

## Hospital Systems earns 'Green Business' certification

Being certified as a “green” business not only demonstrates a company’s positive environmental stewardship efforts, but also can support customers’ efforts to earn important accolades as well.



Premier contracted supplier Hospital Systems, Inc., Pittsburg, CA, embarked on its certification quest several years ago.

Hospital Systems develops, designs and manufactures patient care headwalls, consoles, bedhead units, neonatal care systems, isolated power systems and accessories.

“We’ve always been an environmentally conscious company. We’ve always recycled, but we’ve been becoming more and more proactive,” said Becca Miller, vice president. “Then, we began looking at our internal use of natural resources like energy and water, as well as the way we manufactured our products and how we could make them more environmentally friendly.”

After an exhaustive application process, Hospital Systems earned its green business certification in November 2006 from the State of California Bay Area Green Business Program ([www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov](http://www.greenbiz.abag.ca.gov)).

The program verifies that businesses meet higher standards of environmental performance, and partners with government agencies and utilities to help local businesses comply with all environmental regulations and take actions to conserve resources, prevent pollution, and minimize waste. The organization boasts that it offers “motivated” businesses and agencies an easy-to-use framework for improving environmental performance.

Developed by local governments in collaboration with the U.S. EPA, state EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control and the business community, the Bay Area Green Business Program has certified more than 1,000 businesses and public agencies since 1997.

What does it mean...  
to be Green?



Bay Area Green Business Program  
Environmental Values At Work



After an exhaustive application process, Hospital Systems earned its green business certification in November 2006 from the State of California Bay Area Green Business Program.

The Green Business Program recognizes businesses that comply with all environmental regulations and take positive steps to conserve natural resources, prevent pollution, and reduce waste.

The program said its members benefit by being recognized as environmental leaders, can strengthen their bottom line through operating efficiencies, improve employee morale and workplace health and even gain a marketing edge over their competition. Certified business must comply with applicable environmental regulations, use the Green Business checklist to select and record measures to conserve resources and prevent pollution, and pledge to stay green.

### **Positive steps**

As a result of its decisions to make more environmentally conscious products, Hospital Systems does not use any hazardous materials in manufacturing, uses water-based glues, and packages all of its products with recycled material (inside packaging is 100 percent recycled, while outside packaging is approximately 70 percent recycled).

Other environmental initiatives Hospital Systems has undertaken include:

- Solid waste recycling.
- Hazardous waste reduction and recycling, including extruded plastic produced during manufacturing.
- Pollution prevention programs.
- Energy conservation programs.
- Hazardous material reduction efforts, including a switch to biodegradable cleaning supplies.
- Use of recycled paper in corporate offices.
- Regular energy audits and use of energy efficient lighting.

Hospital Systems also is proud of the fact that its efforts provide benefits to its customers. “People are more and more interested in the products they buy and whether they are environmentally friendly or were made using environmentally conscious manufacturing processes,” said Miller.

For example, buying environmentally friendly products can help hospitals achieve certifications from The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings’ performance. LEED also promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

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