

As of November 13th,

**Sprig is now
Bay Area Green
Business
Certified!
Congratulations!**



Did you know?

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours — or the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.
- During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.



Sprig's Future...Looking Green

Written By Michael Jurewicz

Let's be honest, people debate just about everything. However, some things are hardly debatable. For instance; (1) the planet's population has increased, (2) we consume natural resources to exist and (3) the planet's natural resources are finite. So what does that have to do with Sprig?

Well, it's also hardly debatable that we want our population at Sprig to increase (growth), we consume resources to complete our commitments (labor, material, overhead) and the resources available to us are finite (contract value). To put it another way, if we want Sprig to grow and to be profitable, we can't consume more than we have. The same is true for our planet.

Sprig is Bay Area Green Business Certified

Written By Kara Hermann

Over the last year, Sprig Electric's Green Committee has been at work fulfilling the requirements to become a certified Bay Area Green Business, and as of November 13th we are proud to be certified. Sprig is one of a handful of businesses who have accomplished that goal in Santa Clara County.

We made a lot of changes to incorporate green practices into every day operations. Double-sided printing is now standard practice. In addition to recycling, we use utensils made from corn starch and provide reusable mugs for coffee. We offer

Sprig's SWITCH TO GREEN initiative is consistent with our efforts to innovate, conserve and reduce waste. We're simply encouraging the responsible use of resources throughout our business.

We are proud to announce that Sprig recently gained certification as a "Bay Area – Green Business." This is not just the start nor is it the end. There are still other opportunities to conserve and there is still plenty of waste to eliminate. Continuous improvement in sustainability, innovation and efficiency are ingredients for the short term survival and long term prosperity of Sprig and our planet. That too is hardly debatable.

trainings on environmental issues, and our Green Committee is continuing to look for ways to "Switch to Green."

On the jobsite, Sprig Electric provides innovative ways to minimize waste by using the lean production of our Pre-Fab Shop. In addition, our design team is always looking for ways to provide energy efficient design and strategies. With several LEED certified professionals on staff, we are continuing to expand into the green market. And who could forget wedrive65.org?

To find out more, go to www.greenbiz.ca.gov

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Did you know?

- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!



Green Committee Members:

Stephanie Abbott

Jennifer Akamine

Susan Eaves

Brad Foster

Kara Hermann

Mike Jurewicz

Shannon Jurewicz

Mike Mainieri

Thoughts or comments for the Green Committee? Email greencommittee@sprigelectric.com

PV Futures

Written By Tyson Smith

Sprig Electric has been extremely active in pursuing Photovoltaic installation projects. We currently have over 15 qualified foreman on staff that have vast experience with PV installations, as well as an in depth database of installation costs for numerous module manufacturers, inverter systems, roof mount systems, and combiner solutions. This allows Sprig to provide a quick response to requests for pricing and installation budgets.

We have received feedback from our vendors that Sprig is considered to be among the best qualified to perform this work, and our size and available resources position our company as one of the larger electrical subcontractors in this industry.

Sprig has developed the capability to design systems for guaranteed output, provide proper load calculations, energy efficiency upgrade recommendations, utility coordination, and consult on available rebate/tax incentive opportunities providing our clients with a cost effective turnkey Photovoltaic installation.

A few of Sprig's completed photovoltaic projects include:

- A solar plant at the eBay campus performed as a joint venture with Solar City
- A roof mounted commercial system at the Solyndra manufacturing facility
- A system for the Stanford Utilities Division mounted on a water reservoir cover
- A custom carport mounted commercial system at the Tantau Campus in Cupertino

Numerous other projects have been engineered and are currently in the early stages of the construction process.



Fuel Cell Futures

Written by Kara Hermann

What's the entire buzz about fuel cells? Fuel cell technology has been around for quite a while, used in WWII submarines and NASA. Yet only recently have fuel cells started to reach widespread commercial distribution. In Japan production of fuel cells is rapidly expanding to power homes. Japan has a goal that 25% of houses are receiving power from fuel cells by 2020.

How it works: Hydrogen is extracted from gas and chemically reacts with oxygen which produces hot water and electricity. Fuel cells are one of the cleanest alternative energy technologies available to reduce carbon emissions.

What is Sprig Electric's future in this developing technology? Sprig recently installed the infrastructure for a Bloom Energy 800 kW fuel cell installation at a Silicon Valley semiconductor company putting Sprig Electric at the forefront of this exciting emerging technology.

We are concurrently installing two 400 kW systems, with future projects in the works.

Sprig Electric has taken a lead position with a leader in the fuel cell industry, providing full MEP design documentation and educating local jurisdictions to obtain acceptance and permitting. Sprig Electric has been responsible for the coordination of all trades including plumbing, trenching, fencing and concrete. The success of Sprig's involvement has been our ability to be innovative under challenging circumstances.

