



What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business' environmental sustainability needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices positively affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

Environmental Achievement for Restaurants

Certifiably Green Denver is a voluntary and non-regulatory program that provides free educational outreach and technical assistance on a variety of environmental issues to businesses in the City and County of Denver. The primary goals of the program are to increase participation and adoption of sustainable practices to minimize use of hazardous materials, improve energy efficiency and water conservation, and decrease the use of resources and generation of waste.

Our Partners are leaders in the business community who are setting the standard for environmental sustainability.

Certification Criteria

Certifiably Green Denver has developed industry-specific criteria that target environmental issues and concerns unique to the food service and hospitality sector.

The criteria are separated into five categories: Business Management, Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Resource Management, and Transportation. **All** Core Criteria, plus **two** Electives, must be met in each category to achieve the Certifiably Green Denver certification. The elective criteria are intended to provide businesses the flexibility to take advantage of initiatives that are of most interest to them.

In order to maintain certification, businesses must continue to comply with the core criteria and complete at least one new elective criterion from each category every year. Certifiably Green Denver staff will follow-up annually with Partner businesses to ensure that they continue to meet the certification criteria, to encourage further improvement, and to lend assistance in overcoming technical issues and challenges.

How Do I Get Started?

Contact Certifiably Green Denver for more information or to get started. Program staff will visit your business to go over the certification process, benefits, and program criteria. Certifiably Green Denver would be pleased to help your business achieve full certification, or complete any of the individual components of the environmental achievement.

Call Certifiably Green Denver at 720-865-5457

Or visit our website at

www.denvergov.org/CertifiablyGreenDenver

Business Management

Sustainability has many definitions, but the basic principles and concepts remain constant: balancing economic and financial need, protecting public health and the environment, and fostering social equity to improve the quality of life for future generations and ourselves. A good first step towards making your business sustainable is getting your employees and customers involved in the process to build a culture of sustainability.

Core Criteria - Complete All

- Educate all stakeholders (employees, customers, other businesses) about your restaurant's environmental practices and the Certifiably Green Denver program and certification process.
- Verify your organization is in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, including, but not limited to the following:
 - Denver Retail Food Establishment Rules and Regulations
 - Denver Noise Ordinance**
 - Universal Waste Rules
 - Air Emission and CFC Requirements
 - Hazardous Waste Regulations
 - Stormwater Management Requirements**
 - Industrial Pretreatment and Wastewater Requirements
 - OSHA Hazard Communication - Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs).
- Conduct an annual assessment with Certifiably Green Denver to evaluate your operating practices and to identify opportunities for improving environmental practices.
- Provide Certifiably Green Denver with energy, water and waste reduction metrics on an annual basis.
- Share your environmental successes with other businesses.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Adopt a policy/mission statement that demonstrates your restaurant's commitment to environmental stewardship and communicate the policy to all employees.
- Organize a 'Green Team' to oversee and document your certification and ongoing environmental improvements.
- Recruit at least one other food service establishment to take part in the certification program or adopt sustainable practices.
- Publicize your environmental practices on your website and/or in-house display.
- Participate in a community improvement program or event.
- Provide incentives for your employees to volunteer with environmental and/or other organizations.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency means using less energy to heat and cool buildings; heat and circulate water; and operate lights, equipment, and machinery without sacrificing productivity or comfort. Energy efficiency can increase profits and improve productivity.

Core Criteria - Complete All

- Replace your furnace filters regularly to improve efficiency.
- Establish and implement a written operations and maintenance plan for refrigeration equipment including regular coil cleaning and door gasket cleaning and replacement.
- Educate staff and require that all non-essential lighting equipment and machines be turned off after business hours.
- Complete regularly scheduled maintenance on HVAC equipment.
- Replace all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) where appropriate.

