Business Name	
Contact	
Phone Number	

MONTEREY BAY AREA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Supplemental Checklist: Landscaping

The following measures are intended to supplement those in the Minimum Measures and Office/Retail checklist. In addition to completing the Minimum Measures and Office/Retail checklist, this checklist must also be completed prior to certification.

Remember, the program offers free, non-enforcement, technical assistance to help meet the criteria. We will send out professional technical staff to assist you in meeting the energy, water, resource conservation, and pollution prevention requirements.

- On line applications are now being accepted for businesses located in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Please visit: http://www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org/HowToBecomeGr.html to fill out an application.
- For businesses located in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County, Scotts Valley, and Capitola, or Watsonville call (831) 477-3976 or email: greenbusiness@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
- For businesses located in Monterey County, call Monterey County Environmental Health at (831) 755-4579 or email: NapalanJA@co.monterey.ca.us
- For businesses located in the City of Santa Cruz, call (831) 420-5160 or email: shealy@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us

Green Business Checklist

Business must meet compliance with regulatory requirements as well as all of the criteria outlined below to obtain Green Business Status, except where a choice is given. If a certain section does not apply to your business, mark it with N/A for Not Applicable. For instance, if there are no company owned vehicles mark that section N/A.

A. Pollution Prevention

Perform 10 of the following measures.

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ "Grasscycle" as often as possible. This practice helps maintain lush turf without using synthetic chemicals.
2. ☐☐ Reduce fertilizer and pesticide runoff by adjusting spray irrigation from landing on hardscape and programming irrigation runtimes to accommodate soil and slope characteristics,
3. ☐☐ Phase out the scheduled application of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Fertilize lightly with an organic fertilizer or slow release synthetic fertilizers after a soil analysis or demonstrated need.
4. ☐☐ Use all of these environmentally-sound fertilizing practices:

- Use compost to amend and enrich soil.
- Apply fertilizer sparingly based on soil fertility, as well as plant need.
- Use natural fertilizers or slow release fertilizers, such as sulfur- or polymer-coated urea.
- Fertilize turf moderately with slow release fertilizers only as needed.

5. ☐☐ Control pests through Integrated Pest Management. (http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/cao/2006-7_IPM.pdf)
6. ☐☐ Reduce potential pest problems by planting a variety of species rather than a monoculture.
7. ☐☐ Limit habitat and breeding areas for rodents, mosquitoes, and flies (eliminate ivy, wood and debris piles, animal waste, fallen fruit, standing water).
8. ☐☐ Use natural herbicides and beneficial nematodes. (http://www.eco-gardening.com/mowerslawn-care/natural-herbicides-and-pesticides.php)
9. ☐☐ Use climate appropriate, hardy, pest-resistant plants to avoid fertilizers and chemical pest control. Consult the WUCOLS (Waste Use Classifications of Landscape Species) list to determine which drought-tolerant species grow best in your area.
10. ☐☐ Spray compost tea for disease management and nutrient cycling.
11. ☐☐ Discontinue the use of weed and feed formulations.
12. ☐☐ Change chemical spaying frequency from periodic to "as required."
13. ☐☐ Use proper pruning technique (make cuts just outside the branch collar so no stubs are left to die back, encouraging infection or insect infestation); prune conservatively.
14. ☐☐ Hand-pull weeds when possible.
15. ☐☐ Upgrade your two-stroke mowing engine to a four-stroke cycle engine, which has lower emissions and better fuel efficiency.
16. ☐☐ Keep gas mowers well-tuned and in good repair so they run cleaner.
17. ☐☐ Consider electric mowers. Riding electric mowers are now used at putting greens on golf courses.
18. ☐☐ Compost grass clippings on site. They are a natural source of nitrogen and readily decompose, especially when mixed with carbon-rich materials such as dry leaves.
19. ☐☐ Don't use pesticides that make clippings undesirable in compost or as mulch. Picloram and Clopyrlid are especially resistant to decomposition and are no longer available for use on turf.
20. ☐☐ Avoid these problematic products:
    - Highly persistent or highly toxic pesticides.
    - Broad-spectrum insecticides (e.g., chlorpyrifos & diazinon).
    - Herbicides with clopyralids or picloram which persist in compost.
21. ☐☐ Use your client's green waste container if available.
22. ☐☐ Separate clippings for recycling at a transfer station or landfill and receive a discount for clean green loads.
23. ☐☐ Other _____

<u>Reduce chemical use in 4 ways.</u>

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Evaluate chemical inventory and purchase the least toxic pesticides, solvents, paints, janitorial supplies etc., available. Avoid pesticides that are highly persistent or highly toxic. Use materials labeled 'CAUTION' rather than 'DANGER' and 'WARNING' when possible.
2. ☐☐ Track chemicals with expiration dates and use 'first-in, first-out' policy.
3. ☐☐ Educate customers about the impacts of client activities on storm water run-off. Provide examples.
4. ☐☐ Upon request, provide client with information on pesticide application.
5. ☐☐ Other _____

<u>Prevent storm water run-off in 3 ways:</u>

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

☐☐ Schedule excavation and grading projects for the dry weather season.

C. Solid Waste Reduction

Complete at least 6 items within sections A, and B below.

A. Waste Reduction in Landscape/Design

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Incorporate into design the protection of established trees (and their root zones) and native soils.
2. ☐☐ Ensure that any soil amendments are consistent with soil analysis.
3. ☐☐ Exclude clauses in contracts requiring all plant trimmings be removed from the site.
4. ☐☐ Space plants properly (avoid over-planting which results in excess pruning, possible plant removal and generation of excessive green waste).
5. ☐☐ Use plants that will not grow too large for their space and use trees and shrubs that do not require frequent shearing.
6. ☐☐ Plant species that are appropriate for the microclimates; they will be healthier and need less frequent removal and replacing.
7. ☐☐ Do not use invasive plant species (e.g. scotch, french or spanish broom).
8. ☐☐ Save soil for use at a different site.
9. ☐☐ Save construction-related waste, such as PVC pipe/fittings, for reuse at a different site.

