



A PROGRAM OF WESTERN  
NEVADA COLLEGE

GOOD FOR NEVADA.  
GREAT FOR BUSINESS.

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# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



# GOOD FOR NEVADA. GREAT FOR BUSINESS.



At Western Nevada College, we believe strong communities are built through partnership, innovation, and a shared responsibility for the future. Our collaboration with the Nevada Green Business Network reflects that commitment in meaningful and measurable ways.

Since 2019, the Nevada Green Business Network has helped advance sustainable practices for businesses across our state. With support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, WNC has invested more than \$3.5 million to help lead and grow this effort—providing staffing, technical assistance, and program infrastructure to ensure its success.

The impact is clear. Together, we have supported more than 150 small to medium-sized businesses and certified 70 Nevada green businesses. We've also contributed to forward-thinking environmental solutions, including work on safer alternatives to harmful chemicals and the development of more sustainable industrial cleaning practices.

This work goes beyond environmental benefit—it strengthens our economy and prepares our workforce. As a community college, WNC plays a vital role in connecting education with real-world application. We are proud to help develop a skilled workforce ready to meet the needs of industries adopting cleaner, more sustainable practices.

As demand for these practices continues to grow, so does our commitment. WNC will continue expanding its reach—supporting businesses, serving communities, and preparing students to lead in a more sustainable economy.

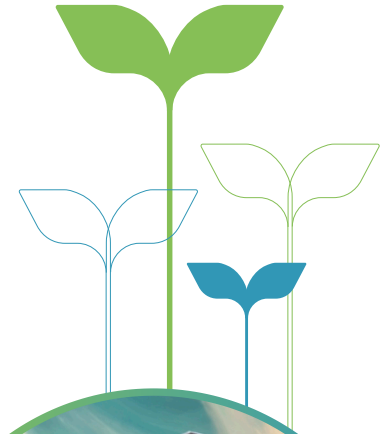
We invite businesses across Nevada to take part in this effort. Becoming certified through the Nevada Green Business Network is free, impactful, and a meaningful step toward a more sustainable future. Join us in building stronger businesses, healthier communities, and a more resilient Nevada.

**J. KYLE DALPE, PH.D.**  
PRESIDENT WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE



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*Buenos Grill, Rebate Recipient and Green Certified Restaurant*

# GREEN CERTIFICATION SUPPORTS OUR STATE'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS



Vast changes have occurred in recent years in terms of national and worldwide support for or distancing from climate action. So, what are Nevada's sustainability goals now? I believe we all want a healthy and vibrant earth.

Data centers are popping up all around Nevada, impacting our water resources and using large amounts of energy. The transition to sustainability and clean energy is needed now more than ever. Clean energy is a smart investment in our future that also reduces harmful air pollutants. At a minimum, we must educate ourselves on how progress in industry and growth impacts us.

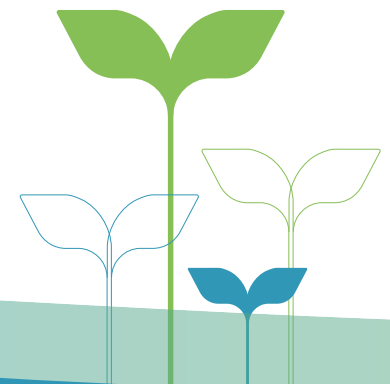
I think that at the community level, we continue to support climate action. Through the Nevada Green Business Program and through our valued partnerships, we have remained committed to initiatives that support sustainability.

We partner with the Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce not only on green business trainings but also for their annual Energy Economy Summits. In 2025, we explored the impact of data centers and their impact on our local economy. We kept up to date on trends and who in our community is doing what with respect to sustainability and underserved communities. We are still driven by many sustainability plans across the state including the Washoe County Sustainability Plan, City of Reno Sustainability Plan, All-In Clark County, Impact NV Sustainability, Environmental, Economic and Social Impact Initiatives to name a few significant efforts.

