



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

2127 Front Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

Phone: 916-808-7387
Fax: 916-808-5386

News Release

Contacts:

Gina Knepp, Department of General Services

916-808-8333 (Office), 916-230-4533 (Mobile)

gknepp@cityofsacramento.org

Linda Tucker, Department of Transportation

916/808-7523 ltucker@cityofsacramento.org

March 20, 2012

2011: Banner year for sustainability projects

Energy and utility officials recognize City's leadership
in cutting energy, helping small businesses do same

Representatives from the California Energy Commission and SMUD are coming to City Council Tuesday, March 20, to congratulate the City for taking advantage of one-time programs that cut energy consumption and sustained jobs.

The commission will present a check to the City Council for \$589,200 and SMUD will present one for \$465,508. The City received the money through rebate and incentive programs to switch out the lights to the doubly efficient LEDs at the City's eight parking garages and install new heating and cooling systems at the Central Library, and Samuel C. Pannell Community Meadowview Community Center.

All the work has been completed. Estimated energy savings is expected to range near 40 percent at the library and community center and 60 percent at the garages, amounting to an energy bill savings of nearly \$4.3 million over 11 years. The lighting is also brighter and whiter.

-more-

Energy, 2

In addition to the new lights, the City also:

- Approved two solar power purchase agreements with SolarCity. More than 14,000 solar panels at six City facilities were installed that are capable of generating electricity to power 500 homes.
- Established a private-public partnership to provide commercial property owners 100 percent financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency retrofits.
- Partnered with SMUD on a program to offer small businesses rebates that cover up to 80 percent of the cost of energy retrofits. Ninety-two businesses participated and should see at least a 20 percent reduction in energy bills.
- Streamlined the permit process for businesses and residents who want to install solar projects by converting the fee to a flat rate, as opposed to a fee based on construction value. Shortened the review time for applicants as well.

“Programs like these do not come often and are not available for very long, so we had to hustle to take advantage of such rare opportunities. What we accomplished in 12 months will produce a long-lasting return of investment for the City and pay off for the environment,” said Reina Schwartz, Director of the Department of General Services.

#####