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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT **FACT SHEET**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT PETERS HONORS LOCAL WASTE REDUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

Climate Protection Champion Category Also Honors Groups that Reduce Greenhouse Gas

SAN DIEGO, CA—Council President Scott Peters honored winners of the **16th Annual Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards** and the **Climate Protection Champion Awards** during a City Council meeting on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22.

“While it’s our job to keep the Miramar Landfill open for as long as we can and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we know we can’t do it alone. Companies who take the initiative really help make a difference in the quality of our city’s environment.”

--Council President Scott Peters

Also handing out awards with Council President Scott Peters was Elmer L. Heap, Jr., Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Community Services.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards program, sponsored by the City’s Environmental Services Department (ESD), honored 36 local companies and organizations for their successful and innovative waste reduction programs that significantly contribute to diverting waste from the landfill, recycling, and conserving natural resources.

The 2008 Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards categories:

- **Recycling Champion** is awarded to one individual whose vision, commitment and advocacy for the environment positively impacts San Diego’s communities.
- **Recycler of the Year** awards are the highest honor for the most comprehensive, innovative and/or improved recycling programs.
- **Director’s Recycling Awards** are given to companies for their excellent waste reduction and diversion efforts.

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2008 Recycling Champion Award:

- **Rear Admiral L. R. Hering Sr.**, United States Navy. The award pays tribute to Rear Admiral Hering's ongoing commitment to recycling and environmental stewardship. Under his leadership, the Navy has developed comprehensive recycling, reutilization, and environmentally friendly procurement programs which realize substantial economic savings and emphasize 21st century technology, processes and initiatives. Notably, the construction and demolition diversion program, which was developed in collaboration with the City, now yields a 65 percent debris landfill diversion.

Recycler of the Year Awards:

- **Cox Communications** is working to be an environmental leader and is focused on decreasing their carbon footprint and global warming. Through their efforts, partnerships and the Green Team, a group of employees with the passion to make a difference, Cox saved more than \$800,000 in revenue and diverted more than 50 percent of waste from landfills in 2007.
- **Mercury Celebrity Cruises** followed their ISO 14001 environmental management strategies and company's procedures to implement an aggressive recycling program to reduce the environmental impacts of their operation and the amount of landfilled material. This was achieved by encouraging minimization, separation and recycling of all materials produced on board. This resulted in a very successful season at the San Diego port, recycling more than 74,000 kilograms (81.4 tons).
- **Neyenesch Printers** has an active policy of waste-stream reduction and recycling. Continued efforts lead them to eliminate thousands of pounds per year of plastic waste from their pre-press operations, recycle 770 tons of material, and save over \$170,000 in 2007. They also have a Forestry Stewardship Council chain of custody certification, which ensures the use of paper from sustainable sources and guarantees recycled content.
- **Point Loma Nazarene University** has demonstrated a continued initiative to reduce waste. Last year, more recycling bins were installed, the cafeteria became virtually zero waste, more permanent textile recycle bins were added, all cafeteria food was composted, 360 tons of material were recycled and savings of \$24,000 were realized from all the recycling activities.
- **Qualcomm, Inc.** is committed to being a positive and creative force in the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment. Their continuous efforts to reduce the consumption of natural resources through the company and minimize any negative impacts to the environment resulted in a savings of \$26,000 and recycling of 675 tons of material in 2007.
- **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center** incorporated a thorough recycling program which involves everyone in the building, employees and visitors alike. Blue recycling containers are placed in all offices and communal areas and everyone is educated through signage and example.
- **San Diego City College** is committed to developing and participating in programs that benefit the environment through education, resource management, conservation and energy. In 2007, they were able to save approximately \$25,000 and recycle over 900 tons by implementing electronic class registration, xeriscape landscaping and concrete and asphalt recycling.

