



“California’s Best Climate-Smart Businesses Recognized”

Sacramento—The California Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Resources Board announced the winners of the state’s first sustainable management award that recognizes small businesses, with less than 100 employees, that have demonstrated leadership and made notable, voluntary achievements towards reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

The award program was created to help small businesses participate in the implementation of AB 32, California’s Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and AB 32 Scoping Plan adopted by the ARB in December 2008. AB 32 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2006 and calls on California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Applicants took a variety of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including installing compact fluorescent lights and solar panels, supporting car pools and biking to work, reducing waste and water consumption, telecommuting and moving meeting locations to reduce transportation emissions, developing business-specific climate action plans, and incentivizing climate-friendly behavior with employee award programs.

Of the 100 applicants, Blue Oak Energy, Inc. and Tobin Booth, CEO, are being awarded with the CoolCalifornia Excellence Award, recognizing their exceptional business and management practices that exemplify their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Some of their notable practices include purchasing local, environmentally friendly products and services, using post consumer recycled products, reducing energy and water consumption through office design, commitment to minimal use of paper in daily office practices, recycling, using hybrid and electric vehicles for business travel, implementing an employee bike to work challenge, supporting and contributing to community outreach and education programs, and financial support to environmental groups.

Based in Davis, CA, Blue Oak Energy is a full service provider of solar photovoltaic systems. Blue Oak Energy’s services include project planning and feasibility, design and engineering, turn-key installation, and system maintenance, and they have been the project lead or a key team member for over 100 projects, from 50kW to 35MW in size. In the past six years, Blue Oak Energy has provided a range of services for projects with a cumulative total of over 80MW.