



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Dennis Williams, Desk: 858-573-1241 | Cell: 858-518-7774
Linda Giannelli Pratt, Desk: 858-492-5088

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO REVEALS ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION DATA

SAN DIEGO, CA- The City of San Diego joins a growing list of large cities and businesses worldwide in disclosing its greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

The City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) began sharing the city's greenhouse gas data in this summer to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a nonprofit organization based in London that works to transform the way the world does business to reduce climate change.

"Our goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 15 percent by 2020," said Chris Gonaver, director of the ESD. "We are saying loud and clear in a public way that the City is taking climate change seriously."

The City currently produces 12.65 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, based on the average of 2004, 2007 and 2008 studies. Just reducing two million metric tons is equivalent to the average energy used in 103,000 homes.

According to its Climate Action Plan (CAP), the City plans to reduce emissions in transportation, buildings, and waste management by:

- increasing alternative modes of transportation such as mass transit, bicycling and walking;
- retrofitting existing City facilities and infrastructure to achieve energy savings; and,
- diverting trash from landfill disposal, harvesting methane from landfills, and capturing wastewater treatment gas.

Due to the very high frequency of single drivers on the road, transportation is responsible for the largest output of GHG emissions, followed by energy, and waste emissions.

The purpose of CAP is to reduce the community's impact from global climate change and thereby reduce environmental impact.

(MORE)

City Reveals its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data

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San Diego Gas & Electric has noticed the City's strides to slim down GHG emissions. The utility awarded the 2013 Energy Champion Awards for Local Government for energy efficiency projects that reduce electrical consumption.

Each year the City saves almost 9.6 million kilowatt-hours by:

- retrofitting 34,500 streetlights citywide to energy-efficient induction lighting from the old yellowish sodium-vapor lamps;
- use of almost 23 megawatts of renewable energy production located at City sites including biogas, hydroelectricity, photovoltaic and wind; and,
- installation of a 1.4 megawatt fuel cell and a new wind generating system.

"That translates into \$8.1 million annual savings in reduced electrical costs from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects," said Gonaver, "which is good news for City taxpayers."

"While national governments struggle to establish an agreed global climate deal, 110 cities from around the world, including the City of San Diego, have been acting to combat the effects of a changing climate and taking part in CDP's Cities program," said Conor Riffle, head of CDP Cities.

These and other findings are published in "Wealthier, Healthier Cities," a recent report from CDP, www.cdproject.net/en-US/Pages/HomePage.aspx. According to the CDP, the most common actions taken by cities focus on improving energy.

"The more we reduce our carbon emissions, the more the City will benefit in both the livability of our city and our bottom line," said Linda Giannelli Pratt, ESD's chief program manager.

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