



San Diego Expands Solar Power Use

Mayor 'Flips the Switch' on City's Latest Major Solar-Powered Installation

Today San Diego celebrated another major step forward in replacing fossil fuel-generated power with clean, renewable energy at city facilities.

A new 945-kilowatt solar power system at the city's Otay Mesa Water Treatment Plant is now producing enough electricity during the daylight hours to meet the total power needs of the plant's pumping operation.

The energy produced by these panels over the next year is the equivalent of what's needed to power 2,600 households annually. Over the next 20 years, this system will offset 29 million pounds of carbon dioxide - or the equivalent of taking about 2,800 cars off the road.

But the benefits of this system don't pertain only to our air quality and our environment. Taxpayers also will appreciate the financial benefits of the city's Solar Power Service Agreement with Sun Edison, which provided all the upfront costs for the panels, including construction and installation. The company owns and operates the solar panels, and we'll buy the power they produce for the next 20 years.

Under our agreement, the power we purchase is about half the cost of the power we'd otherwise purchase from the utility. And on a typical sunny day, this system actually exports power to the grid, offsetting the cost of drawing from the grid after the sun goes down.

It's a great deal for the citizens on every level.

Along with the 1.1-megawatt system at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant and more than a dozen smaller installations at other city facilities, this new installation

brings us halfway to our goal of having 5 megawatts of solar power on city buildings by 2013.

We also plan to do similar projects at our Miramar Water Treatment Plant and other city facilities.

San Diego has made major strides in our energy-management efforts over the past decade - from energy efficiency to use of renewable power. We'll continue to look for ways to manage the energy we use and to generate power with solar and other renewable sources.

I'm proud that San Diego is California's top solar power producer and is setting an example for the nation.



www.sandiego.gov/mayor

