

Piedmont Natural Gas - Fayetteville Operations Center has earned their Green Business Certification!

Piedmont Natural Gas (PNG) is an energy services company primarily engaged in the distribution of natural gas to one million residential, commercial and industrial utility customers in NC, SC and TN. The company is involved with many non-profit organizations including the United Way and March of Dimes. Their employees are encouraged to volunteer in their communities through a matching gifts program. Sustainable Sandhills has benefited in the past from PNG employee volunteers, most notably at our special event recycling efforts at the City of Fayetteville's Dogwood Festivals each spring.



The Fayetteville Operations Center demonstrated the PNG commitment to community engagement and environmental stewardship by participating in Sustainable Sandhills Green Business Program. Pat Lyons, PNG Operations Support Analyst, said that working on satisfying the measures for certification was a team effort. The different sections of the program checklist allowed their staff to break the challenge down into manageable "bites" and delegate responsibility for each section so that no one individual had to shoulder the entire load.

In the area of **Awareness**, a "Green Minute" was added during each of their monthly safety meetings. During this time, they educate, inform, or remind their employees about the green measures that have been adopted as part of the green business program.



The measures in the **Waste Reduction** section of the checklist saved the Fayetteville Operations Center money. By completing the Waste Assessment survey, it became apparent that a large percentage of their solid waste was cardboard. By recycling their cardboard they were able to reduce the frequency of their private waste hauling service from weekly to bi-weekly, saving them \$360 each year!

The **Chemical Use and Pollution Prevention** section of the checklist resulted in changes at the Fayetteville Operations Center. They were able to replace many of their cleaning products with environmentally friendly alternatives.



Energy and Water Conservation reminders are next to every light switch and faucet. And the office now has a water cooler service which cuts down on purchase of expensive plastic bottled water and offers a healthy alternative for employees to the vending machines in their break room!



The PNG Fayetteville Operations Center was awarded their Green Business Certificate in February of 2009. Ms. Lyons encouraged other business to participate in the program. “The process caused us to look at the way we were conducting business and the areas we could change to have an impact on our environment and community. The end result is we are a more environmentally responsible business. And most importantly, it is simply the right thing to do!”

Green businesses reduce waste, promote recycling, become energy and water efficient, purchase eco-friendly products and educate their employees and customers about the multiple benefits of a sustainable community. For more information about how your business can become a SS Certified Green Business today, please contact one of our Green Business Coordinators:

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For more information on the SS Green Business Program, [click here!](#)

