

# Ask SCORE

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[www.ScoreFoxValley.org](http://www.ScoreFoxValley.org)

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## Green Business

### Going "Green" to Improve Your Business

Studies show that being environmentally friendly is good for your business. Consumers are attracted to businesses that promote "green" efforts to protect the environment. Even high profile companies are making the switch to environmentally conscious vendors. Also, many practices and products that conserve resources and help reduce pollution cut business costs in the long run.

Don't let your small business be left behind. There is a wide range of business-minded information available on the practical, profit-producing aspects of making a business more environmentally friendly. Access to environmentally preferable products and services is also widening -- especially for small business. Options include buying office supplies made of recycled or low-impact materials, properly disposing of old electronic gear, and installing energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs in your facilities.

A great resource for small business is, [GreenBiz.com](http://GreenBiz.com), a service of the Washington, DC-based Green Business Network. GreenBiz offers a full range of hands-on help for small businesses that want to get greener, from how to finance greater manufacturing efficiency to alternative cleaning solvents and processes. The organization's Web site is packed with helpful information and is geared toward helping businesses take an environmental stance that also helps the bottom line.

The GreenBiz site provides descriptions and links to nearly 100 helpful organizations and Web sites -- many of them by state. There are also hundreds of books and reports geared to specific industries. Take time to explore the site for a wealth of news, tools and tips on going green. Select "Small Business" in the "Resource Wizard" pull down menu for topics geared specifically to small business.

Another useful resource is the Small Business Environmental Home Page, [www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org](http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org), which helps business owners tap into pollution-prevention assistance programs of all types nationwide. It also offers a list of links to State Environmental Agencies and small business programs.

Purchasing environmentally friendly office products has also become easier thanks to the growing awareness of major office products suppliers. Whether

**SCORE**<sup>®</sup>  
Counselors to America's Small Business

### Competitive Advantage

Every business has a competitive advantage. But not every business makes the most of it. Yours can with insight from this FREE online workshop...

[Check It Out](#)

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### Free Counseling

Click any link below to sign up for free counseling at that location. Seek help as many times as you like.

[Aurora North](#)

[Aurora Downtown](#)

[DeKalb Branch](#)

[Elgin Branch](#)

[Joliet Branch](#)

[Lisle Branch](#)

[McHenry Branch](#)

[Naperville Branch](#)

*For evening hours,*

you shop in their stores or online, you'll find a wide range of recycled paper products, energy-saving devices and equipment, and even attractive furniture crafted from sustainable resources.

To learn more about operating issues facing your small business, contact America's free source of small business mentoring and coaching.

The Fox Valley SCORE Chapter offers *confidential* counseling to small businesses, including start-ups. Affiliated with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE has counselors available in eight locations in the counties and suburbs west of Chicago.

To sign up for a free appointment at the location closest to you, go to [ScoreFoxValley.org](http://ScoreFoxValley.org).

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We would enjoy brainstorming "green" ways to enhance the value of your business. There is never any charge for our face-to-face counseling because your success is our reward.

Sincerely,

*The Counselors at SCORE*

*see Naperville.*



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## Legal Corner

*Sponsored by  
Poznak Law Firm, Ltd.*

### Employee Duty of Loyalty

No employment contract? What loyalty can an employer expect? A lot, as shown in this landmark case.

[Details here](#)

## Marketing Is the Key Word for Workshops in May.

It's growing season, so fertilize your business with two marketing workshops designed specifically for SCORE:

### **How to Create a Marketing Plan**

May 11 in Elgin. [More details.](#)

### **Smart Marketing for More Business**

May 19 in Naperville. [More details.](#)

Plus... you can take advantage of low cost, half-day workshops on many other topics, ranging from **Starting a Business** to **QuickBooks, Financing** and many more. Locations include College of DuPage in Lisle, McHenry Community College, Waubensee Community College in Aurora, Joliet Junior College, and Elgin Community College.

Choice of topics. Choice of locations.

[Find a workshop that fits your needs.](#)