



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO SETS NEW ENERGY EFFICIENCY GOAL TO REDUCE POWER USE

Plan Calls for Reducing Energy Demand by 50 Megawatts



Councilmember Toni Atkins, center, accepted a rebate check from the San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO) for energy efficiency upgrades to the historic Casa del Prado building in Balboa Park. Environmental Services Department (ESD) Director Elmer L. Heap, Jr. (from left), ESD Energy Administrator Tom Blair, and Chairperson Mike Turk of the City's Sustainable Energy Advisory Board also accepted the check. Executive Director Irene Stillings, right, of SDREO made the presentation May 12, 2006.

SAN DIEGO, CA– Councilmember Toni Atkins and the City's Sustainable Energy Advisory Board Chairperson Mike Turk announced today a new initiative to achieve 50-megawatts of energy efficiency improvements in the City of San Diego over the next ten years to reduce energy use.

(MORE)

*City of San Diego's 50 Megawatt Goal
May 12, 2006*

“Reducing energy consumption in City facilities and private buildings will eliminate the need to build new electrical generating plants, which in turn will save the \$100 million it would cost to build just one plant,” said Councilmember Atkins.

In addition to saving money, reducing energy demand by 50 megawatts reduces greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere and are associated with global climate change. Fifty megawatts are equivalent to powering about 50,000 residential homes.

“The greenhouse gas savings are equal to removing 62,000 polluting cars from the road, or planting 127,000 acres of trees,” said Atkins.

Atkins, speaking in front of the historic Casa del Prado Theatre in Balboa Park at a May 12, 2006 press conference, also declared the City’s commitment to fulfill 10 percent of that goal by performing efficiency upgrades in City-owned facilities. In the past year, the City has upgraded 84 structures and reduced the electrical needs by more than 2.3 million kilowatt-hours a year.

The most recent example, the Casa del Prado building and theatre, received an energy efficiency retrofit completed in March 2006. The retrofit upgraded lighting, air conditioning and installed energy-management software. The building now uses 30 percent less energy that it did before the retrofit, which means a lower energy bill to City taxpayers by an estimated \$110,000 a year.

Irene Stillings, executive director of the San Diego Regional Energy Office (SDREO), presented a symbolic \$54,500 check to Atkins, Turk and Elmer L. Heap Jr., director of the City’s Environmental Services Department. SDREO is a partner with the City to reach the energy goal and the check represents a rebate for energy efficiency improvements to Casa del Prado.

Energy efficiency upgrades to City buildings are funded by SDREO rebates and a loan from the California Energy Commission. The loan will be repaid with the funds freed up from the energy savings.

Atkins urged San Diego residents to do their part to reach the 50-megawatt goal by replacing inefficient home appliances such as refrigerators older than 10 years, to replace outdated, watt-wasting lighting, and upgrade air conditioning systems in homes and businesses.

“Look for the Energy Star label when replacing electrical equipment or appliances,” said Atkins. Energy Star is a federal-government backed program to protect the environment and reduce energy costs.



“The sad fact is that the nation’s energy costs have increased 500 percent over the last ten years and will keep on increasing in the future,” she said.

For more information on energy rebate and efficiency programs, visit www.sdge.com, www.sdenergy.org, and www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/.

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