



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2007

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
PRESS RELEASE**

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO CHOSEN BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
TO PROMOTE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

***CITY ONE OF 13 TO SPLIT \$2.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS***

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced today that the City of San Diego was among 13 national cities chosen by the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a comprehensive plan to promote the increased use of clean, renewable solar-powered technologies in the city. San Diego is one of 13 cities that will split \$2.5 million as part of the grant.

**SAN DIEGO SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP IN INSTALLING SOLAR ENERGY AT CITY FACILITIES**

- The DOE will provide on-site policy assistance to San Diego to help integrate solar technologies into city energy planning, zoning, and facilities, and to streamline city-level regulations.
- The DOE will also provide technical assistance from its national scientific and engineering laboratories such as the Sandia National Laboratory to help San Diego develop a solar-friendly infrastructure.
- The City will partner with the California Center for Sustainable Energy, formerly known as the San Diego Regional Energy Office, to help develop a solar implementation plan that coordinates with the California Solar Initiative, a State plan that provides incentives toward solar development.
- The inaugural DOE program, called the Solar America Cities award, is designed to accelerate solar adoption in the nation's electricity load centers such as San Diego by supporting cities' innovative efforts with financial and technical assistance.

“I am proud that the Department of Energy has recognized San Diego for our leadership in adopting clean and renewable solar technology, and our commitment to install photovoltaic systems at City facilities.”

--Mayor Jerry Sanders

- The other 2007 Solar America Cities are: Ann Arbor, Mich.; Austin, Texas; Berkeley, Calif.; Boston, Mass.; Madison, Wis.; New Orleans, La.; New York, NY; Pittsburgh, Penn.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City, Utah; San Francisco, Calif.; and Tucson, Ariz.
- The Solar America Cities is a portion of DOE's Solar America Initiative that required each city to submit a proposal outlining its plans to build a sustainable solar infrastructure, streamline city-level regulations, and promote mainstream solar technology adoption among residents and businesses.

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMITTED TO FIVE MEGAWATTS OF RENEWABLE POWER**

- Photovoltaics at City facilities are part a solar energy generation plan that will provide the City with a total of 5 megawatts of renewable energy.
- Other sites for City solar energy facilities include the Water Department's Otay Water Treatment Plant and the Metropolitan Wastewater Department's Black Mountain Reservoir.
- The City's renewable energy commitment is part of what earned it the designation as America's leading "Green Power Partnership" city from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

**ABOUT THE CITY'S PHOTOVOLTAICS AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

City photovoltaics at 12 facilities currently generate approximately 1.8 million kilowatt-hours annually. Photovoltaics are part a total of 18 megawatts of renewable energy produced from City sources such as methane gas from City's Miramar Landfill and a 1.35 megawatt hydro generator installed at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- About the Department of Energy's 2007 Solar America Cities Awards, see [www.doe.gov/news/5137.htm](http://www.doe.gov/news/5137.htm)
- 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 San Diego's leading Green Power Partnership Ranking by the Environmental Protection Agency see [www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top25.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/partners/top25.htm), and select "Top 10 Local Government"