



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



21105 Golf Estates Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20882-1942
301-404-1946
www.MAHCC.org
Nonprofit
Member since April 2012

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

See <http://www.mahcc.org/environmental-policy-statement.html>.

Almost since its incorporation in the State of Maryland in 2002, the MAHCC has been committed to decreasing its footprint on the environment and encouraging its members and contractors to adopt or follow its environmental guidelines. On July 20, 2011, the Board expanded and reaffirmed the existing MAHCC's environmental policy.

Environmental Team

The MAHCC is perhaps the only nonprofit business organization in the region that has developed a comprehensive policy and annual plans to improve on its environmental stewardship and encourage its members to do the same. The Chamber's environmental team is led by its President & CEO and consisted of ad hoc meetings involving contractors, consultants and members. Starting in 2011, the team has been meeting twice a year. Its mission is to ensure that the Chamber's environmental goals are met and to find creative and effective partnerships with members, contractors, nonprofit environmental organizations and relevant local and state agencies.

Annual Environmental Goals

The MAHCC strives to meet environmental goals to the extent possible in the following areas:

- Ensuring that we comply with all applicable local, state and federal environmental laws and regulations;*
- Collaborating with local, state and federal agencies to educate our members and the general public about safe environmental practices;*

- *Being good stewards of and continuously striving towards improving the health and sustainability of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries;*
- *Preventing air, water and land pollution whenever and wherever possible;*
- *Training our staff, members and other stakeholders on our environmental programs and empowering them to contribute and participate;*
- *Communicating regularly our environmental commitment and efforts to our members, staff and contractors, leased venues where we may host activities, and the communities where we work, live and play; and,*
- *Continuously improving by periodically measuring the extent of our environmental impact and by setting goals to reduce these impacts each year.*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

The primary function of the Chamber is to serve its dues-paying members (for-profit, nonprofit, government agencies, etc.), to advance solutions to intractable regional challenges (transportation, education, the health of the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries, deforestation, soil erosion, energy conservation, air pollution, etc.), and to advocate for economic, workforce and community development. Our products are services in the form of seminars, networking activities, procurement fairs, annual galas, etc. We function as a paperless office and deliver products and services electronically.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Our procurement policy is very simple: we buy certified, Energy-Star products such as computers, printers, fax machines, etc. We purchase recycled office paper, paper vs. plastic cups and plates, and we show a marked preference to provide for our meetings and events non-disposable plates and silverware to further reduce solid waste.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

The Chamber encourages its members to be actively involved in environmental restoration projects. In addition, the Chamber supports the environmental efforts of organizations such as the Montgomery County Civic Federation and has been trying to engage the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to become an educational partner. Also, the Chamber has encouraged their members to support the Maryland Adopt-a-Road program with mixed results. In 2012, the Chamber decided that it had to lead by example and plans to implement its own adopt-a-road program in selected Maryland counties.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

From February 2004 until December 2011 (7½ years), the Maryland headquarters was located at 20300 Seneca Meadows Parkway, Germantown, MD 20876. Our landlord was OBA Bank. The Chamber had the responsibility of reporting annually to the landlord the amount of solid waste generated. This requirement allowed us to develop a solid waste reduction program and monitor it closely.

One of our goals was to become a paperless office and today over 90% of our educational and communications activities are implemented through electronic communications including (email broadcasts, online newsletters, website, texting and social media. In 2011, the Chamber printed fewer than 3,000 8"x11"-pages as compared to 10,000 in 2008. This is a 66% reduction that amounts to an annual savings of \$700 and also less wear-and-tear of printers. Prior to 2011, the Chamber would have ordered from commercial sources more than 10,000 2-sided, color, printed announcement to promote procurement fairs, annual gala, business luncheons, etc. Today, the same material is sent electronically several times a month to over 4,000 people throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, a 100% decrease in postcard printing. To improve on our delivery of local and regional newsletters we entered recently into a partnership with Constant Contact, and Internet-based company that specializes in event and email marketing and online social campaigns.

Recycling

The Chamber has managed recycling programs successfully in all its offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Where recycling opportunities are not available, the Chamber sorts and transport recyclable material to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Recycling Center. In 2011, the Chamber sorted and bagged all the trash generated at events held at our former location at the OBA Bank community room and drove it to the Montgomery County Shady Grove Recycling Center for recycling and/or disposal.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

The Chamber sorts and eliminates any known or potentially hazardous waste in a responsible manner. For example, batteries, light bulbs containing mercury, leftover paints, etc., are recycled directly at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Recycling Center. Used printer toners are shipped directly to the manufacturer.

Energy



Energy Efficiency

We purchase Energy Star equipment including computers, coffee makers, etc. only. Moreover, since 2002, we have moved from less energy efficient incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs (including halogen lamps) to compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), and cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL). Late in 2011, we replaced CFLs with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) lights; thus, achieving more durable lamps, and a warmer light that improves workplace quality. So, by replacing slow-start, 60W CFLs that used 13W, lasted 1000 hours, but contained mercury, with mercury-free, instant-on, 75W LEDs that use 13.5 W, and have an average life of 25,000 hours, we believe that based on current electricity consumption we have achieved an additional 10% lower energy costs and over time, a 20-fold reduction in light bulb replacement. Since 2002, we have participated in energy conservation programs with utilities such as Pepco and stores such as Costco and Sam's Club to offer CFL and LED lights to consumers at discounted prices.

Transportation



Employee Commute

The president is provided with a pre-paid Metro SmartTrip card that allows him to park in Metro garages and move about the Greater Washington Metro area using public transportation (subway and buses). The president drives a small, 4-cylinder, energy-efficient car. Contractors and consultants are allowed to telecommute, thus reducing further the need to travel to and from Chamber offices.



Efficient Business Travel

Directors are encouraged to carpool when feasible and particularly when they travel from far away areas such as South-Central Pennsylvania, Fredericksburg, VA, or Western Maryland. Recently, we moved the location of the 2012 Board meetings from Germantown to offices located near the Rockville Metro Station to help those who would prefer to come via subway. At the same time we are discussing with vendors teleconference systems to provide remote access to those who live or work the farthest and for whom driving a car is the only practical option. The main concern is cost but, because of our size, it is difficult for us to fund the funds to pay of it.

Other



The Chamber recognizes the value of providing educational opportunities in terms of environmental protection and conservation of natural and man-made resources. Also, to strengthen its educational and conservation roles, the Chamber seeks to establish value-added partnerships with like-minded organizations. Currently, the Chamber is affiliated with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Notre Dame University – Green Build Program. In 2011, it organized with these two organizations a Green Build Conference in Washington, DC to engage member construction contractors into this new field.

The current location of the Maryland office in Gaithersburg is an 18-year-old facility built to Energy-Star standards. Chamber members will volunteer or offer services at a discount in order to increase energy and water conservation and improve on storm-water management at the facility.

We believe all the described programs and future initiatives will help the Chamber to:

- *continue lowering lower operational costs;*
- *reduce overall impact on the environment; and*
- *serve as a role model to its members, contractors and consultants.*



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

