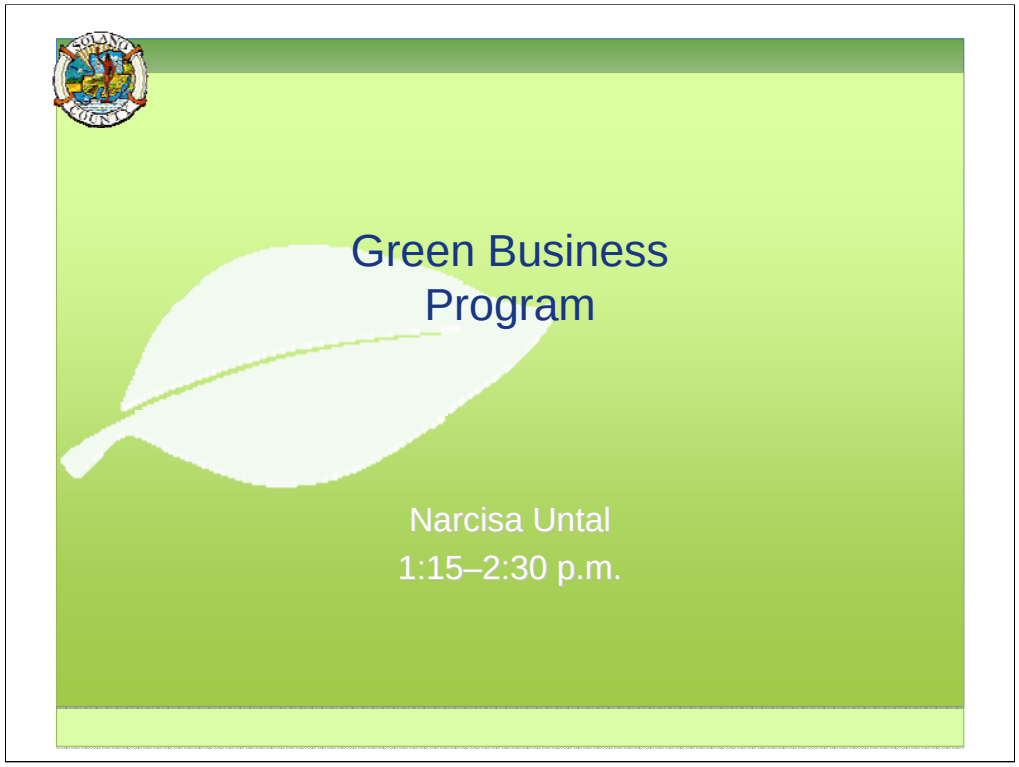


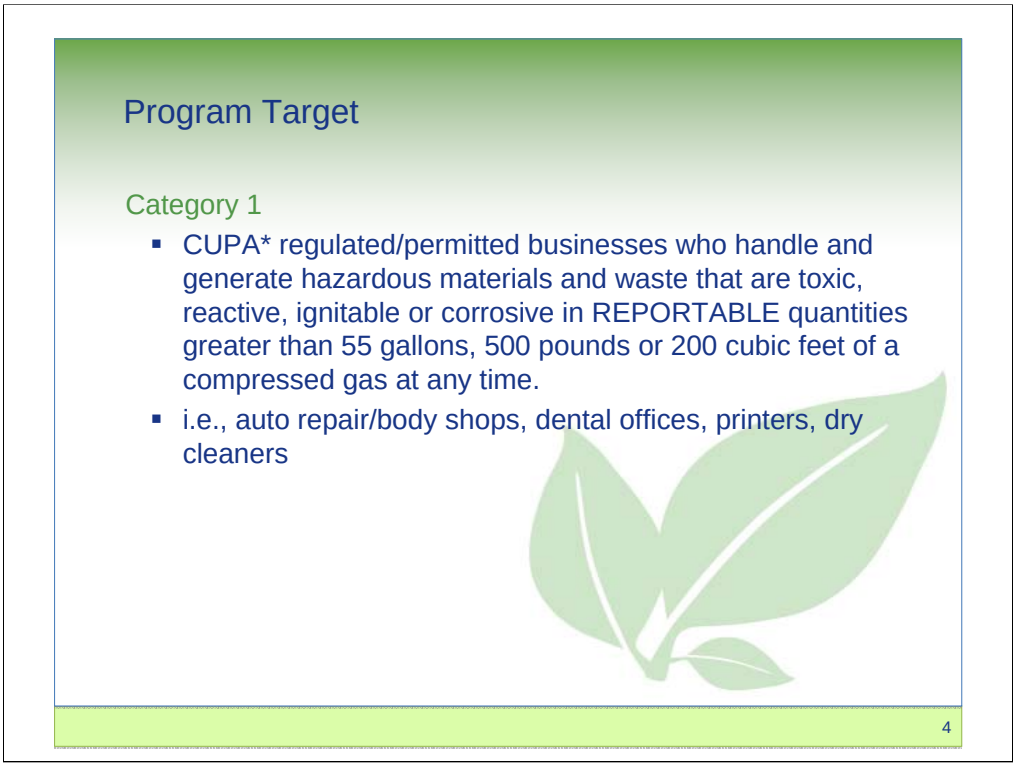
Welcome to the session on the Green Business Program.

