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## **SBA loans favor green buildings**

By Katherine Conrad

The Small Business Administration has doubled the amount of funding — from \$2 million to \$4 million — on loans to small businesses in its 504 program to buy real estate. Businesses just have to demonstrate that their new buildings can reduce energy consumption by 10 percent.

Fernando Alvarez, a loan officer for **CDC Small Business Finance** of San Jose, said the new green loans are just one part of the push to get real estate transactions rolling again.

“The local lending community is excited about the program because it gives them the opportunity to work with larger projects,” Alvarez said. “Prior to the energy initiative, the limit was \$2 million. With the energy efficiency program, you could go up to \$4 million in relation to bigger projects. The guidelines for qualifying are very reachable.”

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