



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP,
ATHENIAN SCHOOL IS NAMED A GREEN BUSINESS**

DANVILLE, CA – The Athenian School has been officially named a “Green Business” by the Contra Costa Green Business Program. After the completion of Green Business audits by Contra Costa Health Services, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and Contra Costa County’s Green Business Program, The Athenian School met all the standards to be honored as a Green Business.

The Athenian School is a distinctive Bay Area college preparatory school, providing an outstanding education to 457 students in grades 6 to 12. Athenian’s 75-acre campus lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, and students include both boarders and day students. The residential campus and the boarding program present unique opportunities and challenges to embrace Green Business practices.

Through environmentally conscientious and sound practices and efforts, Athenian’s environmental programs have surged forward in recent years. As a member of the Round Square Conference of Schools (one of four schools in the United States), The Athenian School’s mission is guided by the six Round Square Pillars—international understanding, education for democracy, outdoor adventure, leadership, community service and environmental stewardship.

To match action to this goal of environmental stewardship, Athenian has these environmental priorities: conserve water; conserve energy; reduce waste; prevent pollution. Athenian’s board of trustees, parent association, faculty and staff, and the entire student body support these goals with the following environmental stewardship projects:

Xeriscape (Water-Conserving) Landscaping: Jim Sternberg, who is currently the Library Director at Athenian (and served as interim Community Service Director for the 2005-06 academic year), organized a xeriscape landscaping project, which was installed by students and faculty during Tim Holm Day (April 17, 2006). Tim Holm Day, named to honor Athenian alumnus Tim Holm '71, is an all-school on and off-campus community service day focused heavily on improving the environment. This project, in particular, consisted of replacing a portion of lawn area with xeriscape or water-conserving plants, stepping stones and mulch. Once established, that area of lawn will require less watering, thus significantly reducing water consumption.

Kitchen Linens: The Athenian School kitchen now launders all of its own linens, including tablecloths, aprons, towels, etc., which reduces both transportation (saving on energy and pollution) and water usage and cost. Additionally, the kitchen has reduced its overall usage of linen.

Organic Garden: Athenian maintains its own organic garden, which has expanded tremendously during the 2005-06 academic year. In addition to doubling in size, the garden now has an automatic watering system, new raised planting beds, and more vegetables to coordinate with kitchen needs. The 2006 summer planting schedule included producing enough tomatoes to drastically decrease the kitchen's in-shipping of canned tomato products. The winter planting schedule is geared toward producing all of the lettuce needs for the remainder of the school year. On top of saving on transportation, which reduces energy and pollution, benefits of the organic garden also include more healthful meals for students, especially boarders, faculty and staff.

Compost Program: The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) awarded The Athenian School's Waste Reduction Project \$9,600 in grant money to purchase a commercial compost unit called the Earth Tub. The Waste Reduction Project, begun in September 2005, is an ongoing project and a standard operating procedure for Athenian. Much of the labor for the project has been provided by the newly organized Freshman Community Service Composting Group. The compost program will both support the organic garden and reduce the school's solid waste output. Since September 2005, Athenian has reduced its main dining hall's waste hauling volume and scheduled pick-ups by 30 percent.

Applied Science and Compost: Upper School Science faculty member Eugene Mizusawa and the students in his Applied Science class have developed a design improvement idea for Athenian's Waste Reduction Project. The class will work with Ed Costa, Food Service Manager, in the Athenian kitchen to make the Earth Tub even more energy efficient and easily manageable.

Word of Athenian's extensive and disciplined environmental practices has spread to both local and global communities. The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's summer 2006 newsletter, *Diversions*, which reaches approximately 60,000 households, featured an article titled "Athenian Takes Composting to Olympic Levels: School's New 'Earth Tub' Processes 100 Pounds Per Day." Additionally, Sodexho International, which provides food service and campus maintenance for Athenian, is drafting an article about Athenian's environmental stewardship for international publication, highlighting Athenian's compost and garden program, particularly emphasizing the program's avant-garde nature in its attempt to maintain sustainability. Sodexho International intends to host international guests at The Athenian School as a model or "showcase" account for corporations which desire to strengthen their efforts in environmental stewardship.

Along with support from the Athenian community of students, faculty, staff and trustees, community members Ed Costa, Food Service Manager, and Emmett Bryant, Maintenance Director, will continue to assume leadership roles in further promoting Athenian's environmental stewardship efforts and projects on campus for the 2006-07 academic year. Whether the commitment is manifest through recycled paper use, a composting program, or landscaping practices, Athenian is aware of the impact the school has on the environment, and models—as a Green Business—lessons sure to add to the classroom learning that benefits students.

ABOUT THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL: The Athenian School is a distinctive San Francisco Bay Area college preparatory school, providing an outstanding education that is challenging, engaging, personal, interactive and international. With 457 students in grades 6 to 12, Athenian's 75-acre campus lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, 32 miles east of San Francisco. The student to faculty ratio is an enviable 10:1 and the average class size is 15 students. The Athenian School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools.

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