieve, as well as evaluating the business and location for possible affects of climate change.

The Case Study listed below shows a public agency that has made extraordinary improvements and changes that have occurred during the past two years.

With this type of experience, EBS can help your business to perform a sustainable business audit and then make the changes to develop significant improvements in sustainable business, recycling and energy use reduction which will add to your company's financial health and improve the environment.

CASE STUDY

The TCSD is the provider of refuse (garbage) collection, sanitary sewer collection, and park and recreation services for a community of 7,000 residents in Marin County, California, an area just north of the Golden Gate Bridge and the City of San Francisco. The annual budget is about

\$3.8 million. The organizational challenges in the area of solid waste include the curb-side collection of garbage, green waste (yard waste) and recycling; and second reducing the quantity of total waste generated.

Recently, TCSD, under an energetic board of directors and hard working General Manager, Jon Elam, has accomplished the following:

GREEN APPROACH

Certified as a “Green Business”

Developed and measured the Carbon Footprint

Joined the California Climate Registry (CCAR)

BUSINESS

So far in 2007 we have collected 230 tons less than in 2006, a reduction of over 11%. This means many fewer trips to the disposal sites. Each trip eliminated not only saves on fuel, but also saves about \$600-700 dollars in disposal costs.

OPERATIONS

TCSD redesigned the fleet of trucks for fuel efficiency and better operations - The mileage saved on the larger trucks will provide many years of extra service life.

BIODIESEL

Integrate Biodiesel as the primary fuel by early next year. Biodiesel fuels are rated as carbon neutral and thus will help reduce the District’s carbon footprint.

RECYCLING

Single Stream Collection Recycling

Working toward “zero-waste” collection goal

Developed battery recycling

Electronics recycling

Fluorescent bulb recycling

Working on medical prescription recycling in the community

About 30% of all collections are recycling which are now taken to a recycling processing center which spreads the materials through a sort line, that separates the materials into various bins for further processing. The market for recyclable materials has exploded over the past couple of years. Presently the District receives \$52 per ton for unsorted material brought to the center and \$105 per ton for cardboard. The collections now generate nearly \$7,000 a month and nearly fully support the recycling program.

PRODUCTS

Yard waste collections now total nearly 30% of all collections in the district, an increase of over 300 Tons in 2007 over 2006. Green waste is converted to mulch, that is available for free to be reused by the residents.

CLIMATE CHANGE

TCSD is evaluating the sewer lines and treatment plants as to possible changes that might occur over the next 50 to 100 years due to climate change. These changes can be

significant, since the Tamalpais Valley community is at sea level on the west side of San Francisco Bay (Richardson Bay). Possible sea level rise will have large implications to the sewer plants, sewer lines, as well as more chance for landslides on unstable hills, more wildfires and other climate related changes. An EBS climate change audit can assist public agencies and business owners of these types of long-term changes.

The TCSD web site is:

<http://www.tcsd.us/jadworks/tcsd/jwsuite.nsf/sitewelcome/Home>

Please call Jim Jacobs at EBS (510-590-1098) for a free-no obligation discussion of your company's situation. Jim is a hydrogeologist with 25 years of experience. He is a 3-time Fulbright Award winner in environmental engineering.