

Green Valley Initiative seeks ecological commitments

Big Bear Grizzly

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Communities and agencies that sign on to the Green Valley Initiative pledge to address a minimum of five policy areas to form a sustainable community. According to initiative documents, these policies include:

Green building programs—Develop and support policies for LEED-certifiable commercial buildings and remodels and incorporate California Green Builder program for residences.

Buy green, buy local—Support green and local procurement preferences such as Energy Star, California Friendly and other green labels including greener fleets and electricity. Recognize organizations that purchase locally-grown and manufactured products.

Green business programs—Promote businesses that create green products, support businesses that help employees live close to work and encourage telecommuting, encourage home office and live/work spaces, recommend investment in Green Valley and local green technology and education.

Conservation and recycling—Provide recognition and awards for conservation and recommend utilities use rates to encourage conservation and alternative energy use, reduce waste generation and increase reuse or recycling programs. Reduce dependence on forest products.

Solar and alternative energy—Provide significant motivation to manufacture, deploy and locally use solar and other alternative energy. Reduce roadblocks to using and sharing excess electricity.

Encourage green economic development—Expand economic or free trade zones featuring business inducements and reducing regulatory impediments, fees or charges for green projects that provide jobs. Increase green technology and environmental science jobs in the region and transit capacity freeway alternatives to improve commute times.

Green Valley land use—Encourage land uses that provide opportunities for green technology jobs. Focus government infrastructure investments on areas where housing and jobs are coordinated to reduce traffic and emissions.

Green Valley coordinators—Identify Green Valley coordinators in each organization to collaborate, develop, organize and report on the success of efforts in the region.

For more information, visit the Green Valley Initiative Web site at www.greenvalleynow.org.