

**For Immediate Release:**

March 9, 2009

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## **San José City Hall is First City Hall in the Nation to Achieve LEED Platinum Rating**

*First public facility in San José to reach  
green building's highest standard for existing buildings*

**San José, CA.** – In the nation's center of green innovation, San José's City Hall is one of the greenest buildings in town, achieving the top certification of LEED-EB Platinum from the U.S. Green Building Council. To date, no other City Hall in the United States has achieved LEED-EB Platinum, according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

By reaching the Platinum level, the City not only helps conserve resources and create a healthier environment for employees and visitors, but also saves substantially on cost through green building maintenance practices.

“In difficult economic times, improving building performance helps the City's bottom line,” emphasized Mayor Chuck Reed. “By being energy efficient and implementing other green practices, San José's City Hall will yield annual savings of more than \$30,000 in energy costs alone.”

Today's announcement demonstrates San José's commitment to achieving its ten Green Vision goals. City Hall's certification adds more than half a million square feet toward the City's goal of 50 million square feet of green buildings by 2022; it also contributes to achieving three other Green Vision goals of reducing energy use, achieving zero waste, and beneficially reusing wastewater. Mayor Reed went on to note the significance of the City Hall achievement by saying, “Certifying City Hall is almost a fourfold increase of our municipal square footage of green building space and brings our new total to over 700,000 square feet.”

From an environmental standpoint, existing buildings are the biggest contributors to green house gas emissions. “The U.S. Green Building Council commends San José's strong leadership in setting a high bar for green building practices and policies for both public and private sector

development,” said Dan Geiger, Executive Director of the Council’s Northern California Chapter.

By participating in USGBC’s Portfolio Program, the City has committed to certifying the operation and maintenance of at least 30 additional existing buildings with four planned for certification in 2009. Geiger added, “This kind of leadership demonstrates the crucial role Northern California plays in creating a new green economy.”

San José’s City Council adopted its first green building policy for public sector buildings in 2001 with an update in 2007 that expanded requirements for facilities over 10,000 square feet to achieve LEED Silver at a minimum. While City Hall is the first *existing* city-owned building to be LEED certified, four other buildings already share green building distinction under USGBC’s rating system for new construction (see table below), and 18 others currently in design and construction phases are planned to be certified.

While the City has the potential to certify more than 4 million square feet of city-owned facilities and meet 8% of the City’s Green Vision goal for green buildings, the vast majority of San José’s buildings are privately owned. The City worked with the development community to adopt a green building policy for private development in October 2008 which requires certification of new construction projects that exceed certain size and height thresholds. The City plans to begin developing a policy for major renovations and retrofits of private sector buildings in the spring of 2009.

To certify City Hall, a team of employees from the Departments of General Services, Finance, Environmental Services, Information Technology, and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services developed and implemented green practices in the following five areas:

- Energy conservation – City Hall is more energy efficient than 93% of similar facilities because it uses high efficiency lighting fixtures, natural in lieu of electric light, and energy efficient windows among other techniques.
- Reduced water use – A combination of water conserving practices, ultra low-flow fixtures, and landscape irrigation with recycled water helped reduce water use at City Hall by 82%.
- Waste reduction and diversion – Over 90% of the waste generated at City Hall (e.g., surplus furniture and office equipment, electronics, solid waste) is diverted from the landfill through aggressive recycling efforts. In addition, waste is further sorted at a special facility for material that can be composted.
- Healthier indoor environment – Indoor air quality at City Hall is optimized by maximizing the use of fresh air and high quality filters in the heating and air conditioning systems, and using only green cleaning products, equipment and practices in custodial duties.
- Environmental purchasing – The City’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EP3) promotes purchases of green products across the board, whether it be cleaning products, office supplies, furniture, computers or building materials.

<b>CSJ Municipal Buildings Certified as Green Buildings</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>Square Footage</b>	<b>Certification Level</b>	<b>Year of Certification</b>	<b>Rating System</b>
West Valley Branch Library	20,100	Certified	2004	LEED-NC 2.0
Central Service Yard	115,000	Silver	2008	LEED-NC 2.1
Fire Station No. 35	12,500	Silver	2008	LEED-NC 2.2
Camden Community Center	40,000	Certified	2009	LEED-NC 2.0
San José City Hall	530,000	Platinum	2009	LEED-EB: O&M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>717,600</b>			

**About San José’s Green Vision**

San Jose’s Green Vision is an ambitious and comprehensive 15-year roadmap to solve environmental problems and grow the local economy. Focused around three elements – Clean Tech Innovation, Sustainability, and Green Mobility – the Green Vision sets 10 bold goals through which San José will lead the nation in becoming more energy efficient, producing and using electricity from clean renewable sources, creating green buildings, diverting waste from landfills, creating greener street systems, delivering recycled water, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, please visit, <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision/>.

**About the U.S. Green Building Council**

**The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization with a vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. USGBC is dedicated to expanding green building practices and education, and its LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™. For more information, go to [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

**About USGBC-Northern California Chapter**

The Northern California Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council is a non-profit membership organization that educates, motivates, advocates, and provides resources for regenerating and sustaining communities in the Northern California region. The Chapter has branches in Monterey Bay, Sacramento and Silicon Valley with headquarter offices in San Francisco. For more information, go to [www.usgbc-ncc.org](http://www.usgbc-ncc.org).

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