

For Immediate Release:

April 7, 2010

Contact:

Demetria Machado, (408) 975-2596

City of San José Environmental Services Department

Kill A Watt Program Expands to All San José Public Library Branches

San José, CA --- Kill A Watt™ EZ meters will be available for free check out at all San José Public Libraries starting April 14. The meters are made available through Silicon Valley Energy Watch, a Santa Clara County-wide partnership between the City of San José and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

Kill A Watt™ EZ is a power meter that measures electricity used by plug-in appliances and electronics and shows the energy use and associated energy costs of the items. It's simple to use; plug the meter into the wall and then plug any appliance or small electronic item into the meter to get a measurement. After measuring your energy use with a Kill A Watt™ EZ meter, you can do your part to conserve energy and reduce California's overall energy consumption by: replacing old appliances with high efficiency ones; turning off your power or smart strip to easily cut power to electronics that are plugged into one outlet like your computer, printer, scanner and monitor; and simply unplugging your appliances and electronics (i.e. toaster, coffee pot, DVD player) when not in use. "Every resident can do their part to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse emissions. These meters are an easy-to-use tool to calculate your energy use. These calculations can help you to find ways to conserve energy around the house and save you money on your energy bill," said John Stufflebean, Environmental Services Department Director, City of San José.

According to the United States Energy Information Agency, residential and commercial buildings are responsible for 39 percent of the energy consumed nationwide. California imports more electricity than any other state, and our homes use 31 percent of the state's electricity. Appliances and small electronics consume two thirds of the energy used in U.S. households. Small electronics are the second highest energy consumer in your home and continue to draw power even when they are switched off. As consumer electronics become more common, this number is likely to grow.

"The Kill A Watt Meter Program was such a success in three of San José's public libraries this past year that we have expanded the program to all 19 libraries across San José. We are excited that residents have the opportunity to check out a meter at their local library and do their part to conserve energy," said Shayna Hirshfield, Silicon Valley Energy Watch Program Coordinator.

Santa Clara County residents with a valid San José public library card can borrow a Kill A Watt meter for three weeks at no cost. Normal late fees apply. To find a San José public library, visit www.sjlibrary.org.

The City of San José's Green Vision sets a goal of reducing the community's overall energy use by half by the year 2022. The State of California has also set ambitious goals to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Most of our energy is derived from the Earth's natural resources, fossil fuels (i.e. coal, petroleum, and natural gas, with crude oil-based petroleum as the dominant source of energy). Energy production from these natural resources contributes largely to greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of San José is the lead agency for Silicon Valley Energy Watch. This program delivers energy efficiency education, outreach, and related services to residents, business, and organizations in Santa Clara County. The program is funded by California utility ratepayers 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, please visit www.svenergywatch.org or www.pge.com/myhome.

###