The Examiner
SAN FRANCISCO
Since 1865
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

THE 3-MINUTE

INTERVIEW

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Urban Solutions' Green Business Initiative program provides consulting and public workshops to educate small businesses to conserve resources and save money. The executive director explains how easy going green can be. Their workshop "Green financing for green businesses" is Tuesday. For more information, visit www.urbansolutionssf.org

What is Urban Solutions? We're trying to get all businesses to think about how they can green their business. We provide free site visits where we go to the location of the business and make tailored recommendations about what they can do to reduce their carbon footprint.

What are some ways businesses can be more environmentally conscious? We try and look at things even as simple as using soy-based ink to print a restaurant menu. It can be swapping out lightbulbs and replacing them with compact fluorescent lightbulbs, buying Energy Star appliances and installing low-flow toilets.

What about recycling? Frequently, the waste diversion is a critical one. People aren't composting and recycling. Make sure you have a green bin and people are trained how to use them. You can save a lot of money on your trash bill by making sure customers and staff properly disposes of waste. There's significant cost savings, as well as an environmental impact.

What is green certification? If you're green certified it means you're making an effort ... in adopting sustainable practices.

— *Juliana Bunim*