OR

- Request a lighting and energy audit and implement three recommendations.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Purchase at least 10% wind power.
- Install occupancy sensors in low foot traffic areas such as storage rooms when feasible.
- Install programmable thermostats.
- Insulate major hot water pipes.
- Install plastic strip curtains on walk-in refrigerators.
- Turn off exhaust hoods when associated appliances are off.
- Require any new equipment purchases or rentals to be Energy Star-rated when available.
- Install low-emissivity coatings on windows. Low-E windows help minimize the load on the heating and cooling system while letting in sunlight for day lighting.
- Replace older style T-12 fluorescent tubes with T-8 or super T-8 fluorescent tubes, which use 20-40% less energy (rebates available). T-8 ballasts have a lifetime of approximately 55,000 hours.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

Water Conservation and Quality

Although water covers nearly three-quarters of the earth, less than one percent is clean, fresh water. Therefore, it is vital that we both conserve and protect this critical resource. When evaluating potential savings, don't forget to consider costs to heat and treat the water.

Core Criteria - Complete All

- Comply with the following Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs):
 - ___ Do not dump any liquids or materials into the street/alley/gutter/stormwater drains
 - ___ Do not wash kitchen mats, exhaust filters and other equipment outside, unless the water is captured for proper disposal
 - ___ Require all contractors who conduct pressure washing and or waste disposal/recycling activities to comply with stormwater requirements
 - ___ Any items that are stored outside such as used kitchen oil containers, dumpsters, etc. that could adversely impact stormwater should be covered, leak proof and in water tight containers
 - ___ Use only "dry" cleanup methods to manage spills
 - ___ Ensure that employees have read Certifiably Green Denver 'Restaurant Stormwater Protection' resource sheet.
- Stencil storm drains on facility property to increase awareness (Certifiably Green Denver can provide the stencils).
- Serve water only upon request (Signage available).
- Educate employees to reduce water usage at all times (e.g. turning off water while washing hands, dishes).
- Repair water leaks immediately upon detection.
- Request a water audit.
- Install low flow aerators or control valves in faucets.
- Retrofit toilets with 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) or more with 1.3 gpf models (rebates available).

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Maintain a map of your property, identifying directions(s) of stormwater flow and locations of storm drain inlets. Certifiably Green Denver can assist.
- Install 0.5 gallon per minute (gpm) sensor-controlled sinks in restrooms.
- Install high-efficiency or waterless urinals in men's restrooms (rebates available).
- Reduce turf areas with low water consuming, or drought resistant vegetation.
- Water landscape in the evenings, overnight, or early mornings.

- Require any new equipment purchases or rentals to be Energy Star-rated when available.
- Use low-flow pre-rinse spray valves for rinsing dishes.
- Thaw food in the refrigerator instead of running under water
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective

Resource Management

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Reducing consumption, reusing existing materials, and recycling as the final step saves resources and money. Purchasing products with recycled content increases the demand for recycling and drives improvements in quality and price. Check for health hazards associated with the products that you use, and look for less toxic alternatives.

Core Criteria - Complete All

- Implement an environmentally preferred purchasing program where possible**
- Purchase 100% recycled content paper products with at least 30% post consumer content.
- Switch from individual condiment packets to health department approved refillable containers.
- Keep lids on all containers when not in use.
- Recycle all cardboard, mixed paper and co-mingled containers.
- Send used toner cartridges back to the manufacturer or local service provider for recycling or refilling.
- Set printer and copier defaults to double sided.
- Select products shipped with less packaging.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Implement a composting program.
- Donate usable outdated equipment and supplies and/or unsold food to nonprofit groups, schools, etc.
- Purchase 10% of food products from locally grown/produced sustainable food sources.
- When possible, offer seafood that is purchased from sustainable sources. Consult with Monterey Bay Seafood Watch.
- Require cleaning/sanitizing product suppliers to take back empty buckets or drums.
- Use cloth instead of paper napkins and tablecloths.
- When preparing take-out food orders, minimize the amount of packaging used (double-wrapping and double-bagging), and use reusable or compostable containers.
- Switch to reusable coasters instead of napkins, or paper-coasters for drinks.
- Use reusable metal or nylon coffee filters.
- Use reusable beverage canisters rather than the bag-in-the-box containers.
- Eliminate paper placemats and paper liners; trays are sanitized after each use.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

Transportation

Sustainable transportation reduces pollution by increasing the quality of public transportation, cycling and walking, uses cleaner fuels and technologies, encourages trip consolidation and planning thus reducing vehicle miles traveled.