The payback for fuel cells will vary depending on the difficulty of the installation, the availability of rebates and credits and the current and projected rates for utilities. However, fuel cells appear to have a much quicker payback than other comparative sources of alternative energy.

Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.

--William Morris

Tip: Look for ways to de-clutter your environment. Donate or recycle your items, and in the future, only purchase quality items that you will use frequently and will last over time. This will minimize junk sent to landfill that is broken or hardly used.

Sprig Electric LEED Certified Employees:

Earl Finlay
Mike Glogovac
Kara Hermann
Scott Moreau
Ty Smith
John Stice
Mike Trout

For a list of other sustainable projects, please see our website at: www.sprigelectric.com

Earth Day in October

Because a year is too long to wait to “Switch to Green”
Written by Kara Hermann



Yes, we know, Earth Day is traditionally in March. The Green Committee decided a year was just too long to wait to make a difference in the environment! Centered on the theme of Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, the following activities took place on October 21st:

Reduce: A training was presented on how to reduce junk mail. Did you know 100 million trees are harvested for junk mail, and 44% goes to the landfill never even opened? Yikes! Details of how you can stop junk mail are at www.stopjunkmail.org.

Reuse: One person's junk is another person's treasure. Collections were taken for Salvation Army. Old towels and newspapers were collected for the Animal Shelter, and old or broken cell phones were collected to raise money for "Cell Phones for Soldiers." Items which may have otherwise been thrown away were diverted from the landfill. The generous participation from Sprig is inspiring.

Recycle: Recycling bins were located conveniently throughout the office, encouraging employees to recycle old drawings and papers. In one week, Sprig recycled about 650 lbs of paper. That is at least 5 ½ trees saved.

Earth Day concluded with a celebration of "Green Food" like guacamole, apples, edamame, even chocolate brownies (well, not really green, but brown, like the earth).

The Green Committee appreciates everyone's enthusiasm in making the event a success!

Green Project Highlight: Santana Row Parcel 2

Written by Kara Hermann

If you have driven by Santana Row recently, you probably noticed Sprig Electric has been working on one of the most pronounced buildings in the complex. The building has 23,000 sq. ft. of retail space and 60,000 sq. ft. of office space. What's so special about it?

The LEED Silver Core and Shell project features a unique glass double-skin curtain wall. The double-skin cavity has an integral motorized shading system and an exhaust louver system. Sensors are mounted inside the cavity, and,

upon reaching a certain temperature, will trigger the sunshades to close. Then the exhaust louvers will open to release the hot air. Below the given temperature, the louvers will remain closed and air inside the cavity will help insulate the building.

Lighting controls are installed for exterior lighting and connections are available for future tenants. Measuring and monitoring of the electrical system allows for the owner to effectively manage energy usage.

I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas

Written by Jennifer Akamine

Did you know that we generate an extra one million tons of trash each week from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day?

Here are some easy tips that you can try to help make your holidays green and reduce waste!

1. Use cloth napkins and reusable dishware and utensils. Or try the new biodegradable compostable dishware and utensils made from corn.
2. Reinvent your wrapping! Buy recycled wrapping paper. Use colorful newspaper comics or old magazine pages. Instead of wrapping gifts, have a fun family treasure hunt giving clues to where they're hidden. Don't forget to recycle those ribbons and bows. If every family reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, it would save enough ribbon to tie a bow around our planet!

3. Consider sending e-cards. More than 2.5 billion paper holiday cards are sold each year in the U.S. That's enough to fill a football field 10 stories high! Most of those cards get thrown away and end up in the landfill. Send e-cards from Facebook or try elfyourself.com from Office Max.

4. Make clean-up earth friendly. Send guests home with leftovers. This cuts down on waste and simplifies clean-up. It is estimated that at least 28 billion pounds of edible food are wasted each year during the holidays. Run your dishwasher and washing machine while you sleep. Night time is best for running large appliances, since it saves energy and money.

5. Adjust your thermostat down a few degrees. All that cooking will surely compensate and keep you and your guest's toasty warm!

Winter Spare the Air Days

Bay Area Air Quality Management District is expecting to issue 15-20 Spare the Air Days between now and Feb. 28th. That means that Bay Area residents run the risk of citations or fines if they burn wood, fire logs or pellets on alert days. On those days, it will be illegal to operate your fireplace, outdoor fire pit or pellet and woodstoves.

Local air regulators say that wood smoke is the largest source of winter pollution in the Bay Area which is home to 1.4 million fireplaces and woodstoves. Violators are subject to a warning letter followed by a \$400 fine for a second infraction. Those who rely on fireplaces and woodstoves as their only source of heat will be exempt from this rule.

To check whether you are allowed to burn and for more information, visit: www.sparetheair.org or call: 877.466.2876.



"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

- Chief Seattle

"... the fire is so delightful.."

(but is it legal?)



Sources: sfgate.com, greenfeet.org

