

CASE STUDY

Oct 2017

COOLCALIFORNIA CLIMATE LEADER

McCown + Evans San Francisco, CA

Migrating to a Green Way of Business



Attorney Erin Elskes and Immigration Paralegal & Green Program Manager Andrea Gulyas of McCown + Evans, LLP are presented the 2016 Climate Leader Award by Jon Costantino, owner of Tradesman Advisors, Inc., and Richard Corey, Executive Office of the California Air Resources Board.

McCown & Evans LLP is an immigration law firm that provides legal and counseling services to U.S. and global immigration clients from all over the world. In doing so, they aim to practice and promote sustainability to protect environmental health. The company takes pride in becoming the first immigration boutique law firm to be certified as a San Francisco Green Business.

McCown & Evans LLP strives to keep their office environmentally friendly by supporting videoconference meetings, and encouraging employees to make out-of-office pledges such as taking public transportation to and from work.

The office is only equipped with ENERGY STAR certified copiers, printers, computers, monitors, and even their refrigerator. A local vendor recycles and reuses their printer toner cartridges, which has saved them between \$666 and \$3,600 each year. Staff also participate in a biannual e-waste event to promote the recycling of used electronics and batteries.



Many McCown + Evans employees bike to work.

BUSINESS SNAPSHOT

McCown and Evans LLP is committed to reducing their carbon footprint and continually improving their environmental performance.

Green Actions:

- Certified San Francisco Green Business
- ENERGY STAR certified equipment
- Motion sensor energy efficient lighting and LED exit signs
- Work in LEED Platinum building

Estimated Annual Savings:

- \$666 to \$3,600 for recycling toner cartridges
- \$350,000 for 100% Commuter Checks Program participation in lieu of driving
- \$90,000 for Skype conferencing with attorneys



CoolCalifornia.org
CLIMATE LEADER

To promote the use of public transportation, McCown & Evans pays for employee public transit passes through the commuter checks program. Now instead of driving, all 20 employees commute to work via public transit or by bike. Collectively, this has eliminated vehicle emissions from a grand total of 118,000 miles that would have been driven which equates to approximately \$350,000 in gas alone, not including bridge tolls and parking.



Staff always put food waste into the office composting bin.

The company also encourages attorneys and clients to participate in Skype conferences rather than traveling to the office by car which reduces an additional average of 600 miles or \$1,800 per week, totaling up to \$90,000 a year just for their attorneys.

Furthermore, the company uses other local services such as JetSet Courier, a bike messenger company, to deliver documents for signatures instead of FedEx delivery trucks whenever possible. Staff also regularly participate in programs such as the San Francisco Emergency Ride Home and Spare the Air.



Employees gather around the "green board" to make additional pledges.

All of McCown & Evans' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have cumulatively saved over \$450,000. These efforts have earned them First Place in the San Francisco Pyramid Center's Carbon Footprint Contest in 2010.

"We continue to push limits and look for new ways to uphold our pledges to waste reduction, conservation, and alternative transportation."

- Kelly McCown, McCown + Evans

MCCOWN + EVANS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Andrea Gulyas
Immigration Paralegal &
Green Program Manager
505 Sansome Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-432-5300
<http://www.mccownevans.com>
andrea@mccownevans.com