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- **San Diego Convention Center** is committed to supporting and encouraging sustainable practices, including hosting “green meetings” in their facilities, and has developed several programs promoting minimal use of materials and natural resources that adversely impact the environment. In 2007, 519 tons were recycled, and \$11,000 in savings was obtained.
- **San Diego International Airport** continues to expand their recycling program and strive to incorporate “green business” concepts into everything they do. In 2007, the Airport waste reduction efforts diverted 268 tons, saved approximately \$12,000, and replaced 41 percent of their inter-terminal shuttles with new busses that run on compressed natural gas (CNG).
- **SeaWorld San Diego** has a comprehensive environmental program which ranges from waste reduction, recycling and recycled product purchasing to member awareness and education. In 2007, more than 8,200 tons of food, paper products, metals, greenery, pallets, construction and demolition debris, in addition to more traditional recyclable materials, were recycled.
- **V.A. San Diego Healthcare System** considers recycling an important solution to conserve energy and protect the environment. In 2007, they increased recycling containers by 47 percent, donated an estimated 2.4 tons of ice packs to “Meals on Wheels,” diverted 194 tons, saved \$28,620, and expanded the program to other locations.
- **Whole Foods Market - La Jolla** educates and encourages all employees and customers to be environmentally friendly and to recycle, reuse, and reduce waste whenever possible. Their green waste program is a good example of how their efforts have significantly cut their trash and enabled them to close the recycling loop by producing compost from biodegradable waste.

Director’s Recycling Award:

Allied Waste Services; Amylin Pharmaceuticals; Black Mountain Ranch; City of San Diego Water Department, Operations Division; Green Field Paper Company; Ikea San Diego; Integrated Solid Waste Management Program, Navy Region Southwest; Kyocera Wireless Corp.; La Jolla/Riford Library Center and Jacobs Annex; Mission Playmor Homeowners Association; Nolte Associates; Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library; Reed Elsevier; Remec Defense & Space; SAIC; San Diego Padres – PETCO Park; San Diego State University; Solar Turbines; Synthetic Genomics; The San Diego Union-Tribune; University of California, San Diego; Vons A Safeway Company; and Zoological Society of San Diego.

The **San Diego Climate Protection Champion Awards** were given to three San Diego groups that have made significant investments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the community.

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, signed in 2006 by Mayor Jerry Sanders, launched the City’s Climate Protection Champion Award which encourages businesses, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions to significantly reduce global warming emissions in the San Diego region.

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“We each have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving the environment for our children and grandchildren. These awards recognize the outstanding contributions of dozens of local companies and individuals who can inspire others to take up the cause of recycling and environmental protection.”

--Elmer L. Heap, Jr.,

San Diego Climate Protection Champion Awards:

- **Bank of America** announced a \$20 billion environmental initiative in March 2007 to encourage development of environmentally sustainable business practices through lending, investing, philanthropy and the creation of new products and services. The bank awarded \$500,000 in “Green Grants” in January 2008 to the San Diego Foundation's Climate Initiative, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, La Maestra, and the California Center for Sustainable Energy.
- **University of California San Diego** recently became the first campus on the West Coast to join the Chicago Climate Exchange, North America’s only voluntary, legally binding trading system to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. As the first university in California to have been recognized by the California Climate Action Registry as a “Climate Action Leader,” UC San Diego’s goal is to become a living laboratory for climate solutions by being an early adopter of real-world tools and leading-edge technologies for San Diego and the global marketplace for successfully measuring, certifying and reporting its greenhouse gas emissions to the Registry and the public.
- **Amylin Pharmaceuticals** employs a multi-pronged approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that includes financial subsidies for employees who use mass transportation, energy and water conservation programs, and the support of a company “Green Team” that seeks to continually improve the environmental programs.

For more information about the City’s Waste Reduction & Recycling Awards or establishing business recycling programs, please contact ESD’s Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For more information about the San Diego Climate Protection Champion Awards, please visit the website at www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/sustainable/inspire.shtml#climate.

The City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City’s long-term disposal needs. The department also oversees the City’s management of energy use, and explores innovative options for energy independence and sustainability.

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