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City of San Diego Partners with Clean Coalition on Solar Development Efforts

PARTICIPATION IN NEW RESEARCH PROGRAM WILL HELP
EVALUATE COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR GRID RELIABILITY AS
SOLAR INSTALLATIONS INCREASE

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego announced it has been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to participate in a collaborative research effort to explore new ways that solar energy can improve the affordability, reliability and resiliency of the nation's electric grid. The City of San Diego is one of just nine teams selected to join the program, which is known as the [Solar Energy Innovation Network](#). As part of the network, the City will partner with Clean Coalition, a not-for-profit organization that works to transition local infrastructure to renewable energy.

The City's participation will include financial, analytical and facilitation support as it works to identify and address new challenges and opportunities stemming from solar energy and other distributed energy technologies in San Diego. The solutions developed and demonstrated by the City will serve as a blueprint for other communities as they plan and move their solar initiatives forward.

“San Diego’s Climate Action Plan calls for bold vision, ambitious leadership and innovative partnerships to turn the challenges ahead into opportunities to create a better future for all,” said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. “Our partnership with the Clean Coalition will help us create economic and resilience opportunities for our community while moving us to cleaner, more affordable energy.”

The City will lay the foundation for maximizing local solar potential in San Diego by working with the Clean Coalition to conduct a city-wide solar siting survey to identify the technical potential for commercial-scale solar generation in the community. The unique survey methodology not only identifies viable solar locations in the urban environment, but also evaluates those sites based on the interconnection potential of the local grid.

“We selected teams that are experimenting with promising ideas to use solar power to improve the future of grid security and reliability in their communities,” said Kristen Ardani, who leads the Innovation Network at NREL.

This partnership also aims to determine solar deployment potential on municipal property and glean lessons learned from past experiences with municipal solar. As a result, the City will also develop solar and storage Request for Proposal templates that support municipal procurement of technology to improve city energy resilience. Through this project, San Diego will assess options and pathways leading to clean energy technology deployment and cost-effective support for the City’s Climate Action Plan.

“Expanding our solar energy capacity would be a win-win scenario for local businesses and the City,” said Environmental Services Department Director Mario X. Sierra. “It would allow for the installation of larger solar systems without worrying about losing money if they over-produce energy at times.”



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