

# Fresno Business Journal

---

## Self-Help Enterprises wins 'green' award

10/21/2014

[Business Journal staff](#)

Self-Help Enterprises has been recognized as a NeighborWorks Green Organization for its comprehensive efforts towards sustainable operations.

The Visalia-based organization was awarded the designation as a result of its commitment to green business practices. This is the third year NeighborWorks has recognized member groups and to date, 61 organizations have achieved the special designation.

"We are honored to be named a NeighborWorks Green Organization for our commitment to sustainable building practices and our green office culture," Tom Collishaw, CEO of Self-Help Enterprises, said in a prepared statement. "The green strategies we have adopted save families money, improve health outcomes and reduce our environmental impact."

Self-Help Enterprises works together with low-income families to build homes and communities using green practices. Homes built are of modest size to reduce land use and Energy-Star appliances and solar panels are often implemented.

All homes and apartment complexes are built to California's CALGreen energy code (Title 24) and most projects exceed it. The Goshen Village II and Viscaya Gardens rental communities in Tulare County both go beyond Title 24 and feature solar energy systems, low-water landscaping and many other energy upgrades.

Self-Help also follows green practices in the office by encouraging employees to recycle and compost, setting printers to default double-sided printing and making bicycles available to staff to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote a healthy lifestyle.

NeighborWorks supports a network of more than 240 nonprofits located in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.