



# SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **San Diego Community College District solar power project named “Project of the Year” by American Public Works Association**

*District solar installations generate more than 4.8 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy annually*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Community College District’s 2.4 megawatt (MW) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) today was honored as the “Project of the Year” by the [American Public Works Association](#), San Diego & Imperial Counties chapter, at its 2011 Chapter Awards honoring excellence in public works projects

The SDCCD Power Purchase Agreement allows the District to purchase power from a third-party provider at a 20-year fixed rate, paying only for what power is generated, and enables the District to take advantage of tax incentives and accelerated depreciation schedules through third-party ownership that a public agency could not otherwise leverage. It also allows the District to take advantage of net metering and the ability to bank kilowatt hours (kWh) not needed for future consumption.



**Solar carport structures at Miramar College generate more than 1.8 million kilowatt hours of green energy.**

“Sustainability and conservation are at the very top of the agenda for the San Diego Community College District,” said Constance Carroll, Chancellor. “This new solar program demonstrates our district’s commitment to the use of environmentally-sound practices.”

“We are honored that the APWA San Diego chapter has recognized our solar initiative as “Project of the Year” in the Sustainability category,” said David Umstot, Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management. “Not only was this project an important part of our sustainability initiatives District-wide, it also freed up \$16M in capital to fund other needed projects and will reduce our utility bills for the next 20 years.”



**The parking lot arrays at the District offices generate more than 422,000 kilowatt hours annually.**

By generating its own renewable energy through the PPA, SDCCD is able to save more than \$100,000 in utility costs annually. Installations are in place at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges, the District offices in Mission Valley, and select Continuing Education campus locations.

The PPA is part of a greater overall solar initiative implemented at campuses across San Diego in keeping with the District's Sustainable and Green Building policies. This includes a dozen installations across the District representing the combined

generation of 4,876,129 kWh of renewable energy each year, reducing more than 3,300 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually.

Data from the California Center for Sustainable Energy shows SDCCD is generating more solar energy than any other higher education institution in SDG&E's service territory. Of the 7,718 installed or pending installation under the California Solar Initiative, SDCCD constitutes more than a third of the total.

"The positive impacts of using these solar installations are significant," added Umstot. Collectively, the SDCCD's 4.8 million kWh generation is the **annual equivalent** to:

- Greenhouse gas emissions from 659 passenger cars
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 376,922 gallons of gasoline consumed
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the electricity use of 408 homes
- Carbon sequestered by 717 acres of pine or fir forests
- Greenhouse gas emissions avoided by recycling 1,171 tons of waste instead of sending it to the landfill.

**Additional Resources:**

- Media Advisory: ["Going Solar! SDCCD to implement photovoltaic program"](#)
- Presentation: ["Let the Sun Shine!"](#) – Use Power Purchase Agreements to Cut Energy Costs, Go Green and Reduce Peak Grid Loads Without Upfront Capital - APPA 2010 Conference
- Presentation: [2010 Sustainability Summary](#) to the SDCCD Board of Trustees

For high-resolution photos of the photovoltaic arrays, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or [ukroemer@gafcon.com](mailto:ukroemer@gafcon.com).