A business conducts a self-audit using the GBP's resource conservation and p2 checklist specific to the business' industry then agrees to site visits from the respective agencies in each of the checklist's four areas for verification. After verification, the business is awarded its decal to display proudly. If not, technical assistance is provided by agency reps. and the business is encouraged to re-apply after suggested measures are implemented.

This program is not intended to shut-down a business, but rather provide them with the technical assistance in the areas needed to continue living their dream. We know that this County strongly believes in the entrepreneurial spirit of our citizens so this program's aim is to interface with government in a positive-manner, help them realize the net effect on their operating costs, and demonstrate their commitment to the social responsibility within their community.

Agency partners include:

- Solano County
- Cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo
- Air Districts
- Water Agencies
- PG&E
- Garbage Haulers
- Wastewater Agencies



Solano County's Resource Management Department is the CUPA for all cities and unincorporated areas within the county.

Haz Mat conducted a review of those businesses due for inspection and then selected 10 who had a consistent compliance history

9 active applicants (5 in Rio Vista and 4 in Suisun City – one recently abandoned application in Dixon because the owner is selling)

There are approximately 1,700 businesses subject to CUPA permitting and inspections. Staff recommends Year One of the pilot program target the top 1% of the small-to-medium sized

CUPA businesses that are at or near regulatory compliance. County facilities would also be included in this segment.

In the latter part of Year One, staff will provide a status report to the Board prior to budget hearings.

Benefits in targeting this group:

1.

Program Target (continued)

Category 2

- Businesses who handle and generate hazardous materials and waste in quantities BELOW the regulated/permitted thresholds.
- i.e., restaurants, cafes, hotels, retail stores

Category 3

- Businesses that do not use or handle hazardous material or wastes but implement environmentally-friendly practices and measures voluntarily.
- i.e., florists, homeopathy

