



News Release

Environmental Services Department

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First Countywide Energy Map Launches for Earth Day

Interactive map displays energy use, solar, and green building data and resources for Santa Clara County

San José, CA --- On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the Silicon Valley Energy Watch (SVEW) program is launching an interactive online map that visually plots energy use, solar installation, and green building data for Santa Clara County. The Silicon Valley Energy Map (www.svenergymap.org) marks the first time that energy-related data for multiple cities is compiled into a central location, making it easy for anyone to research and monitor the community's progress toward local and statewide sustainability goals.

According to the California Energy Commission, energy efficiency in buildings is “the least expensive strategy for meeting [California’s] climate goals.” With residential and commercial buildings accounting for 37 percent of energy use in California, this map will serve as an important tool for analyzing and understanding our existing energy reduction efforts and determining how we can continue to make progress.

SVEW, a partnership between Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and the City of San José for energy-related education and services across Santa Clara County, is the sponsor of the map. “This map is the result of a tremendous amount of coordination between the 15 cities of Santa Clara County, PG&E, Build it Green, and the United States Green Building Council,” said Duane Larson, a director in PG&E’s Energy Solutions and Service department. “It really reflects pioneering new partnerships and protocols to make this data publicly available with such a user-friendly application.”

The data will be updated quarterly, and new features, such as case studies and testimonials, will continue to be added to make the map more robust. Currently, users of the map can search for:

- Energy use data for 13 cities by city and zip code (data for Santa Clara and Palo Alto is still being gathered and is expected to be included by summer 2010);
- Solar installation and capacity data for 15 cities by zip code; and
- Green building data for 15 cities by city, zip code, and census tract.

“It is going to take a community-wide effort to achieve our ambitious Green Vision goals,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “This map will serve as a key resource for San Jose residents and businesses interested in reducing their energy use and embracing renewable energy.”

In addition, the site contains links to information and rebates for lowering electricity bills at home and the workplace, as well as to job and training opportunities in the clean energy industry through a link to Work2Future’s *Econovue* Map (www.econovue.com/).

John Stufflebean, Director of San José’s Environmental Services Department through which SVEW is managed, added that the map “is yet another example of our regional innovation and leadership by packaging all of this related data into one useful source that tells a very powerful story about where we are today and where we need to go for our environment and local economy.”

About Silicon Valley Energy Watch

The Silicon Valley Energy Map was developed by Silicon Valley Energy Watch, a partnership PG&E and the City of San José. The program delivers energy efficiency education, outreach, and related services to residents, business, and organizations in Santa Clara County. The program is administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. For more information about the Silicon Valley Energy Watch Program, and to see tips on saving energy at home and the workplace, visit www.svenergywatch.org or www.pge.com/myhome.

About San José’s Green Vision

San Jose’s Green Vision is a comprehensive strategy that addresses how environmental responsibility makes financial sense and stimulates economic opportunity. This vision includes 10 bold goals that will serve as a roadmap to reduce the carbon footprint of the 10th largest city in the nation by more than half. For more information, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/.

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