



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

### **NEW LOAN PROGRAM PUTS ENERGY UPGRADES WITHIN REACH FOR MORE HOMEOWNERS**

*Reserve fund allows credit union to offer favorable terms to more borrowers*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today launched the San Diego Home Energy Upgrade Loan program, which provides low-interest loans for energy-efficiency upgrades on San Diego homes, using a city-funded reserve to ensure broader availability and more favorable terms on loans.

The city's partner on this program, the San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union, will offer homeowners loans of up to \$25,000 to make energy efficiency upgrades that that can produce immediate and significant reductions to their home energy bills.

"There's simply no more cost-effective way to reduce your energy costs than by reducing use," Sanders said. "And for those who are considering installing solar panels, making your home energy-efficient greatly reduces the size of the solar system you need to buy, saving a considerable amount there as well."

With a \$1.2 million reserve fund to help protect against losses, SDMCU is able to offer loans at low interest rates – starting at just under 5 percent – to a far broader range of customers than would normally qualify. With terms of up to 15 years, payments on the loans can still be low enough to net monthly cost savings from the upgrades.

The reserve was funded through a portion of the \$12.5 million the city received in Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants, part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

SDMCU anticipates lending about \$20.5 million under the initial phase of the program, which would fund about 20,000 loans. As loans are paid back, the reserve fund will be leveraged to extend loans to additional customers.

Over the past few months, Sanders has announced several city programs that make it more affordable for San Diegans to make smart energy choices in their lives. During the summer, he announced a

group-buy discount on solar panels; free home-energy upgrades for income-qualified customers; and new electric car-charging infrastructure.

Last month, the city helped launch an electric car-sharing service that will enable more people to use public transit.

All of these efforts are aimed at saving residents money on energy bills; stimulating the market for local clean technology companies; and, of course, protecting our environment.

Those interested in the program can learn more and apply online at:

<http://www.sdmcu.org/home/SDHomeEnergyUpgrade>.

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