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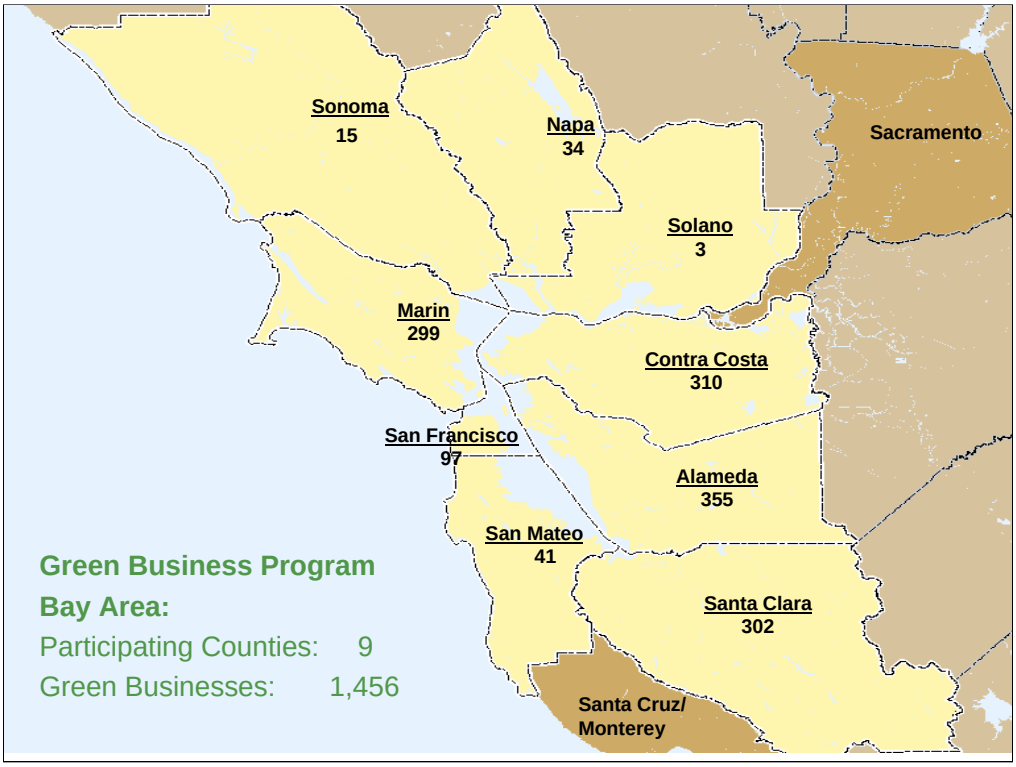
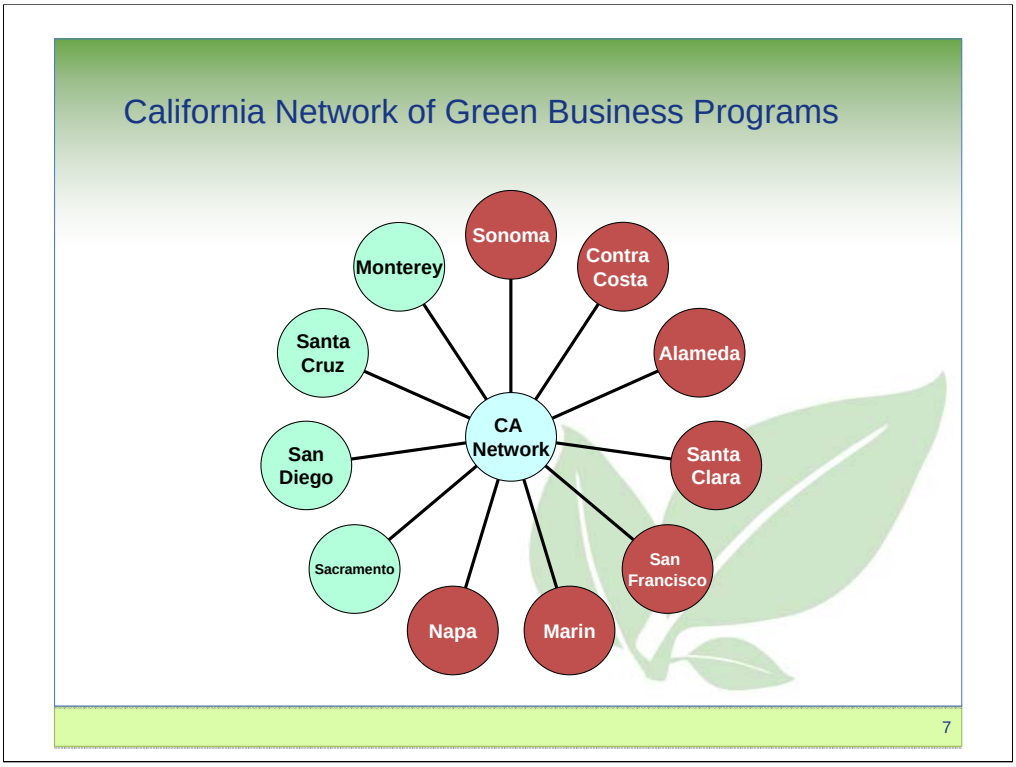
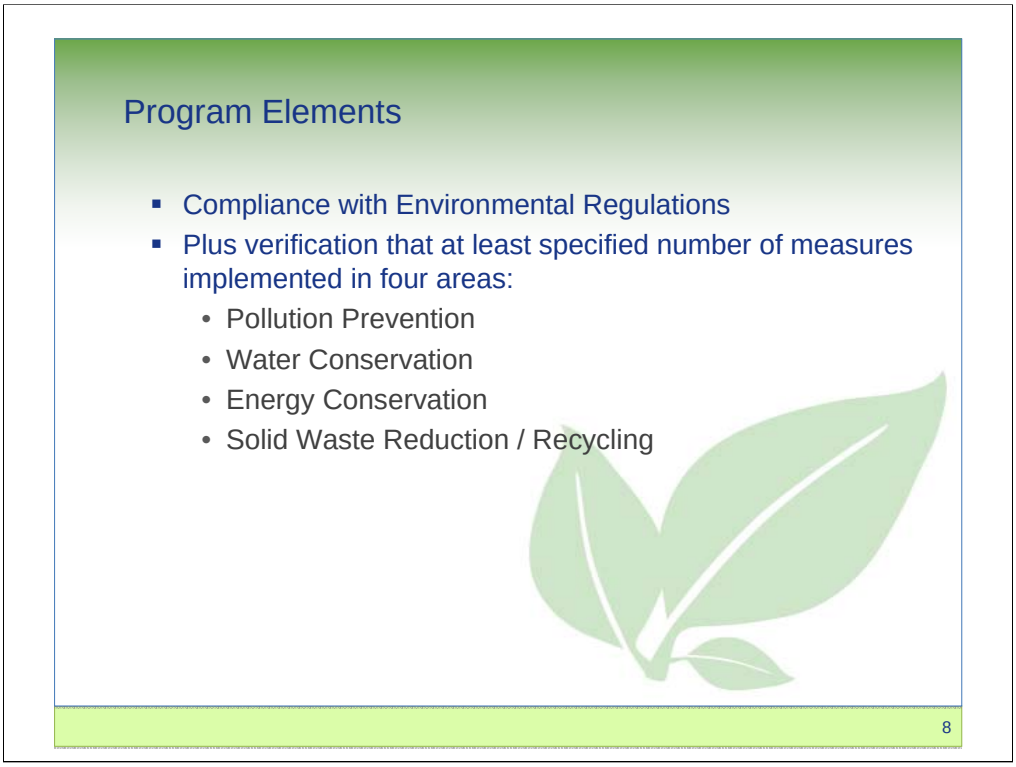
These businesses would be addressed in Year Two of the pilot program.



