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San Diego Ranks 13th in Nation on National Energy Efficiency Scorecard

CITY HAS SECOND MOST IMPROVED SCORE SINCE 2015 OUT OF 51 LARGE CITIES RANKED

SAN DIEGO – A new national report ranks San Diego as one of the most improved energy efficient cities in the country. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) today released the 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard. San Diego moved into 13th place overall by earning 59 points and was recognized as the second most-improved city from the ACEEE's 2015 Scorecard.

“This new ranking shows how far we’ve come in creating a more energy efficient city in recent years,” said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. “We’ve set targets to save energy in new and existing buildings, encouraged the expansion of renewable energy use, and created strategies to encourage more residents to use transit, walking and biking to get around the city. With the passage of our landmark Climate Action Plan, we’re setting the example for how to build a better and cleaner future for the next generation.”

ACEEE's City Energy Efficiency Scorecard ranks US cities based on the strength of their policies and programs advancing energy efficiency in local government, buildings, transportation, and across their communities. It is cited in policy, research, and advocacy circles, and also earns extensive media attention during its release and throughout the year. A news conference on May 10 announcing the 2017 Scorecard rankings also provided an opportunity for the City's Chief Sustainability Officer, Cody Hooven to highlight San Diego's position as an up-and-coming city for energy efficiency policy. The City's substantial scoring improvement was primarily due to the adoption of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted by City Council in 2015 and its goals to reduce energy use in homes and greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community.

ACEEE updates the City Energy Efficiency Scorecard biennially to benchmark the status of energy efficiency efforts in cities. In addition, they designed the Scorecard to be a tool to help cities develop sustainable approaches for cost effectively improving energy efficiency by learning from other cities' experiences. This report highlights innovative local policies for policymakers at all levels of government to

consider. ACEEE's focus is on large U.S. cities, but many of the policies and practices in the Scorecard are relevant to other cities, smaller localities and other levels of government according to its website.

Cities' large shares of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions mean that energy efficiency actions in urban areas and by local governments are critical in addressing the nation's and the world's energy and environmental challenges.

“Our department views energy efficiency as central to achieving the City’s Climate Action Plan initiatives,” said Environmental Services Department Director, Mario X. Sierra. “San Diego’s efforts to address climate change serves as a model and hopefully a motivator for other cities to improve their energy efficiency.”

Per ACEEE: Cities around the globe account for two-thirds of energy demand and 70 percent of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions (IEA 2016). Urban energy demand and carbon dioxide emissions may increase over time as city populations continue to grow.

“All aspects of city life – from the buildings people work and live in, to the roads they travel, to the city services they enjoy – can be improved by increasing energy efficiency,” said senior researcher and lead report author, David Ribeiro. “Cutting energy use in cities can lower energy costs and save money for residents, businesses and local governments, improve living and working environments, reduce commuting time and costs, create jobs and pump money back into the local economy.”

ACEEE's 2017 City Energy Efficiency Scorecard report compiles information on policies and local actions to advance energy efficiency, comparing 51 cities across five policy areas. The resulting scores identify cities that are excelling and those that have room for improvement. Throughout the report, ACEEE provides best practices examples used by leading cities. As a result, the Scorecard serves as a roadmap for local governments aiming to improve their cities' energy efficiency. ACEEE's website at <http://aceee.org/local-policy/city-scorecard> is a useful resource to explain how the Scorecard works.

“The Environmental Services Department is truly honored by this recognition,” said ESD deputy director Jack Clark. “Achieving the City’s CAP goals are the main motivation behind the many projects we’re working on today.”

The City's Climate Action Plan is a progressive effort that culminates in a transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. Several initiatives are currently under development, including:

- A Residential Energy Conservation and Disclosure Ordinance and a Municipal Energy Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- Supporting Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing to facilitate residential and commercial property upgrades;
- Expanding Green Business program to increase energy efficiency education and resources to businesses within the City of San Diego;
- Providing weatherization and other energy efficiency upgrades for low and moderate income households through Community Development Block Grant funding; and
- San Diego's "Smart" Adaptive Control Street lighting retrofit plan will install between 13,000 and 15,000 energy efficient and smart streetlights.



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