# CoolCalifornia.org Simple steps for a sustainable future

## SMALL BUSINESS CASE STUDY

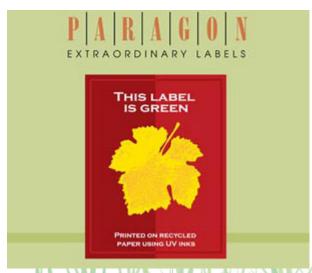
# Paragon Label & Mrs. Grossmans

San Francisco, California

#### **Committed to Expanding Sustainability**

Petaluma-based label printing enterprise and sticker manufacturer, Paragon Label and Mrs. Grossmans, are committed to producing the highest quality products for their customers in the most sustainable manner possible. Paragon Label and Mrs. Grossmans have been involved in conserving and recycling for more than a decade. Their green business philosophy is to continually improve and seek out innovative new options to reduce their carbon footprint.

Through their proven leadership role in sustainable practices, Paragon Label and Mrs. Grossmans goal is to consistently have a positive impact on their employees, customers, community and planet. Their mission includes assisting all who come in contact with their companies to improve and expand their own sustainable efforts. By working together as one united community, they are supporting the economy and protecting the environment.



"It's no longer an option but a commitment that all of us will strive to go beyond what is required to keep our planet strong and healthy."

- Paragon Label

#### **Business Snapshot**

This label-making business works closely with their paper vendors to provide papers that are either tree-free or have high post consumer recycled-content in them.

#### **Climate Actions**

- Recycles 370,000 pounds of pressure-sensitive paper each year
- 100% of matrix and setup paper is recycled
- Uses water-based inks, low in VOC (volatile organic compounds)
- 72,000 gallons of water is treated at in-house facility
- Upgraded their film and plate making process to a digital system
- Installed on-demand energy-saving air compressor
- Installed fluorescent motion sensor warehouse lighting
- Installed low-flush valves and low-flow faucet aerators in all the bathrooms

#### **Estimated Yearly Savings**

- 20% reduction in energy use from 2005 to 2009
- Recycles 185 tons of paper per year



Company president Jason Grossman receives the Sustainable North Bay Award from Assemblyman Jared Huffman.

### **Award Winning Actions**

### What Actions Do Paragon Label & Mrs Grossmans Take to Recycle?

The label company recycles 370,000 pounds of pressure-sensitive paper each year, which is 100 percent of their matrix and setup paper. Because of their efforts, they are preventing more than 185 tons of paper going into landfills each year.

### What Actions Do Paragon Label & Mrs GrossmansTake to Stay Eco Friendly?

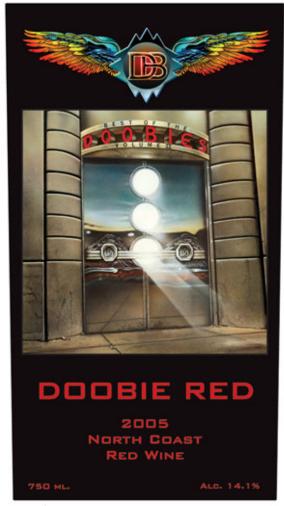
They use water-based inks, low in VOC (volatile organic compounds). The eco-friendly company also stretches its efforts by consistently producing less than half the VOC emissions allowed by law. Paragon labels also upgraded their film and plate making process to a digital system, which eliminated approximately 900 gallons of chemicals high in VOCs.

### What Actions Do Paragon Label & Mrs Grossmans Take to Clean Waste?

About 72,000 gallons of water is treated in their in-house facility. Any trapped solids from their waste-water is shipped to an approved EPA disposal center and does not re-enter the environment.

### What Actions Do Paragon Label & Mrs Grossmans Take to Conserve Resources?

The company installed on-demand energy-saving air compressor as well as a fluorescent motion sensor warehouse lightning. In addition, they installed low-flush valves, low-flow faucet aerators in all the bathrooms.



One of Paragon Label's award winning wine labels.

"Now, as our two companies head into the end of the first decade of the 21st century we are even more committed to being involved, accountable and dedicated to sustainable practices."

-Paragon Label & Mrs. Grossmans

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