

**Green Business Programs and Certifications in the Metropolitan Washington Region**  
**Prepared for CEEPC, September 28, 2011**

**Arlington Green Games:** [www.arlingtongreengames.com](http://www.arlingtongreengames.com)

Free, year-long competition for the commercial office sector based on meeting reduction goals or completed actions.

**Details:** Arlington Green Games is a part of the county's Fresh AIRE program. Registration was required by 6/30/11 and awards will be announced in February 2012. 170 office tenants and commercial buildings are registered for the 2011 Games representing 1/3 of the County's office space (over 15 million square feet).

Property Owners/Managers use ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager to track their 2011 and 2010 energy and water use. Buildings earn awards based on pre-established base and stretch goals achieved. Waste reduction is measured in reports from the hauling company and tenant engagement is measured based on the percentage of square footage of tenants that are participation in the Games. Categories include energy, water, waste, and tenant engagement.

Office Tenants earn points for actions completed from a scorecard that contains 30 energy and sustainability actions. Companies receive awards based on the number of points achieved. Categories include energy, transportation, waste, water, materials, employees/ outreach, and innovation.

A comprehensive monthly training program, customizable marketing materials, and one-on-one technical assistance is provided to each competitor.

As of September 2011 retailers may participate in the voluntary Retail Doors Campaign and pledge to keep doors closed when the air conditioning or heat is running. A full program is expected in 2012. The program will continue to expand to other sectors after that.

**Loudoun County Green Business Challenge:** [www.locogreenbiz.org](http://www.locogreenbiz.org)

Free competition based on completed actions.

**Details:** Businesses enter by completing a scorecard of actions by August 30, 2011. Over 75 businesses signed up this year and will be recognized at a Green Gala on October 27. The highest submitted scores will be required to submit documentation for review by an evaluation committee. The program had 40 businesses participate in 2010. Categories include education/outreach, energy, waste, water, and pollutants.

**Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program:** [www.mcgreenbiz.org](http://www.mcgreenbiz.org)

Paid certification based on completed actions.

**Details:** The program is a partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and Montgomery College.

Businesses submit an application that contains actions in categories including organizational commitment, waste reduction & recycling, environmentally responsible purchasing, pollution prevention, energy efficiency & renewable energy, stormwater management and efficient water use, and transportation & travel. In each category, a business must complete a small number of required actions, and a specified number of additional actions selected from a broader list. After a business submits a completed application, a verification visit from the Green Business team is scheduled to approve the application. There are 32 businesses certified.

The program is modeled after the Bay Area Green Business Program in California, also drawing on several others.

### **Greater Washington Board of Trade Proposed Green Business Certification Program**

The proposed Green Business Certification Program is designed to provide recognition for area businesses “doing the right thing” in terms of green activities within their offices. The draft program is envisioned to consist of a web-based green certification checklist, to be self-certified by participating businesses, and to be targeted primarily to service industry tenants (not building owners). It is expected that there will be three levels of recognition depending on green activities being pursued.