We are not always in a position to exact change, but we can certainly influence outcomes by our doggedness to protect our communities from harm. **The Nevada Green Business Program is a pillar of support that will support education and climate action in our state.**



**DONNA WALDEN**  
PRESIDENT OF GREENUP!  
DIRECTOR OF NEVADA GREEN  
BUSINESS NETWORK





# BENEFITS OF GOING GREEN

“Green” has become a common buzzword, and the rise of greenwashing—misleading claims about environmental responsibility—has made consumers more discerning.

At the Nevada Green Business Network, “going green” simply means implementing verified, data-driven practices that reduce environmental impacts.

Our certification framework focuses on key operational areas: energy efficiency, water conservation, alternative transportation, waste reduction and diversion, safer chemical management, and sustainable purchasing. Sector-specific checklists standardize these practices across 30 industries, providing a clear and credible path to sustainability.

## THE BUSINESS CASE FOR GREEN CERTIFICATION

1

### COST SAVINGS

Reducing energy, water, and material use leads to direct operational savings. Many checklist measures deliver measurable returns, and participating businesses receive a confidential scorecard outlining resource reductions and estimated cost savings.

2

### COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Consumer demand for sustainable businesses continues to grow. Studies show that a strong majority of consumers consider environmental impact in their purchasing decisions, particularly among Gen Z and Millennials. Third-party certification builds trust, differentiates businesses from competitors, and increases visibility through platforms like GreenBizTracker.

3

### EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

Sustainability initiatives demonstrate long-term thinking and social responsibility—key factors that increasingly influence where people choose to work. Green practices can also improve workplace health while strengthening employee engagement and retention.

4

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Collective action drives meaningful change. By reducing emissions, conserving resources, minimizing waste, and phasing out toxic chemicals, green businesses contribute to healthier environments and more resilient communities.

“

*“One of the highlights of my job is getting to work with businesses who care enough about the environment to get green certified. Over the past six years, I’ve assisted a number of passionate, eco-minded business owners and facility managers who have broadened my understanding of small business needs, sustainable innovations, and industry challenges—and I look forward to meeting many more!”*

**ERICA GALLEGOS**  
GREEN BUSINESS  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE

# OUR PARTNERS

## FEATURED PARTNER KTMB LEADS BY EXAMPLE

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) is a valued partner in the Nevada Green Business Network. Known for a variety of waste-reduction and beautification initiatives, KTMB removed 312,600 lbs of trash and green waste, recruited over 5,300 volunteers, and recycled over 7,650 Christmas trees in 2025!

Some of their signature programs include the Truckee River Cleanup, Great Community Cleanup, Christmas tree recycling, Illegal dumping task force, Recycling Guide, Community and Youth Education and more. KTMB has helped many businesses become green certified in the Truckee Meadows and are themselves, a green certified business.



*Since 1989, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful has worked to create a more sustainable and beautiful Truckee Meadows. We're grateful to our business community for their continued support—whether organizing cleanups, participating in a KTMB beautification event, or pursuing certification as green businesses. Their dedication and effort play a vital role in building a healthier, more resilient community.*

**KIMBERLY RIOS**  
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION MANAGER  
AND GREEN BUSINESS ADVISOR

**APPLY TO BECOME GREEN CERTIFIED**

[nv.greenbiztracker.org](https://nv.greenbiztracker.org)



WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM EPA UNDER AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In 2025, the Green Business National Network (GBNN) and Intuit, the maker of Quickbooks, partnered to help small businesses implement energy efficiency upgrades, save money, and operate more sustainably. Nevada was one of four states that participated in the pilot program, and the Nevada Green Business Network was able to award \$500–\$1500 rebates to 20 small businesses (13 in Northern Nevada, and 7 in Southern Nevada).

Underserved businesses and green certified businesses—or those actively enrolled in our program—were prioritized in our application evaluations. We also accepted a wide variety of project proposals, including LED lighting retrofits and lighting controls, tankless hot water heaters, ENERGY STAR appliances, and even electric chainsaws and landscaping equipment.

