

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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Press Release

Date: November 15, 2019 Contact: Beau Hawksford 831-454-2160

GREEN BUSINESS AWARDS SET FOR NOV. 19

Santa Cruz County's annual Green Business Awards represent a partnership between the local business community and the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

This year, 69 local businesses are being recognized for their efforts to meet and exceed environmental standards while conserving natural resources. These businesses – which include nonprofits, schools, auto shops, grocers and many more – represent the largest class of Green Business Certificates awardees in the history of the program, and will be recognized at the November 19, 2019 Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting.

"We're pleased to see continued strong interest in the Green Business Program," Public Works Director Matt Machado said. "These businesses are true leaders in our community and deserving of recogniziton by the Board."

The Green Business Program is an incentives-based certification program encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon footprints through positive relationships between government, the business community and the public. Green Businesses have voluntarily reduced water consumption in plumbing and irrigation; increased energy efficiency in lighting, equipment, and transportation practices; reduced solid waste through recycling and purchasing; and gone above and beyond regulatory requirements by implementing pollution prevention practices in their businesses.

The Santa Cruz County Green Business Program is a leading member of the California Green Business Network.. CAGBN members track resource savings generated by the programs through verified metrics. Close to 4,000 certified green businesses are now recognized statewide. For a complete list of awardees, visit <u>dpw.santacruzcounty.us</u>.

For more information on the Green Business Program and how to become a certified Green Business, please contact Sheila Peck, Santa Cruz County Green Business Coordinator, at (831) 454-3976 or enroll at <u>greenbusinessca.org</u>.