Core Criteria - All Required

- Adopt an anti-idling vehicle policy for employees, customers and vendors who conduct business at your establishment and for your transportation vehicles; vehicles may not idle for more than 5 minutes in any one hour period.
- Fuel vehicles early in the morning, or late in the evening whenever possible.
- Link trips to accomplish all errands for your facility in one outing.
- Encourage your employees to consider alternative transportation methods for getting to and from work such as riding a bike, walking, carpooling, or taking the bus.
- Provide customers with transit information such as bus and bike routes, and Denver B-cycle stations on your website.

Elective Criteria - Choose Two

- Install bike racks for customers and employees in a secure location.
- Provide the opportunity and incentives for employees to participate in Bike-To-Work Day.
- Provide free or discounted bus passes or Eco-passes to employees.
- Provide free memberships to Denver B-cycle for employees.
- Become a Denver B-cycle Business Supporter.
- Provide plug-in vehicle charging to customers with electric vehicles.
- Provide customer's incentive for the use of RTD or bikes (discount meal, free drink, coupon on next visit).
- Contract with a used grease recycler that recycles used restaurant grease into biofuels.
- Install GPS/routing devices on delivery vehicles to improve fuel economy and reduce vehicle miles traveled.
- Complete another project that fits your needs. Review the project with Certifiably Green Denver staff to determine how the project will meet the criteria for this elective.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE MATERIALS

Management

- Universal Waste Compliance Bulletin – Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment (www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/UWRgeneral.pdf)

Energy Efficiency

- EnergyStar for Retail businesses (www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=retail.bus_retail)
- Colorado Energy Efficiency Guide (www.coloradoefficiencyguide.com)
www.xcelenergy.com/Business/Programs_Resources/
- RTD Eco Pass, Bike-to-Work Day and City and County of Denver Bike map Info
 - www.denver.bcycle.com
 - (www.denvergov.org/BikeMapsofDenver/tabid/378718/Default.aspx)
- Carbon Offsets
 - www.climatetrust.org
 - www.carbonfund.org
 - www.uship.com/terrapass
- **Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets

Water Conservation and Quality

- Denver Water Conservation Program and rebate info (www.conservation@denverwater.org)
- Xeriscape Colorado (www.xeriscape.org)
- American Water Works Association (www.waterwiser.org)
- Stormwater protection and illicit discharge information (www.keepitcleanddenver.org)
- **Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets

Resource Management

All references to products, process, and services above by phone, name, trademark, or manufacturer are for informational purposes only and do not represent an endorsement of any particular product or entity by the Certifiably Green Denver Program. If you know a firm who would like to be added to this list, please have them contact Certifiably Green Denver at 720-865-5457.

- Eco-Cycle Hard-to-Recycle Guide (www.ecocycle.org/htrg)
- Center for Hard-to-Recycle Material (CHaRM) (www.ecocycle.org/charm/index.cfm)
- EPA WasteWise Program resources (www.epa.gov/wastewise)
- Packaging Waste Reduction: (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/packaging/retail)
- Metech Recycling: (www.metech.com)
- Rocky Mountain Recycling, LLC: (www.rockymountainrecycling.com)
- **Certifiably Green Denver Resource Sheets

Transportation

- Regional Transportation District (www.rtd-denver.com)
- Denver Bike Sharing (www.denverbikesharing.org)
- Denver BCycle (www.denver.bcycle.com)

****Certifiably Green Denver resource sheets can be found online at www.denvergov.org/CertifiablyGreenDenver**