Combined, these projects will save our businesses approximately 62,641 kWh per year and \$7,265 in annual utility bills. This translates to about 21.76 metric tons of CO2e reduced every year, or the equivalent of planting 1.2 acres of urban trees here in Nevada.

Due to our success in 2025, Nevada was selected again for the 2026 National Green Business Grant Program. We received 22 applications this year, and 17 energy-saving projects are currently underway.

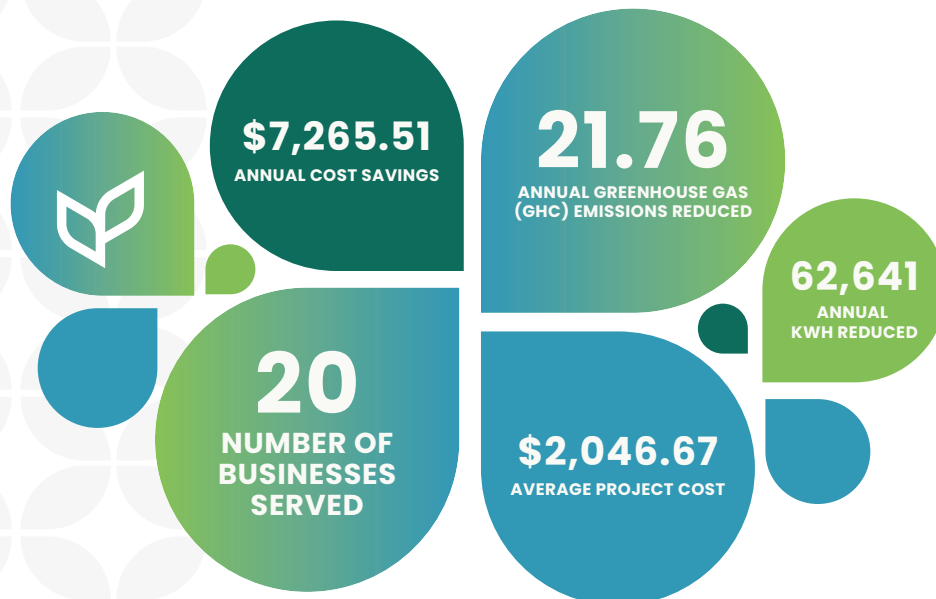


**2025 GREEN BUSINESS GRANT  
RECIPIENT: NV AUTO BODY  
CARSON CITY, NV**



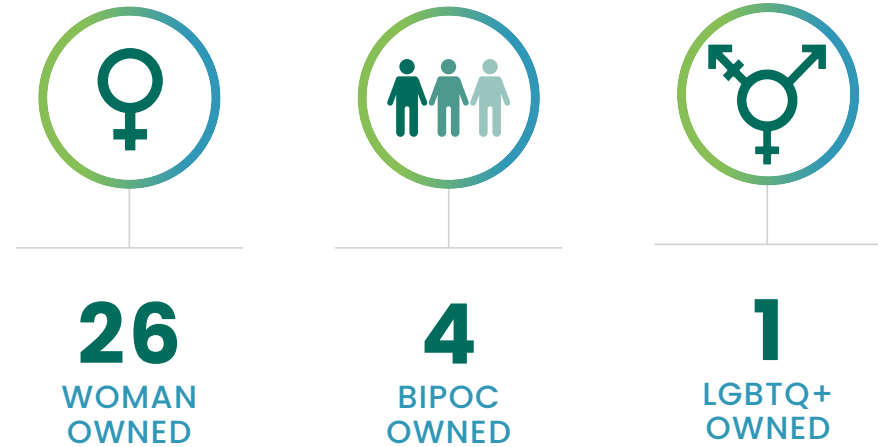
turbotax creditkarma quickbooks mailchimp

NV Auto Body, Nevada's first Green Certified auto body shop, used their rebate to replace two 43-year old unit heaters with high-efficiency infrared heaters. As opposed to heating the air, these upgrades will radiate heat to warm surfaces, machinery, and cars while the service door remains open, improving overall cost-efficiency and comfort. The shop is projected to save 2.36 MT CO2e/year and over \$1400 annually in energy costs.



# ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES REPORTING

55 Nevada Green Businesses maintain active certifications. Here are their collective environmental impacts:



The calculations for measures have been sourced from well-cited and trusted authorities and published in a methodology guide. These calculations were peer reviewed and updated by government entities and consultants most recently in 2022.

## SECTORS CERTIFIED

- |              |                     |                    |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Agriculture  | Food Manufacturer   | Office / Retail    |
| Auto Body    | Garment Cleaning    | Restaurant         |
| Auto Repair  | Home Office         | Schools            |
| Beauty Salon | Janitorial Services | Small Manufacturer |
| Brewery      | Landscape Services  |                    |
| Construction | Medical Services    |                    |

# ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

TOTAL AGGREGATED COST SAVINGS: **\$410,180**



**3,352,870.87**

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SAVED (LBS)**

*That's the equivalent of planting 5,480 acres of urban trees.*



**38,302,149.99**

**WATER SAVED (GALLONS)**

*That's the equivalent of 911,967 bathtubs of fresh drinking water.*



**1,575,277.02**

**SOLID WASTE DIVERTED (LBS)**

*That's the equivalent of 74 garbage trucks worth of diverted waste.*



**874.59**

**HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCED (GALLONS)**

*That's the equivalent of 15 fifty-five-gallon drums of hazardous waste.*



**196.05**

**VOCs SAVED (LBS)**



**1,716,438.71**

**ELECTRICITY SAVED (kWh)**

*That's the equivalent of powering 174 houses for an entire year.*



**12,660.08**

**THERMS SAVED**

*That's the equivalent of heating 486 homes for an entire year.*



# 2025 BUSINESS FEATURES



## BEST IN THE WEST SAFETY NEVADA GREEN BUSINESS INNOVATOR LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Best in the West Safety leads by example—protecting workers while also protecting the planet. As a woman-owned workplace safety training and consulting company, they’ve built sustainability into their operations for decades, earning recognition as a Nevada Green Business Innovator, the program’s highest certification level.

*“Start now—don’t delay. Your savings begin the moment you make the upgrades.”*

—Diane Hale, CEO, Best in the West Safety

Their approach proves that environmental stewardship doesn’t have to be complicated—it just has to be intentional.

Best in the West Safety operates out of a highly efficient building designed to minimize energy and water use. Over the years, CEO Diane Hale and her team have implemented a wide range of best practices that deliver real, measurable results. Lighting was one of their earliest and most impactful upgrades.

Old T12 fluorescent fixtures were replaced with high-efficiency LEDs, reducing lighting energy use by more than 75%. The system is paired with occupancy sensors, motion and heat sensors, and daylighting controls, ensuring lights automatically turn off when spaces are unoccupied.

They’ve also invested in ENERGY STAR® appliances and equipment, electric point-of-use hot water heaters, and comprehensive water-saving upgrades—including motion sensor faucets and low or ultra-low toilets and urinals—dramatically reducing overall consumption.

Outside, they’ve installed xeriscape landscaping and planted native cacti and drought-tolerant bushes listed on the SNWA “bulletproof” Regional Plant List. These plants only rely on rain events and receive no additional water from irrigation.

These proactive strategies not only lower the company’s environmental footprint—they help preserve vital natural resources for future generations.

Best in the West Safety was awarded an NVGBN Small Business Grant that offset the cost of new energy-efficient window film and installation.



*Sustainable best practices are good for Reno and good for business in our state... The City of Reno supports the Green Business Program as it aligns with our healthy community goals.*

**SUZANNE GRONEMAN**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
MANAGER FOR THE CITY

## PROFESSIONAL DOG MOM COMMUNITY SERVICE TIER 2 GREEN BUSINESS CHAMPION STATELINE, NEVADA

Professional Dog Mom, a Tier 2 Green Business Champion, is a woman-owned, certified, licensed, bonded and insured Dog Care Service Business! They provide customized Dog Nanny and Training Services in Washoe County and Puppy and Basic Obedience Training, Day Boarding, and Overnight Dog Boarding at their South Tahoe Facility.

