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CONTACT:

Nicole Darling at 619-379-8377 or ndarling@sandiego.gov

City of San Diego Named #2 Among Major U.S. Cities for Solar Panel Installations

ENVIRONMENT AMERICA RELEASES 'SHINING CITIES 2020' REPORT AGAIN SHOWING SAN DIEGO AS A NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY LEADER

SAN DIEGO – As a national leader on climate action, the City of San Diego is once again being recognized as a top city for solar panel installations and for its commitment to clean renewable energy. This week, Environment America released its Shining Cities 2020 report, a comprehensive study on solar capacity in major U.S. cities, and listed San Diego in the No. 2 spot for installed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

"The City of San Diego continues to be a shining example for other cities to follow in the fight against climate change, with record solar installations and our push for 100% renewable energy citywide," said Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer. "Now, as we're grappling with a pandemic that has had a devastating impact across the globe, it is more crucial than ever that climate action also drives our economy by creating jobs for the future, reducing energy costs for families and businesses, and building a more sustainable future for all."

Environment America, a research and policy center, surveyed 57 cities for the Shining Cities 2020 [report](#) and found more solar capacity was added to the grid nationwide than any other energy source over the last year.

San Diego ranked No. 2 behind only Honolulu for the amount of solar PV installed per capita and ranked No. 2 behind only Los Angeles for the total amount of solar PV installed. The report also lists San Diego among the Solar Stars, cities with 50 or more watts of solar PV capacity installed per capita.

With a goal of achieving 100% renewable energy use citywide by 2035, the City has in recent years ramped up the installation of solar PV systems on municipal facilities. In 2019, Mayor Faulconer [announced](#) 17 solar power projects at city-owned facilities that are estimated to save approximately \$12.5 million over the next 20 years.

A project currently underway at the Miramar Water Treatment Plant includes the installation of a one megawatt solar PV system, which would generate enough power for approximately 240 homes per year.

In San Diego, solar power is also fueling the economy. According to the most recent Climate Action Plan [annual report](#), the city has seen a 4.9% increase in job growth in the renewable energy sector since 2010. Last year's Shining Cities 2019 report also had San Diego ranked in the No. 2 spot for installed solar PV.

“San Diego has been a consistent leader on climate action,” said Chief Sustainability Officer Cody Hooven. “This recognition shows that San Diegans are taking simple, actionable and cost-saving steps by going solar and supporting a clean energy future.”

The City has made it easier than ever for residents and business to choose solar with a simplified permitting process and online residential solar application. More information can be found on the Development Services Department webpage at sandiego.gov/development-services/permits/solar-photovoltaic-permit.

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