Early Adapters: Results of a pilot to engage small businesses in climate action

2013 Behavior, Energy & Climate Change Conference Sacramento, California November 18 – 20, 2013

Tom Bowman





Assumption

When it comes to global warming, small businesses don't really have a role to play

- Little policy support
- Little effective outreach
- "You're too small to matter"
- "But thanks for your can-do attitude"

Nearly 30 million SMEs in the United States

Nearly 50% of GDP

Nearly 50% of the workforce

Why is this opportunity being lost?

- Misunderstanding of business owners' motivations
- Demoralizing misinformation about costs and priorities
- Wrong messengers: lack of peer-to-peer mentorship



Tackle the sustainability "wicked problem"

- 4-hour workshop
- Peer mentorship, proven results
- Green Business Plan workbook



Introduction: The big picture on sustainability

- Why me? Risks to markets, business and costs
- Why me? Opportunities to cut costs, improve image and loyalty
- Why a green business plan?



Step 1: Pick your goals

- "Stretch goals" and incremental targets
- Example: Bowman Design Group's goals vs. 2006 baseline

	2010	2013	2020	2025
Greenhouse gas emissions	10% less	20%	80%	95%
Water use	20% less	50%	75%	
Landfill waste	20% less	50%		
Recycling waste	10% more	Unknown		
Recycled paper	100%			
Non-toxic cleaners & supplies	100%			

• Exercise: Set goals for this year, next year, 2020 and 2025



Step 1: Pick your metrics

- What can I measure vs. where do I need help?
- Example: Bowman Design Group's metrics

0	⊙ ○ ○ □ BDG_Sust_2012_JCv2_5-30-13.xlsx ½								III.						
9	The search in Sheet Search in Sheet														
- 1	h Home	Layout	Tables	Ch	arts Sn	na	rtArt For	rm	nulas Da	ita	Review			V .	- iji
	U1	‡ ⊗ ⊘	(fx												*
		A		D	E	G	H J	J	K	M	N P	Q	S	Т	
2			Baseline 2006	+	2007		2008	+	2009	H	2010	2011	+	2012	
4			Matria Tan		Metric Ton		Metric Ton		Matria Tan		Metric Tons	Metric Ton		Metric Tons	
_	GHG EMISS	IONS - CO2e	Metric Ton		Metric Ion	Н	Metric Ion	₹	Metric Ton	Н	Metric Tons	Metric Ton	5	Metric Tons	
5	0110 211100	10115 0020	18.98		11.10		6.82		6.52		7.11	6.	45	0.00	
6															
7			kWh		kWh		kWh		kWh		kWh	kWh		kWh	
	ELECTRICIT	Y													
8			16,625	Ц	12,229		12,217	L	11,147	Ш	11,591	9,5	50	8,586	<u> </u>
9 10			- hamas		-the ware			_	Th.			- harman		- have	
	NATURAL G	ΔS	Therms		Therms		Therms	₹	Therms	Н	Therms	Therms		Therms	-
11	INATOTAL G	~	155		141		133		148		164	1:	34	246	,
12								T							
13			Gallons		Gallons		Gallons		Gallons		Gallons	Gallons		Gallons	
	GASOLINE														
14	(company ve	hicle)	797	Ц	627		297	L	253	Ш	279	2	56	186	<u> </u>
15															
16	EMPLOYEE I	MILEACE	Miles		Miles		Miles		Miles	Н	Miles	Miles		Miles	
	EMPLOTEE	MILEAGE	3.515				2 055		4 554		2.450				
17			3,610	-	1,622		2,056	+	1,384		3,458	1,2	+0	469	4

Exercise: Select metrics to address your goals



Step 3: Estimate your energy profile

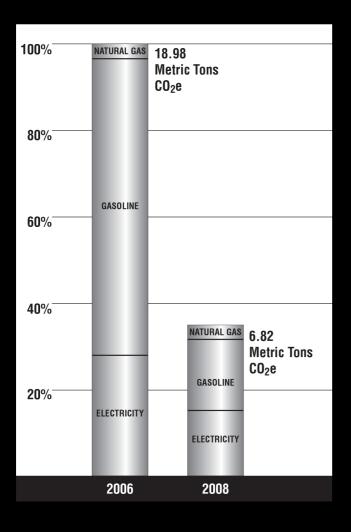
- Different energy profiles: office, manuf., transp., etc.
- Exercise: Where do you think your energy use and GHG emissions are concentrated?