There are nine participating counties in the Bay Area Green Business Program.
There are currently 1,456 Green Businesses.



Many California counties participate in the network of Green Business Programs.



Program elements include compliance with Environmental Regulations, plus verification that at least there is a specified number of measures implemented in four areas:

- Pollution Prevention
- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation
- Solid Waste Reduction / Recycling

Checklists describe standards and list recommended practices for these industries:

- Auto Body
- Auto Repair Shops/Dealers
- Dental
- Garment Cleaners
- Printers
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Landscapers
- Office / Retail
- Wineries

A General Standards checklist is available for businesses that do not fit an industry-specific checklist.

At this time, I'd like to introduce from the audience:

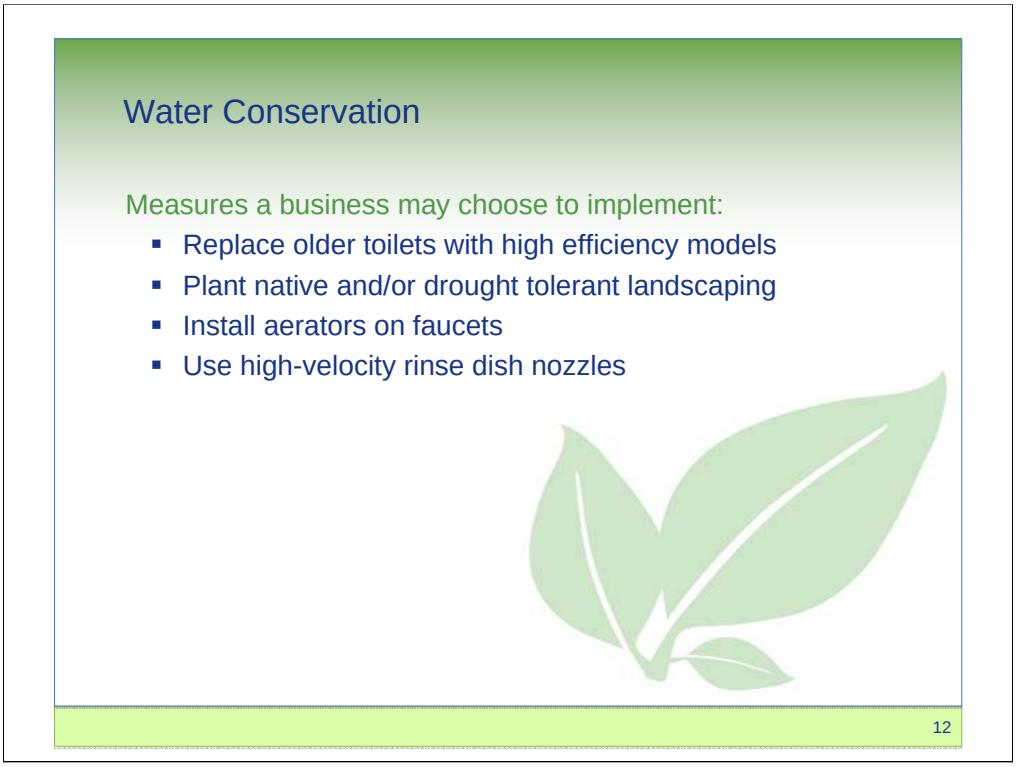
1. From General Services, Jason Campbell is here to answer questions in relation to the audit status of county facilities.

