CoolCalifornia.org GOVERNMENT • UNIVERSITY • NGO PARTNERSHIP

Small Business Case Study

Blue Oak Energy, Davis, California

Providing Green Goods

Blue Oak Energy is in the business of being green. Dedicated to providing high quality service to customers nationwide, Blue Oak Energy excels in managing solar projects every step of the way.

Through their hard work and perseverance, Blue Oak Energy has made enormous contributions to the growth of the solar industry in California. In 2008 Blue Oak contributed in the contruction of 7% of the entire US solar market and 23% of the entire California solar market which translates into the reduction 500 million metric tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

They have also worked on projects for very big organizations including: Google, FedEx, California Institute of Technology, San Francisco International Airport, Sony Picture Studios, Rutgers University, and Walmart.



"Blue Oak Energy is an environmentally conscious business and their commitment to conduct their day to day operations in this manner is rare in the business world today."

> -Mike Corbett, Master Builder Village Homes

Business Snapshot

Commercial and utility scale solar electric project firm that offers planning, engineering, and construction services.

Climate Friendly Actions

- Buys recycled paper saving approximately 17 trees a year
- Only purchases organic fair trade coffee, tea, milk and snacks for the staff
- Uses biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products
- Designed office to use natural light by installing a wall of windows and skylights
- All lights are compact fluorescent lights and have automatic motion sensors
- All office appliances, computer monitors, printers, and scanner are Energy Star rated
- · Landscaped using shrubs and mulch
- Purchased Toyota Prius and a global electric motorcar that reduce CO₂ emissions by approximately 14 million metric tons a year
- Implemented a recycling program that includes employee participation and an ink cartridge recycling program
- Encourages employees to bike to work by offering rewards for miles biked. During the April 2008 challenge, 892 miles were logged and 981 lbs of GHGs were diverted

Estimated Yearly Reductions of CO₂:

- 14 million metric tons of CO₂ a year (from hybrids alone)
- 500 million metric tons of GHG emissions reduced through solar market contributions

Award Winning Actions



What Actions Did Blue Oak Energy Take to Save Energy?

By installing a wall of windows and skylights, the office was designed to use natural light. All of the lights are CFLs and have automatic power management features with sensors. All of the office appliances, computer monitors, printers, and scanner are Energy Star consuming 10-50% less energy than standard models.

What Actions Did Blue Oak Energy Take to Reduce Waste?

By using products with the highest percentage of recycled content for all of their supplies, Blue Oak preserves an estimated 17 trees a year. They provided each employee with individual recycling bins and participate in Hewlett Packard's ink cartridge recycling program. A commitment to be as paperless as possible involved electronic faxes, direct deposit payroll, online sales forms, and electronic communication and marketing. They diverted over 7,000 pounds of wastepaper from landfills in 2008. They also installed an in-house water filtration system to eliminate plastic water bottles. The average person will used an estimated167 plastic bottles a year which equates to a reduction of 3,340 plastic bottles by the employees.





"At Blue Oak Energy, we are committed to protecting our planet's natural resources. We work to minimize waste in our day-to-day operations as well as support grassroots environmental work."

-Blue Oak Energy



Contact Information: Tara McDermott Blue Oak Energy 4614 Second Street Davis, CA 95618 Phone: 530-747-2026 www.blueoakenergy.com

PROUD PARTNERS INCLUDE:

California Environmental Protection Agency









STATE OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMIS

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD | LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY | BERKELEY INSTITUTE OF THE ENVIRONMENT CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION | NEXT 10 | CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION