



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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EL CAPITAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS KICK OFF NEW COUNTYWIDE ENERGY CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM

*Teenagers Conduct Energy Audit of El Capitan Stadium Association Meeting Hall
to Cut Energy Use and Costs*

SAN DIEGO, CA— Staff from the City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department led high school students from the El Capitan High School in Lakeside to conduct a lighting audit at the El Capitan Stadium Association Meeting Hall on November 19, 2004 to help reduce the facility’s monthly energy costs. The students’ visit to the center resulted from a partnership of local governments across San Diego County and the San Diego Regional Energy Office designed to train students to become tomorrow’s leaders in energy management.

The **San Diego Region Green Action Program** is based on the City of San Diego’s successful “Green Schools” program that trained more than 1,500 students and provided energy-efficiency retrofits to 10 community service facilities within the city. The community facilities—ranging from the Sherman Heights Community Center to the La Maestra Family Clinic—benefited from the retrofits, which saved more than 25,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity and avoided 13 tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas associated with global warming. The Green Schools program began with one high school in 2001 and expanded to eight by 2004.

“We are proud that the benefits of a great City of San Diego program such as Green Schools have been expanded countywide,” said Elmer Heap, director of the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. “The City is training tomorrow’s leaders to think globally about climate change and to act locally by conserving energy.”

The San Diego Region Green Action Program seeks to educate approximately 1,500 students from 31 high schools throughout San Diego County over a two-year period. The program targets the energy-efficient retrofitting of 31 community service projects, with the potential annual savings of \$30,000 and 280,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. The program is a partnership between the cities of San Diego,

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Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Escondido, Oceanside, the County of San Diego, and the San Diego Regional Energy Office.

The city's Environmental Services Department will act as "training leader" for Green Action and give workshops on implementing the program within the various cities. Training for the City of Chula Vista is scheduled for early 2005 and other cities within the partnership are expected to participate as well.

The students' energy audit of the community center is the final session of the Green Action program that begins with classroom instruction emphasizing the link between local energy use, global trends in energy use, and the resulting impacts on the environment and society. Led by a professional energy engineer, students conducted an audit of their campus using engineering diagnostic tools such as light meters and infrared temperature guns to improve energy efficiency.

The Green Action program includes a half-day interactive youth forum to be held each spring for students to discuss what they learned and to offer solutions for the future regarding energy use. Prominent environmental experts and elected officials are expected to participate in the forum.

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, explores innovative options that create more energy independence, and works to advance more sustainable practices within the City organization and the community. For more information, visit the department's website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/> .

The San Diego Regional Energy Office San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO) is an independent, public-benefit, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that provides objective information, research, analysis and long-term planning on energy issues for the San Diego region. SDREO serves as a link between consumers and government and is currently managing a variety of publicly-funded rebate, incentive and education programs. SDREO also operates the San Diego Energy Resource Center - a reference, training and demonstration facility for energy education and technologies. For more information, visit <http://www.sdenergy.org> or call toll free at 1-866-SDENERGY.

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