2. From Resource Mgmt, Terry Schmidtbauer – Environmental Health Manager and Matt Geisert – Hazardous Materials Section Supervisor will answer any CUPA-related questions

3. And finally, on her 4th visit to Solano County in six months, Ceil Scandone is an ABAG Sr. Regional Planner assigned as staff to the Facility Allocation Committee and is the Regional Bay Area Green Business Coordinator. After her presentation to this Board in October 2006, she flew down to San Diego just in time to be awarded the winner of the 2006 Pollution Prevention Champion of the Year for her leadership in developing and coordinating the ABAG Green Business Program. Ceil is here to take any questions regarding the Program.

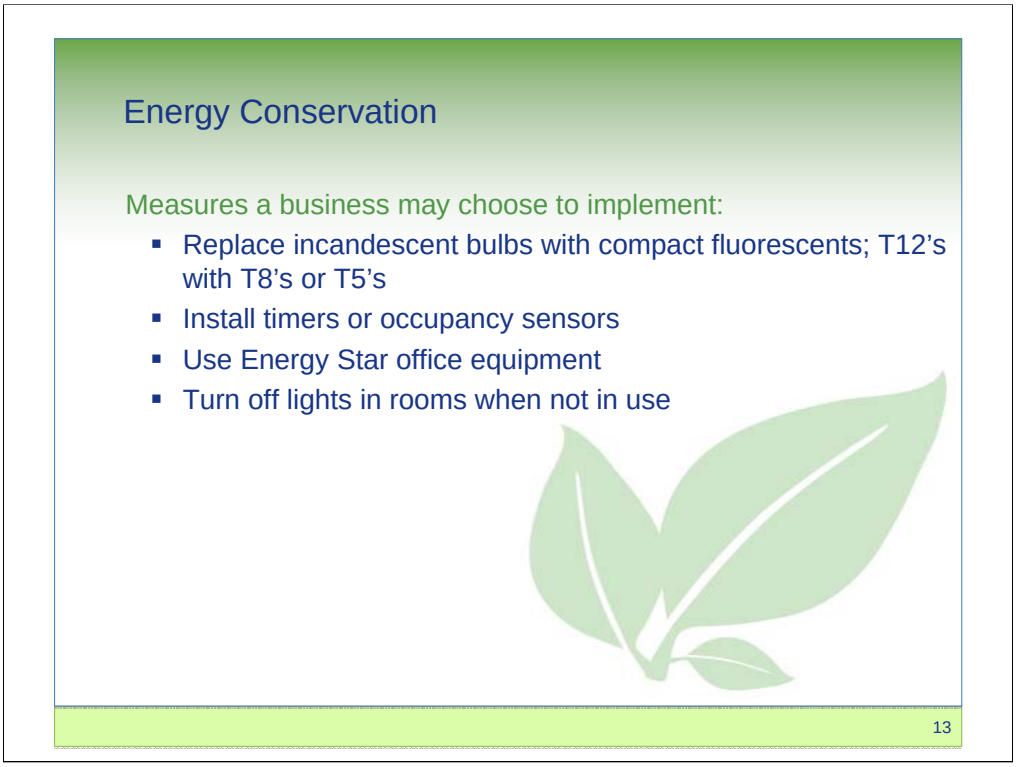
Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Use least-toxic products available
- Store hazardous materials securely and rotate to use oldest material first
- Use “dry” cleanup methods for spills
- Recycle/reuse antifreeze onsite



Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Replace older toilets with high efficiency models
- Plant native and/or drought tolerant landscaping
- Install aerators on faucets
- Use high-velocity rinse dish nozzles



Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents; T12's with T8's or T5's
- Install timers or occupancy sensors
- Use Energy Star office equipment
- Turn off lights in rooms when not in use

Measures a business may choose to implement:

- Recycle paper, cardboard, containers, etc.
- Purchase recycled content products
- Set printers and copiers to double-sided printing
- Send memos by email or post in a central location

Benefits to the business include:

- More constructive relationship with government
- Compliance assistance
- Improved access to incentives/rebates
- Roadmap for environmental improvements
- Cost savings
- Healthier workplace
- Employee motivation/productivity
- Positive recognition/PR
- Competitive edge

Partners can experience these benefits:

- Improved compliance
- Help to achieve agency P2/conservation objectives
- Facilitated ongoing education and improvement
- Businesses recruited into incentive/awards programs
- Interagency cooperation/coordination

Reducing Hazardous Waste

"Large quantity generators are highly regulated, have significant cost incentives, expertise, and the advantage of economies of scale .... Small businesses do not have this level of oversight, expertise, or economies to drive them. Often these wastes go to less secure landfills under the small quantity exemption.. (a) meaningful way to reduce hazardous waste generation in the Bay Area is to partner with small businesses in the way we have."

- Supervisor Mark Luce, Napa County and Retired Chevron Manager

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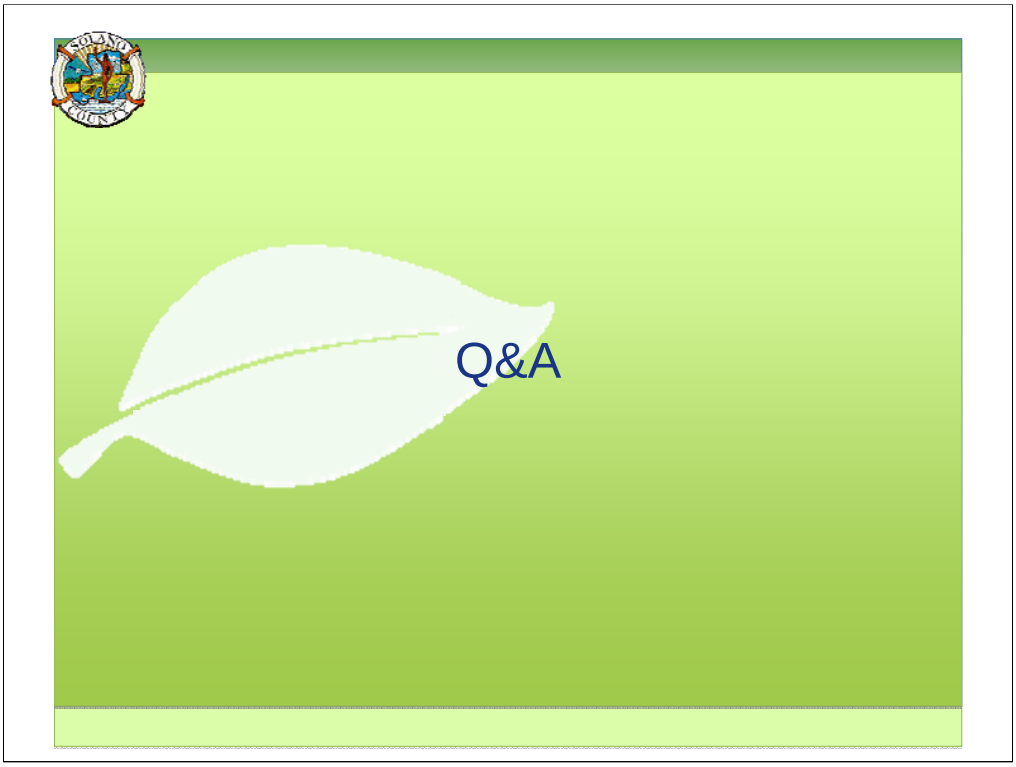
The Green Business Program helps the environment and helps small businesses stay compliant with hazardous waste disposal regulations.


Q&A