

FAQ's CDSN Conservation Partnership Program

1. What is the Conservation Partnership Program?

CDSN established the Conservation Partnership Program to promote water conservation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, waste management, air quality and community involvement while providing recognition for those individuals, businesses, non-profit and government organizations taking a leadership role in those activities.

2. How are the Conservation Partnership Program standards developed?

The Conservation Partnership Program standards are developed by the Conservation District of Southern Nevada with input from industry experts. These standards incorporate environmental practices and impacts specific to Southern Nevada.

3. What do the Conservation Partnership Program logos mean?

The Conservation Partnership Program uses 5 different logos. The first, and most basic, is the Program logo which is used on all Conservation Partnership Program material. The Associate logo indicates that the requirements of the Associate level have been met. The final three logos represent the different levels of Certification: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. These logos are awarded based on level of Certification achieved.

4. How do I join the program?

In order to be recognized as a Partner, Associate, or Certified member, you must first fill out an application specific to the level you hope to obtain. The application must be submitted with the appropriate application fee. If your application is approved, you will be accepted into the program.

5. How long is the Conservation Partnership Program recognition valid?

The recognition is valid for one year. At the end of the year another application will need to be submitted along with the fee for re-certification. At this time an applicant may choose to go for a higher level of certification.

6. If I apply for the Certification level and am declined, am I automatically an Associate?

No. By applying for Certification you are indicating that, to the best of your knowledge, your business/organization is meeting the minimum requirements to obtain that level of certification. If you are declined, we will work with you to help you achieve your goals. To receive Associate status another application, along with application fee, would have to be submitted to CDSN. If you are unsure whether you qualify for a particular level, please see our Toolkit or feel free to contact Jennifer Clifford at jclifford@cdsn.org before you apply.

7. How are applications verified?

The Conservation Partnership Program is a self-reporting program. By submitting a signed application, the applicant is signifying that statements made within the application are true and complete. Applicants at the Associate and Certification levels will additionally be required to submit an electronic copy of their organization's conservation plan. CDSN may also request a phone consultation, picture documentation, or an on-site visit to verify that your business is properly implementing the practices identified on the submitted application.

8. Is there an application fee for the Conservation Partnership Program?

Yes. Due to the overwhelming demand for the program and very limited staff capacity, we have an application fee. These fees vary depending on membership level. The Partner Level is \$125, Associate Level \$500, and Certification Level is \$750. Payment can be made by check payable to CDSN. Payment can also be made online via credit card or PayPal account.

9. Do I need to be entirely "Green" before I apply?

No. Any business/organization in Southern Nevada with a commitment to green their operations and willingness to implement their written plans can apply. For those seeking the entry-level Partner status, you must demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, the environment, and conservation. Our staff will support each business/organization in implementing required practices for each level of certification.

10. My business has several branches or locations. How should I proceed?

If your business/organization has more than one location, each location will have to submit a separate application. Depending on achievement, each location may have a different level of membership.

11. If my business is found to be out of compliance with an environmental regulation, will I be subject to fines?

CDSN is *not a regulatory agency* and does not impose fines for environmental violations. Our mission is to help your business/organization operate sustainably. If, through our assessment, we find that your business/organization is out of compliance, we can assist. Once you achieve environmental compliance, we will revisit your application. If you are found to be out of compliance once a membership level is awarded, your recognition may be revoked.

12. What does the toolkit consist of?

The toolkit is currently under development and will be online for member use as it becomes available. Tools under development include; a conservation plan template, best management practices for sustainability, links, guides and a wealth of information to assist your organization at any level of environmental sustainability.