Tonda Benge, founder and owner, has gone above and beyond greening her operations. Tonda runs a TerraCycle recycling program (for free), in which she collects plastic dog food packaging from her clients, the Nevada Humane Society, and interested parties, and ships this otherwise unrecyclable waste off to be shredded and melted down to plastic pellets. And what's more, for every pound of pet food plastic packaging Pro Dog Mom ships to TerraCycle, they donate \$1 to the Nevada Humane Society.

Tonda ships approximately 8 boxes of compacted material every 2–3 months, and each box costs her \$250–300. So thank you, Professional Dog Mom, for not just providing a non-toxic, eco-conscious dog boarding facility and training service, but for helping divert plastic waste from Tahoe and the surrounding communities!

## TIABI WAFFLE LAS VEGAS FOOD SERVICE, AAPI OWNED BUSINESS LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Tiabi Waffle, a vegan and sustainability-focused café, worked with Green Dining Nevada and the Nevada Green Business Network to improve energy efficiency at both of their locations. With the installation of LED bulbs, smart thermostats, and motion sensor switches offset by our 2025 rebate program, Tiabi has cut their electricity use, improved efficiency, and lowered utility costs.

Tiabi is a community hub for students and local activists, and the improvements reinforce their mission to minimize their carbon footprint. The cafes' participate in other sustainability programs including greenUP!'s Green-Box-to-Go.

### Project Outcomes:

**Energy Saved:** 5,233 kWh/year

**Emissions Reduced:** 1.76 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e/year

**Projected Cost Savings:** \$456.90/year



*“Becoming part of this program helped reinforce my values of sustainability and equitably, and brought them to life in my cafés.”*

**TIFFANY BISCOE**  
OWNER OF TIABI WAFFLE LAS VEGAS

# GREEN BUSINESS TRAINING

The Nevada Green Business program hosts many trainings and events to teach best practices and to encourage businesses across the state of Nevada to become green certified.

## P2 TRAINING AT EAST LAST VEGAS COMMUNITY CENTER ON APRIL 10, 2025.

Objective: Help Las Vegas small businesses save money, reduce waste, and run their businesses more efficiently while protecting the environment and staying compliant with local laws.

greenUP! and the City of Las Vegas hosted a P2 training on April 10, 2025. By partnering with the City of Las Vegas, we were able to secure event space at the East Las Vegas Community Center. The Monarca Group, who specializes in multicultural engagement with diverse communities, was contracted.

The pollution prevention training was given at a practical level based upon success that Monarca Group has had working with hard-to-reach communities.

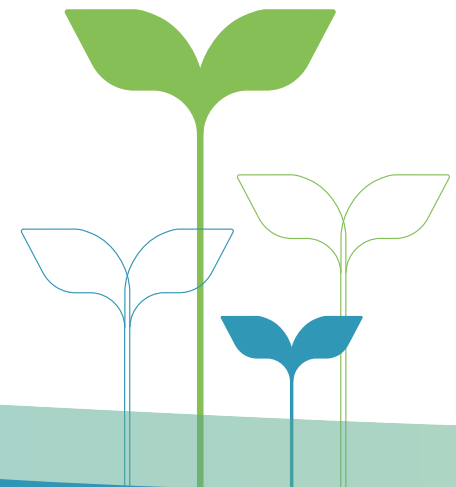
At the training, practical advice was given on how businesses can earn green business certification, reduce utility and maintenance costs, improve operational efficiency, and expand their customer base.

In attendance were representatives from the City of Las Vegas Economic and Urban Development Department, who work with businesses and help connect them with City of Las Vegas resources. Two representatives from NV Energy attended to present utility rebates offered to small businesses. Other community organizations were present including Nevada Conservation League, Small Business Administration, Asian Chamber, and several Asian and Latino Businesses.



