



Gradible

Background

I'm Yadira Diaz, the proud founder of Gradible. The company name itself comes from the word 'biodegradable'. Initially, my goal was to assess businesses on their sustainability practices to grade their environmental impact. However, I soon realized that delivering unfavorable grades to businesses wasn't the way to inspire change, and I didn't want to be the one delivering bad news.

So, I pivoted and decided to offer a single product and service aimed at assisting businesses. This solution involved partnering with a local company specializing in collecting food scraps and transforming them into compost. This not only diverted food waste away from landfills but also mitigated the release of harmful methane gas into our atmosphere. Then, I started offering sustainable food service packaging, including to-go containers, cups, and utensils, all crafted from 100% sustainable materials that could be composted. These services not only supported local businesses but also elevated their sustainability practices.

With time, my offerings expanded significantly. Today, after six months of operation, I provide over 150 sustainable solutions, targeting waste reduction, energy efficiency, and water conservation. This expansion was driven by my passion for sustainability and concern for the environmental challenges we face here in Miami. We're experiencing severe climate disasters, and we're running out of landfill space. It's no longer a question of 'if' but rather 'when' these issues will affect us.

Solution

Regarding the Miami-Dade Business Navigator program and how it assisted me, I had the opportunity to work with Marthy Wroy, my consultant, through the program. Working with her was fantastic because she's a real go-getter. She doesn't waste time; she dives right into what needs to be done. Without her, I wouldn't have achieved many certifications or become a vendor for the county and schools. The reality is, some of these processes are incredibly complex, and it almost seems like they're designed to deter you. They really should streamline these procedures to make it easier for entrepreneurs like me. However, Myrtha helped me tremendously, and I have tremendous respect for her and the program.

From the Owner

"I've learned that you must take the leap and dive into entrepreneurship. You can't wait until everything is perfectly organized. Also, take advantage of resources and grants, especially those available for women, minorities, and veterans. Networking and putting yourself out there is crucial to success."

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