

CASE STUDY

June 2016



COOLCALIFORNIA CLIMATE LEADER

Santa Barbara Airbus Goleta CA

Moving People Towards Greener Transportation and Sustainable Business Operations



Bart Croes presenting the Climate Leader Award to Eric Onnen, CEO of Santa Barbara Airbus.

Santa Barbara (SB) Airbus is a transportation company that has implemented model green business measures in all areas of their operations. They use a water-conserving electric Eco-Power Brush and biodegradable soap when cleaning buses. Their energy and water bills are kept low by using LED lighting, motion detectors, low-flow fixtures, drought resistant landscaping, and a hybrid electric water heater. They installed 134 solar panels on the roof of their headquarters building that should pay for itself in 5-7 years while meeting 75% of their electric power needs.

Additionally, SB Airbus reduces their waste in many ways. They discourage the use of disposable paper products and provide reusable dishware for food and drink consumption. The employees manage a small vegetable garden and started a composting program using food waste. They redesigned their Daytrip Calendar from a glossy 10 page newsletter to an electronic version, thereby reducing the amount of paper used by tens of thousands of pages every year.



The headquarters of Santa Barbara Airbus gathers most of its electric power needs from the 134 solar panels installed on the rooftops.

BUSINESS SNAPSHOT

Santa Barbara Airbus is a transportation company that provides day trips, charters, and scheduled service to the Los Angeles airport (LAX) and other regional destinations.

Sustainable Business Features:

- Electric Eco-Power Brush that is used when washing buses
- Vegetable garden and compost managed by employees
- LED lighting and light motion detectors
- 134 solar panels on the headquarters building
- Drought resistant landscaping
- ENERGY STAR hybrid electric water heater

Cost Savings:

- Cash rewards are offered to employees that use alternative transportation
- Signs are posted in the office to remind employees to conserve energy
- Training on green business practices is required for all employees
- Monthly Daytrip Calendar was redesigned as an electronic newsletter
- Recycling program was implemented for bus passengers
- Purchasing was centralized to eliminate unnecessary purchases



SB Airbus also implemented a very successful waste reduction program that includes reusing envelopes and shipping boxes, and placing recycling containers in convenient locations for use by staff and bus passengers.

SB Airbus goes beyond solely being a transportation provider and encourages alternative transportation for its employees and community. The majority of SB Airbus employees walk, ride the bus, skate, or bike to work. The office provides on-site bike storage, showers, and locker facilities for their bike commuters and offers cash rewards to employees that use alternative forms of transportation. Moreover, SB Airbus participates in the local Traffic Solutions Emergency Ride Home Program for Santa Barbara region employees who ride share. This creates an incentive to ride share for regional employees who are worried about not having personal transportation in case of an emergency.



Santa Barbara Airbus CEO tending to the garden outside the company's office.

SB Airbus is a certified Santa Barbara County Green Business that is recognized for its sustainable actions by the community. All employees are trained in SB Airbus' green practices and give tours and lectures about their practices to K-12 and college students. The company also assists other local businesses in getting certified through the Santa Barbara County Green Business Program and provides bus transportation to the annual awards ceremony. Through the service they provide, SB Airbus takes cars off the roads and reduces traffic and vehicle emissions; through the green actions they take, they are a role model for other businesses!



Using their company for the benefit of others, Santa Barbara provides bus transportation to the annual Santa Barbara Green Business Awards ceremony.

“In one of our biggest investments to reduce our carbon footprint, we are excited to announce that we made the leap to take advantage of the many benefits of solar energy. Late in 2015, we had Brighten Solar Company install 134 solar panels and four solar inverters on our maintenance facility roof. The system is projected to generate 75% of our electric needs with a payback estimated to be within 5-7 years on the investment.”

- Eric Onnen, CEO, Santa Barbara Airbus



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