

## LAW OFFICES GOING GREEN

by *Shandra L. Todd*

Law offices use a lot of paper. Between discovery, the number of filings needed for a case and copies for notice, a law office can generate tons of documents. Although the legal world has not yet become entirely electronic, there have been technological advances to ease the use of so much paper, such as e-filing, electronic notice and sending PDF rather than hard copy documents.

Luckily, there is a way the legal community can make a huge impact and lead by example. By becoming a California Certified Green Business, legal businesses can implement practices that will lead to a healthier community. This is a great way to show that legal professionals care about sustainability by making small changes to conserve resources, reduce waste and prevent pollution.

Here's how you can get started. Most cities have a local Green Business Coordinator to help guide you through the process. For Ventura, Lars Davenport will walk you through the registration process and discuss any steps that need to be taken. These changes are nothing daunting. Minor steps may include, energy efficient light bulbs, buying recycled paper, printing double-sided for hard copy notices, placing recycle receptacles in the lunchroom, switching to non-toxic cleaners and hiring local vendors. The law office for which I work got certified as a green business almost without even trying and at no cost.

Businesses will get connected with rebates including a \$500 rebate for any updates needed on the checklist. Businesses that become certified are recognized by ceremony at the City Council meeting, posted on the city's social media and placement on a statewide green business directory. Once certified, you can proudly display the logo stating your office is a California Certified Green Business on your window and/or your website. For more information and to create a greener community look up your local city's Green Business Certification Program or go to <https://greenbusinessca.org>.

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