



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# News Release

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### **CITY OF SAN DIEGO WINS US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S 2004 CLIMATE PROTECTION AWARD**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**— On April 27, 2004 at a City of San Diego Council Meeting, Mayor Dick Murphy was presented with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) 2004 International Climate Protection Award in recognition of the City of San Diego's programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City operations. The City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) developed the award winning Sustainable Community Program, and Department Director Elmer Heap accepted the award in Washington, DC on behalf of the City of San Diego on Tuesday, April 13, 2004.

The City of San Diego's program was one of seven companies and government organizations throughout the world to receive the 2004 International Climate Protection Award that recognizes programs which demonstrate exceptional leadership, personal dedication and technical achievements in protecting the Earth's climate. This year's state and local government winners include the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); the City of San Diego, California; and the City and County of San Francisco, California. Companies to receive this year's award are Interface, Turbocor, China Certification Center for Energy Conservation Products (CECP) and European Commission Fluorinated Gas Team.

"In 2002, the City Council and I unanimously approved the goals and objectives of the City's Community Sustainability Program in order to establish the groundwork from which other programs could grow," said City of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy. "Through this program, the City has become a leader in the use of energy efficient technologies, creating renewable forms of

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energy, advancing innovative solid waste management, and implementing alternative fuel programs for City vehicles. Each of these programs has contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has provided a model for communities throughout the United States. ”

Between 1994 and 2001, the City of San Diego collectively saved more than 150 million kilowatt hours of energy through the use of more energy-efficient technologies which consequently reduced more than 174,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a significant greenhouse gas.

Through the Sustainable Community Program a “Climate Protection Action Plan” was established with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent by 2010, based on 1990 levels. Tied with this goal are City policies and procedures that support the development of a more sustainable future in San Diego.

Also included in the scope of the Sustainable Community Program is the development of specific indicators that allow the City to measure the quality of our environment. Most significantly, the indicators track City operations to ensure that the environmental impacts are continually reduced, and they also track the San Diego community and measure per capita water and energy use, vehicle miles traveled, and pollution of our air, beaches and bays.

“We are honored to be recognized by the US EPA,” said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., director of the Environmental Services Department. “All of our programs at the Environmental Services Department have an impact on our environment. From collecting trash and managing its disposal to developing forms of renewable energy and educating residents about recycling, we are committed to creating a sustainable environment not just today but for future generations.”

For more information about the City of San Diego Sustainable Community Program, please contact ESD at (858) 694-7000, send an e-mail to [sustainable@sandiego.gov](mailto:sustainable@sandiego.gov) or visit the Web site at <http://www.ci.san-diego.ca.us/environmental-services/sustainable/index.shtml>.

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