



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 28, 2008

## FACT SHEET

# CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO FURTHER PROMOTE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

### MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES SOLAR AMERICA CITIES GRANT

The City of San Diego will be receiving funds and technical support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as part of the agency's Solar America Cities program. San Diego will receive a \$200,000 grant to fund the integration of solar power into city facilities and to encourage other cities across the country to follow suit.

In addition to the funding, the DOE will provide hands-on assistance from technical experts to help integrate solar technologies into energy planning, zoning and facilities. The process will streamline local regulations and practices that affect solar adoption by residents and businesses. The city's solar energy plan will also present solar financing options and promote solar technology among residents and businesses through outreach, curriculum development and incentive programs.

"This \$200,000 investment by the Department of Energy in the city of San Diego is welcome support for implementing our solar energy plan," said Mayor Sanders. "I am proud that our city continues to be recognized by other agencies for our leadership in the planning and implementation of clean and renewable solar technology."

"The Department of Energy recognizes the important role of cities as champions of progressive energy-efficiency and renewable-energy efforts, and we are especially excited to see San Diego making this commitment," said Tom Kimbis, the DOE's Director of Market Transformation. "Solar is a key component of our national energy strategy, and the DOE's goal is to make solar photovoltaic-based electricity cost-competitive nationwide by 2015 — and sooner in some states."

The DOE also provided 13 street signs that highlight San Diego's status as a "Solar America City." City staff will place the signs around the city in high-traffic areas to remind residents and visitors that San Diego is at the forefront of developing and implementing clean, renewable energy sources such as solar power.

Today's funding was made possible in part through assistance from the California Center for Sustainable Energy, which provides technical support to the city's energy plan and helped the city obtain the DOE grant.

## **CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON SOLAR ENERGY**

The City currently has 13 facilities fitted with photovoltaic systems that generate almost 1.3 megawatts of electricity annually – enough to power about 1,000 homes. The city’s solar plan calls for an additional 2 megawatts of power to be produced around the City in the near future.

With the current solar panel systems, the city of San Diego saves almost \$170,000 annually in energy costs. This project has placed the city in the top five in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ranking of cities that use environmentally preferable “green” energy.

In the San Diego region, the number of installed photovoltaic systems has increased more than 35 percent over the past five years, offsetting grid-supplied power by more than 33 megawatts. The city of San Diego alone hosts over a third of the region’s installed solar panel projects.

Additionally, San Diego has been chosen as the host city for the largest U.S. solar industry conference in October of this year. The Solar Power International conference will draw more than 15,000 participants to San Diego.

## **CITY GOALS**

- A solar energy generation plan that will provide about 5 megawatts of renewable energy through photovoltaic systems at city facilities.
- Installation of city solar energy facilities at other sites, including the Water Department’s Otay Water Treatment Plant and the Metropolitan Wastewater Department’s Black Mountain Reservoir.
- Continuing development and implementation of the city’s renewable energy commitment, which has earned San Diego designation as America’s leading “Green Power Partnership” city from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- About the Department of Energy’s Solar America Cities program, see: [www.solaramericacities.energy.gov](http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov)
- About the city of San Diego’s renewable energy efforts, visit: [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/energy](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/energy)
- About the California Center for Sustainable Energy’s programs, go to: [www.energycenter.org](http://www.energycenter.org)

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