



**News Release**  
January 28, 2009



**Media Contacts:**  
Pamela Davenport  
(801) 468-2757  
Kate Lilja  
(801) 468-2268  
(801) 835-8649 cell

## **Salt Lake County Launches New Program to Help Businesses "Go Green"**

*Local business encouraged to "Go Green to Save Green"*

(Salt Lake County) – The Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) launched their new green business program today to help businesses in the valley "*Go Green to Save Green.*" The Salt Lake County Green Business program is designed to help area business with water conservation, waste management, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and sustainability efforts.

The new program was developed by the Salt Lake Valley Health Department and the Salt Lake County Mayor's office, and was influenced by Salt Lake City's e2 Business program and similar initiatives nationwide.

"The Salt Lake County Green Business program is meant to help interested businesses take the next step toward sustainability," says Jesse Millen-Johnson, Green Business Program Coordinator with SLVHD. "Our program is completely free and open to any business within Salt Lake County interested in streamlining their operations to save money and reduce their environmental impact."

The program's initial focus is on restaurant and food service industries, as they can be heavy consumers and produce staggering amounts of waste. An average restaurant uses approximately 300,000 gallons of water and generates 100,000 pounds of waste annually. Energy costs make up roughly 30 percent of a restaurant's total budget, meaning they have a lot to gain by going green.

The first participants in the program – Epic Casual Dining and Tiburon – are the 'flagship' businesses of Salt Lake County Green Business. Other initial participants include Sysco Intermountain Food Services, 3-Form Material Solutions and Sargent Steam.

Several participating business, such as Sysco Intermountain, already have impressive projected savings. "Sysco is projected to save \$50,000 per year if they can meet their goal of a 10% reduction in electricity use," explains Millen-Johnson. To meet that goal, along with other energy conservation targets, Sysco has retrofitted their warehouse with fluorescent lights and installed motion detectors for those lights. They have also reduced their company-wide speed limit to 60 mph to save gas and implemented their own "green team" of employees to encourage greener behaviors from within.

-MORE-

During today's event, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon introduced the Green Business program. Millen-Johnson discussed the specific ways businesses can help the environment, the economy and their bottom line.

“‘Going Green’ doesn’t have to be an intimidating process,” says Millen-Johnson. “In fact, there are simple steps any business can take today to reduce their environmental impact, such as recycling, switching to fluorescent light bulbs, using non-toxic cleaning products, making sustainable purchasing decisions, purchasing renewable energy credits and installing low-flow water devices.”

Participating businesses receive one-on-one consultation with a member of the Salt Lake County Green Business team. They will also get assistance developing a unique list of simple goals for the coming year. Possible goals include: reducing water use, trash hauls, electricity and pollution, as well as becoming a more sustainable business overall.

Additional information, including the program application, is available at [www.slvhealth.org](http://www.slvhealth.org) or by contacting Millen-Johnson at (801) 313-6714 or [jmjohnson@slco.org](mailto:jmjohnson@slco.org)

###