



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2016

CONTACT:
Green Business Program Santa Barbara County
Frances Gilliland, Program Director, 805 –729-3472

**Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County
Certifies 15 New Green Businesses**

***Companies to be honored at luncheon event
Wednesday, March 23, 11:30 am
Santa Ynez Valley Marriott, Buellton***

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County will celebrate 15 new Santa Barbara County businesses that have achieved the Green Business certification.

“The Green Business Program continues to work with so many amazing local companies. As a region, we are lucky to have business people who understand environmental sustainability and economic sustainability truly go hand in hand,” says Frances Gilliland, Program Director.

Jay Hardy, President of Hardy Diagnostics in Santa Maria, will give the keynote address. Also as part of the luncheon event, the Southern California Gas Company will present their Energy Smart Award to Hardy Diagnostics.

“The Chamber and the Energy Watch Partnership are thrilled to recognize this year’s class of newly certified green businesses. We are also thrilled with the number of businesses coming back this year to renew their certification,” said Glenn Morris, president of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. “It’s clear that many businesses in our community recognize the value of incorporating practices that maximize every available resource as part of their ongoing operations.”

The organizations most recently certified are: The Artistic Pony (Solvang), CMC Rescue, Inc. (Goleta), The Eagle Inn (Santa Barbara), City of Goleta, The Lobero

Theatre (Santa Barbara), Riverbench Santa Barbara Tasting Room, Mission Wealth (Santa Barbara), Moxie Café (Santa Maria), Ramada Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Sailing Center, Solvang Chamber of Commerce, Sonos, Inc. (Santa Barbara), Sumida Gardens Apartments (Goleta), Wandering Dog Wine Bar (Solvang), and The Wildling Museum of Art and Nature (Solvang).

We will also be honoring businesses for completing the re-certification process. These are businesses originally certified over three years ago that have remained committed to their sustainability goals and completed the recertification process. The following businesses have remained committed to their sustainability goals and have implemented additional actions to become even more sustainable: County of Santa Barbara Resource Recovery and Waste Management, County of Santa Barbara Water Agency, Riverbench Santa Maria Tasting Room, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Santa Barbara Art Frame Company, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians - Tribal Hall, The Towbes Group, Inc. Corporate Offices, Ty Warner Sea Center, UCSB Central Kitchen, UCSB Coral Tree Café, UCSB Courtyard Cafe and UCSB UGen Catering.

The Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County is a county- wide public/private partnership comprised of local governments, special districts, non-profits, utility companies, waste haulers, and chambers of commerce.

The Program recognizes businesses that go above and beyond required measures to serve as models of sustainability. It also helps businesses save money and enhance the environment. Businesses address waste reduction and recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy efficiency and conservation, water conservation, air pollution prevention, and ridesharing with a checklist tailored to their industry type. The program is voluntary, and offers assistance and incentives, including an official Green Business certification and promotion upon completion of various mandatory and a minimum number of voluntary actions.

The program currently offers certification for the office/retail sector, restaurants, automotive shops, and lodging establishments. In the coming years, additional business types will be added to the program.

The Green Business Program also enables the public to find and support businesses that care for our environment. Certified Green Businesses can display a window decal, and consumers can search for businesses on the program's website at <http://www.greenbizsbc.org/search-for-green-businesses/>

For more information, go to www.greenbizsbc.org.

Contact information for the certified businesses is available upon request.

###