



Published: July 27, 2011

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## Green businesses get chance to spotlight products

By Sharon McBrayer

Toner cartridges and office supplies, floor cleaning and cars are all products or services that governments use.

So on Wednesday, Catawba County sponsored and held an event at the Hickory Metro Convention Center to highlight “green” vendors and services in the area and invited other local governments and agencies to learn about the businesses.

HD Supply Facilities Maintenance is trying to break into the Catawba County area, said John Schuldes, an account representative with the company who was at the event.

“So far, so good,” Schuldes said of the event on Wednesday. “I’m hoping to get the ball rolling here.”

The company, which supplies maintenance parts, sells to most of the government agencies in the Asheville area, he said.

Anything Office had a booth at the event and its representatives were focusing on its remanufactured toner cartridges, said Cindy Greer, a sales support representative with the business. Every type of office supply she and Sales Consultant Lee Adams had at the event was environmentally “green,” they said.

While the business is based in Lenoir, it has a lot of customers in Catawba County, Greer said. One of its customers is CommScope.

Catawba County is already thinking “green.” It has a policy to buy recycled and environmentally-friendly products whenever possible, said Debbie Anderson, purchasing manager for Catawba County

Anderson, who organized the event, said more “green” businesses are out there than people may realize.

“We learned about a lot of Catawba County vendors who offer environmentally-friendly products that we didn’t know about before,” Anderson said.

In addition to businesses from the local area, the 39 vendors at the event also included businesses from Charlotte, Raleigh, Asheville and Tennessee, she said.

Local governments invited to the exhibition were from the surrounding counties, including Lincoln, Burke and Caldwell counties, Anderson said.