B. Landscape Maintenance

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Turf Management – grasscycle, coordinating irrigation and mowing schedules to avoid mowing wet grass. Mow over light leaf fall and use the mixture as mulch. Topdress turf with compost made from yard/landscape waste material or use slow release fertilizers such as sulfur or polymer coated urea.
2. ☐☐ Compost on site.
3. ☐☐ Prune conservatively to maintain shrub/tree health, natural form/shape and reduce green waste generation.
4. ☐☐ Allow leaves to stay on the ground under the tree drip line or use as mulch (in areas where leaves will not enter storm water drains).
5. ☐☐ Other _____

Reuse materials in 4 ways:

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Reuse all woodchips and/or green waste for use as mulch.
2. ☐☐ Reuse lumber and wood or advertise through CALMAX.
3. ☐☐ Mill large trees.
4. ☐☐ Reuse soil at a different site, stockpile for later use.
5. ☐☐ Reuse other construction related waste (e.g. PVC Pipe/Fittings).
6. ☐☐ Remodeling/construction materials: cabinets, fixtures, ceramic and ceiling tiles, drywall, insulation, interior paneling, composite lumber/wood, roofing, concrete, etc.
7. ☐☐ Other _____

D. Water Conservation

In addition to the measures found in the General Water Conservation Measures and Practices section in the Minimum Measures and Office Retail checklist complete at least *ten* of the following measures at all jobsites.

Plant Selection and Landscape Design

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Use low and medium water use plants such as native & Mediterranean plants.
2. ☐☐ Use hydrozoning; group plants with similar water needs on the same irrigation valve.
3. ☐☐ Use mulch (at least 2 inches deep) in all non-turf planted areas.
4. ☐☐ Use design elements that prevent water run off.
5. ☐☐ Other: _____

Irrigation Systems Design and Maintenance

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

1. ☐☐ Use professionally certified irrigation technicians and/or landscape water managers to install and maintain the irrigation system.
2. ☐☐ Assess/test soil to determine percolation and water holding capacity. .
3. ☐☐ Install drip irrigation systems. Replace existing overhead spray with low volume irrigation where possible.
4. ☐☐ Use reclaimed water for irrigation and other approved uses.
5. ☐☐ Install check valves to eliminate low head drainage.
6. ☐☐ Install rain shut-off devices.
7. ☐☐ Install irrigation controllers that have at a minimum the following features:
    - precise minute runtime capability
    - a minimum of 3 separate programs
    - 3 cycle start time features.
    - Non volatile memory
8. ☐☐ Reduce irrigation system water pressure to no higher than 50 psi (pressure-reducing valves must be installed to do this). A pressure reducer could also be used at the point of connection to accomplish this.
9. ☐☐ Install a self-adjusting weather-based irrigation controller that generates watering schedules to match local weather, plant types, and other site-specific conditions. Controller must be certified under the Irrigation Association's SWAT protocol.
10. ☐☐ Turf areas do not exceed 20% of the total irrigated landscape square footage. Space sprinkler heads such that the water from one sprinkler head reaches the adjacent sprinkler heads.
11. ☐☐ Other: _____

Landscape Maintenance

(Before GB program)(After GB program)

Irrigation Scheduling and Management

1. ☐☐ Install matched precipitation rate sprinkler heads in turf areas.
2. ☐☐ Test irrigation sprinklers 4 times per year to ensure proper operation and coverage and repair all broken or defective sprinkler heads/nozzles, lines and valves.
3. ☐☐ Adjust sprinklers for proper coverage—optimize spacing, avoid runoff onto paved surfaces.
4. ☐☐ Water during early morning, pre-dawn hours to reduce water loss from evaporation.
5. ☐☐ Use repeat cycles when watering turf or shrubs to encourage percolation and deep root growth.
6. ☐☐ Adjust the irrigation schedule monthly during irrigation season, or as needed.
7. ☐☐ Develop a site-specific "water budget." Your water provider or a certified landscape water manager can assist in this task. Track your water use to ensure efficient watering.
8. ☐☐ Other _____

E. Employee Awareness

1. ☐☐ Using this packet, provide annual trainings to your employees on best practices in landscape installation and maintenance.
2. ☐☐ Possess a Green certification through either:
   (1) The Green Gardener Program (http://www.green-gardener.org)
   (2) Monterey Bay Master Gardeners (http://www.montereybaymastergardeners.org/)

F. Compliance Checks

1. ☐ Business possesses a current California landscape contractor's license (C-27) from the California State License Board (CSLB) and has not received any significant violations within the past year.

- *Visit CSLB at www.cslb.ca.gov for more information and study exam guides.* Verification Method (1): access https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicense/LicenseRequest.asp to search for current licensees

- Verification Method (2) phone enforcement division at Contractors State License Board (800) 321-CSLB

☐ Business has not had any SIGNIFICANT health violations that have not been corrected (confirm with Environmental Health Services/Consumer Protection Agency)
☐ Business has met compliance with all storm water-related regulatory requirements (confirm with Environmental Health Services/Certified Unified Program Agency and regional Publicly Owned Treatment Works [POTW])
☐ Business has met compliance with all wastewater-related regulatory requirements (confirm with regional POTW Pretreatment Programs)

All criteria have been met as of the following date: _____

Signature of authorized Green Business Program Coordinator:

_____

Printed Name:_____