*The success of small businesses is a priority in the city of Las Vegas, and the partnership with greenUP! and the Monarca Group has benefited the community. Helping businesses reduce waste, cut utility costs and operate more efficiently ensures that current and future generations have a vibrant city to live, work and play in."*

**RACHEL LEWISON**  
CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



# NEVADA'S ENERGY ECONOMY



## NEVADA'S ENERGY ECONOMY – ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, a valued green business network partner, has hosted two energy economy summits; Fall 2024 and Fall 2025. This convening of experts enables a practical dialog about how we all play a significant role in the future of Nevada's Energy Policy. The Chamber has many sustainability initiatives and is one of our community's leading advocates for the transition to a clean energy economy. At the events, experts spoke about leading issues facing our state and how we can leverage each other's work to build a stronger local community.

### The Purposes of the Summits are:

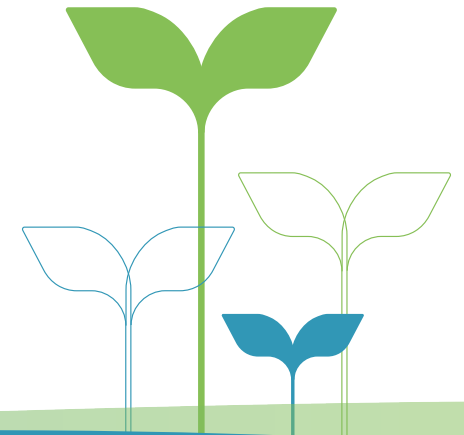
- Enhance awareness of the work being done today in Nevada.
- Identify pathways for businesses and organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance other sustainability goals.

Panels were given on electrification of vehicles, how to serve communities with clean energy, business resources and trends, updates on the Lithium Loop, and reporting on data centers and their impact on our local economy. The Summits are free and open to the public.



*We know that transitioning to clean, renewable energy and electric vehicles are steps in the right direction to address the complicated climate challenges we face in Northern Nevada. The Chamber welcomes an open dialogue about how organizations and companies can work together to build Nevada's clean energy future.*

**ANN SILVER**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**THE RENO + SPARKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



## GREEN DINING IN NEVADA

Green Box To-Go, launched by greenUP!, is the first of its kind in Nevada, with the goal to help curb single-use takeout waste and to promote a culture of sustainable reuse. greenUP!'s program is based on the concept of a circular economy, where customers can join the Green Box Program to borrow, use, and return their to-go vessel from any participating restaurant. The GBTG program offers a practical solution to reduce single-use waste by providing reusable containers for customers who opt in. Overall, there were 18 restaurants that adopted green-box-to-go reusable containers across Nevada.

OUTCOMES FROM THE REUSABLE TAKEOUT CONTAINER PROGRAM WERE CALCULATED OVER AN 18-MONTH PERIOD SINCE THE APP WAS IN EFFECT:  
APRIL 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025

 **107**

TOTAL NUMBER OF USERS

 **774**

TOTAL NUMBER OF USES

 **44**

GHG REDUCTION (IN LBS)

## THE WAY IT WORKS

### STEP 1

Download Google Play (Android) or Apple Store APP and borrow 2 containers for \$20 or 4 containers for \$40.

### STEP 2

Ask for Green Box To-Go when you order your takeout meal.

### STEP 3

At the restaurant, scan a QR code at the counter as you order and tap "borrow" on the app, take home your food in Green Box To Go and Enjoy!

### STEP 4

Tap "Return" in the APP and scan the return QR code when you return your box at participating restaurants\*



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GREENUP!'S GREEN BOX TO GO PROGRAM VISIT:

[greenupnv.org/green-box-to-go/](https://greenupnv.org/green-box-to-go/)



# GREEN BUSINESS RECOGNITION

There's a lot we do to promote our businesses after they become green certified. Each business that completes green business certification receives a business listing in GreenBizTracker, a green business member logo and window cling, a framed certificate, and social media promotion. Some businesses are also nominated for recognition awards and receive media attention via press releases and media interviews and write-ups. We publish an annual Buyer's Guide's to help promote businesses in our program.

## GOLDEN PINECONE SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Founded in 1988, the Golden Pinecone Sustainability Awards have celebrated Northern Nevada's sustainability leaders for over 35 years—recognizing businesses, individuals, educators, and organizations shaping a healthier, more sustainable community.

