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Go Green This St Patty's Day

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Happy St. Patty's Day!

While St. Patrick's Day is an annual occasion to celebrate Ireland and Irish culture, we'd be lying if all the talk about green didn't make us think of ways in which we can help businesses with a different kind of green: revenue growth. Here are some of our favorite ideas:

Turn Your Business Into a Franchise

Looking for a business growth opportunity? Read about the [advantages and challenges of franchising](#) your business, and how to go about deciding if it's something you should pursue.

Diversification and Licensing

In addition to turning your business into a franchise, here's an article that lays out [more ideas on how you can expand](#) your business, from diversification to product licensing.

Get into Exporting and Government Contracting

Here is some great information on how small businesses can grow by [getting into government contracting](#) and [exporting](#). Be sure to also check out our [sub-contracting opportunities directory](#).

While we're on the subject of contracting, we wanted to let you know about the creative [American Supplier Initiative \(ASI\)](#). The ASI is a nationwide series of ten [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)-sponsored events that facilitate on-site meetings between buyers that have specific contracting needs -- including large companies, corporations and government agencies -- and small to mid-size businesses that are interested in supplying those products and services.

For more information, check out this map of cities where ASI events are being held, and [click on the location you'd like to attend](#).

Boost Your Manufacturing Muscle

Look into tapping into [The Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#), a nationwide network providing services from innovation strategies to workforce development with a focus on helping manufacturers develop new customers, expand into new markets, and create new products.

Invest in the USA

[The SelectUSA Investment Summit](#) is a chance for U.S. and foreign investors, as well as businesses of all sizes seeking to establish or expand operations in the United States to be matched up with other U.S. businesses, economic development organizations (EDO's) and government officials who can provide information on where and why to invest in business in the U.S. Attendees can also learn about available resources and incentives directly from U.S. federal, state, and local officials. The Summit takes place March 23-24 in Washington, DC.

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