

WILLDAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS IS COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

By Connie Malone: Energy Analyst

By Samantha Felix: Marketing

“Achieving sustainable development is perhaps one of the most difficult and one of the most pressing goals we face. It requires on the part of all of us, commitment, action, partnerships and, sometimes, sacrifices of our traditional life patterns and personal interests”.
~ *Mostafa Tolba, Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development*

While Willdan Energy Solutions creates sustainable communities and fosters sustainability as a business enterprise, we “walk the talk” and practice it in our daily lives. We embrace a framework that aggressively confronts the challenges of attaining true global sustainability. The four main points of the paradigm are commitment, action, partnership, and sacrifice. We have committed ourselves to taking a leadership role in promoting sustainability both internally and externally. We take decisive action towards realizing our goals and sticking to our commitments. We partner with our customers and local communities to promote and implement sustainable behaviors and actions. And we are willing to make the sacrifices of time and money to ensure that we are sticking to our commitments and helping to create a greener world for future generations.

Commitment

The first step in the prevention of global warming and radical climate change is a committed effort to addressing all elements of resource conservation. WES is an industry leader in promoting this commitment. Sustainability is always a part of how we think about company operations and employee work patterns. We are firmly committed to the development of a sustainable global community and planet by enhancing transportation options, investing in local communities and reducing our carbon footprint in our personal and professional lives.

Action

Our management and employees are keenly aware of the need to reduce our carbon footprint and constantly enhance our sustainable practices as we continue to evolve to meet the demands of our changing world. As a company we are always looking for new, innovative approaches to environmental responsibility. For example,

At the Office, we:

- Use energy efficient light bulbs, printers, and kitchen appliances, and recommend that all new equipment purchased is Energy Star certified.
- Use recycled paper and envelopes for printing documents.
- Use Recycling copier and printer ink cartridges.
- Conserve energy in our offices by turning off monitors, all unnecessary lighting and using natural lighting when possible.
- Use telecommuting techniques, e.g., video conferencing, teleconferencing, to lessen travel.
- Offer telecommuting options and flexible work schedules to employees to minimize our travel related footprint.
- Use alternative transportation: many of our employees commute by train, cycling, carpooling, and other travel relevant to our environmental footprint.
- Ensure that all recyclable waste is recycled properly, including local e-waste of electronic, CFL lighting, and batteries.
- Purchase supplies based on minimal packaging and maximum recycled material content.

- Encourage employees to use the local toxin-free dry cleaning facility.
- Purchase local and organic food and beverage products for the office and employee functions.

Partnership

In addition to our internal efforts, we make a point to use our expertise and presence within the sustainability industry as a forum to further promote these practices and encourage green behaviors. To create viable sustainable communities, it takes personal commitment to sustainable practices that is enhanced by collective action throughout the community. WES is always active within the community promoting energy efficiency and sustainability.

In our Community and With our Customers:

- We create sustainable communities - energy efficiency engineering and sustainability strategy are at the heart of our company's core competency.
- We develop marketing materials for our clients on recycled paper or use electronic marketing techniques for disseminating information, such as, twitter conversations, e-blasts, a central website, and the latest social interactive media.
- We run 16 user-friendly, high-tech kiosks that deliver energy efficiency information to homeowners at local credit union branches in Southern California.
- We provide clients and neighbors with the latest energy efficiency, recycling, and conservation information.
- We promote sustainability at local community events and festivals that have been hosted by local utility companies that encourage community participation in utility rebate programs for energy efficiency services and upgrades. This includes handing out complimentary CFL's and programmable thermostats for heating and cooling systems.
- We encourage schools to complete Student Energy Audit Training (SEAT), which teaches the initial concepts of electricity and what to look for in energy savings audits.
- We speak at local schools to explain and encourage energy savings to students.
- WES employees participate in the Urban Village Project, which promotes urban farming, Earth Day Activities, and general encouragement of employees to actively get involved with their communities through professional organizations

Sacrifice

Tying all of this together – commitment, action, and partnership – is our willingness to accept the extra effort that can be a part of creating a sustainable community. Our employees are willing to give their own time to the community and our managers are willing to take on the added cost that can sometimes be associated with buying environmentally friendly products. We make these sacrifices because we realize that creating sustainable communities is a complex task, with multiple approaches. Sustainable communities must develop and implement strategic plans for energy, waste, water, transportation, and telecommunications. The goal is to create communities, inclusive of infrastructure and social behaviors that take advantage of on-site renewable energy, recycling, waste control, water and land use patterns, and green building standards. Today, sustainable and smart communities are necessary for a less polluted environment, and informed and knowledgeable residents are essential to the success of these communities. WES recognizes that the solutions to global warming and climate change exist today, and we are committed to implementing them.