Electricity	%	H	VAC	%
Natural Gas	%	Li	ghting	%
Gasoline	%	0	ffice Machines	%
Diesel	%	♣ Re	efrigeration	%
Air Travel	%	Di	riving	%
Other	%	Ai	ir Travel	%
		Pr	roduction Tools	%
Total	100%			
		To	otal	100%



Step 4: Identify & prioritize actions

- Various models: EMS, certifications, etc.
- Example: "Make every decision a green decision"





Step 4: Identify & prioritize actions

- Various models: EMS, certifications, etc.
- Example: "Make every decision a green decision"
- Exercise: Plan specific actions

Action 1 mo 2 mo 6 mo 1 yr 2 yr Longer

Sign up with a verification provider
Request an energy audit from the utility
Turn unnecessary lights off
Turn unnecessary equipment off
Eliminate all vampire power
Replace all incandescent lighting
Replace all inefficient HID lighting
Increase daylight
Increase natural ventilation
Increase recycling
Reduce voluntary driving
Use alternative transportation
Begin employee telecommuting



Step 4: Identify & prioritize actions

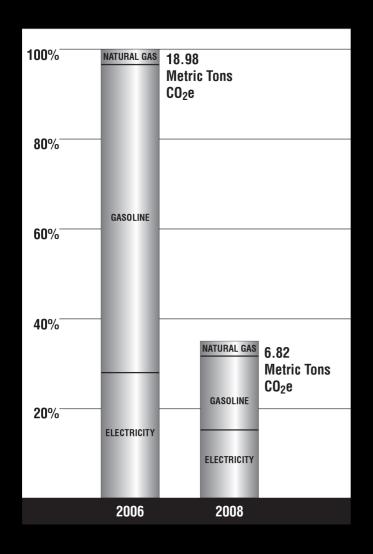
- Various models: EMS, certifications, etc.
- Example: "Make every decision a green decision"
- Exercise: Plan specific actions

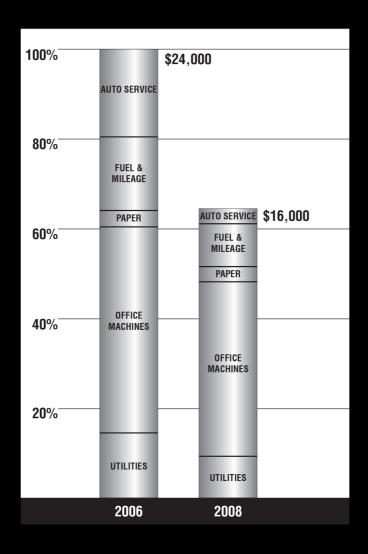
Action	When	Possible Assistance



Step 5: Account for success

Consider all costs and savings associated with your green decisions

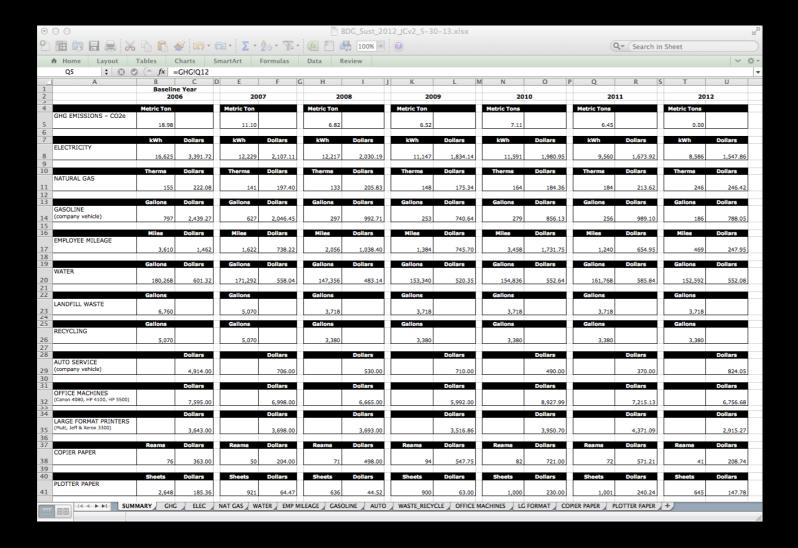






Step 5: Account for success

 Consider all costs and savings associated with your green decisions





Step 6: Go public

- Declaring your intentions creates expectations
- Publicizing results builds good will
- Exercise: make the pledge





Pilot workshop: June 1, 2013

- Long Beach Green Business Council
- The Climate Registry
- Southern California Edison
- Aquarium of the Pacific
- 12 Long Beach area small businesses



Testimonials

"...takes the guesswork out of creating a green business plan."

"...demonstrated how we can continue our greening process at our own, quicker pace and, more importantly, on our own terms."

"...packed with ideas that my office can use.... We made simple changes the following Monday."



Where do workshops fit into behavioral change?

- A necessary enabling / initiating activity:
 - Frames issues and goals
 - Creates a coherent approach
 - Demonstrates proven results
- Businesses might also need longer-term engagement



Next steps:

- Partnership with:
 - City of Long Beach (long-term engagement & recognition)
 - Long Beach Green Business Council
 - California Business Alliance for a Green Economy
- Seeking other partnerships



Thank you

Tom@TomBowman.com