The 2024 Golden Pinecone Sustainability Awards were held at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno on October 10. The theme for the 2024 event was "Celebrate an Evening of Sustainable Dining Art + Style." Connie Wray, Nevada Broadcast Hall-of-Fame was the master of ceremony for the 2024 Golden Pinecone Awards.

Twelve (12) individuals, educators, and green businesses were recognized in 12 categories: Educational Program – Envirolution, Educator – Dr. Cecilia Vigil, Truckee Meadows Community College, Non-Profit Organization – Kiwanis Bike Program, Green Dining Establishment

– Starburst Parlor Keto Bakery Las Vegas, Toward Zero Waste – The Waste Less Shop, Reno, Tier 1 Green Business Leader – Carson City Toyota, Tier 2 Green Business Champion – Outsiders Hair Studio, Most Innovative Business – Smash My Trash, Green Project of the Year – SSP America at the RNO Airport, Sustainable Supply Chain – Solaris Global LLC, Sustainable Milestones – Panasonic Energy of North America.

Madonna Dunbar was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her countless accomplishments in sustainability over 17 years at the Incline Village **Waste Not Program**.



## FOUR NEVADA BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED IN EPA'S POLLUTION PREVENTION 2024 RECOGNITION PROGRAM

WNC and greenUP! submitted applications to have some of our green businesses recognized by EPA. This program recognizes accomplishments and best practices of companies implementing pollution prevention (P2) projects and process improvements at their facilities. See recognized businesses below.



**Alibi Ale Works (Incline Village)** uses a dry hopping method, spunding valves, and CO2 to capture in their brewing process to reduce their CO2 use and release for environmental protection and cost savings.



**Carson City Toyota**, the first Green Certified auto dealership in Nevada, actively tackles P2 goals and initiatives within their 60,000 sq ft facility.



**La Nova Beauty** is a green certified beauty salon that excels in P2: they use organic, eco-friendly, plastic free, and ethically sourced beauty products.



**The Pad (Henderson)**, a green certified climbing gym, incorporated P2 practices across all operations.





# CERTIFIED GREEN BUSINESSES

## TIER 1

### Leader

- Aroma Retail, LLC
- Baker Hughes Bently Nevada
- Buenos Grill
- Christy's Facepainting
- Cleen Green
- Comstock Seed, LLC
- Continuum Packing Solutions, LLC
- Empire Elementary School
- JP Copoulos Architect
- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
- La Nova Beauty
- Las Vegas Professional Organizers, LLC
- L'essence Day Spa And Salon
- Lovelady Brewing Company
- Mac-O-Rama
- MeshCreative, Inc.
- Mills Roofing Inc.
- Mr. Bubbles Laundromat (7 locations)
- Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe - Office/Retail
- NV Auto Body
- Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce
- Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority
- Simple Power Solar

- Slickdeals
- Sol-Up (Las Vegas)
- Terraphase Engineering
- The Greenhouse Project
- The Nest
- The Waste Less Shop
- TMCC Cafe Verde
- Transformed Tree Care
- Twilight Transitions
- VitalBeeBuds, LLC

## TIER 2

### Champion

- Carson City Toyota (Campagni Auto Group)
- Commence Studio
- Granite Construction Co.
- Green Serenity
- Lora Wagener Co.
- NW Confections Nevada, LLC
- Outsiders Hair Studio
- Professional Dog Mom, LLC
- Smash My Trash

## TIER 3

### Innovator

- Best in the West Safety
- Brand Geek Law Office of Lara Pearson Ltd, PBC
- CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada
- Davidson's Organics
- Gear Hut, LLC
- Nevada Roots
- Patagonia Reno Outlet

## ENTRY

### GreenCORE

- Stella Coffee Company

**FIND THEM ON THE  
NATIONAL GREEN  
BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

[nv.greenbiztracker.org](http://nv.greenbiztracker.org)



[nvgreenbusiness.org](http://nvgreenbusiness.org)