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U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Grant to Fund Seven Solar Projects in San José

San José, Calif. – The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded Solar America Cities grant funds to the City of San José for seven solar projects – the largest number awarded to any city in the nation. The projects will make it easier and more cost-effective for residents to install solar on their homes, train disadvantaged youth for jobs in the growing solar industry, and help residents learn about solar options. The final dollar-amount of the grants is subject to negotiations with the DOE, however, at a minimum, San José is expected to receive \$900,000.

“Two years ago this week, I introduced San José’s Green Vision, our roadmap for becoming the world center of clean tech innovation,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “I want to thank the Department of Energy for its confidence in San José and the innovation that will make solar accessible and affordable across the nation.”

The DOE will award \$10 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds to 16 cities through the Solar America Cities grants. More information is online at:

<http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/SpecialProjects.aspx>.

San José’s seven projects include:

- **Property Assessed Solar Financing through Joint Powers Authority:** The City will implement the CaliforniaFIRST financing structure to enable property owners to finance 100% of the upfront capital costs of clean energy projects and repay the loan through their property tax payments over 20 years.
- **Solar Loans for City Staff:** The City will partner with the San Jose Credit Union to offer low interest loans and solar group buys for the City's 7,000 employees.
- **Qualified Energy Conservation Bond Financing for Revolving Solar Loan Fund:** The City will explore financing a revolving loan fund for solar projects through QECCBs and convene internal and external stakeholders to determine target community recipients such as low-income households.
- **Streamlined Regional Solar Permitting Process:** The city will coordinate permitting efforts with other jurisdictions in the region to minimize inconsistency and reduce the time and cost involved in the solar permitting process.

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- **Solar Train the Trainer Internship Program:** The City will collaborate with local education institutions, non-profit organizations, and labor unions to provide opportunities for students enrolled in various green workforce training programs to gain hands-on experience in conducting solar site evaluations, generating reports and communicating results to community members.
- **Solar Career Training for At-Risk Youth:** The City will develop a program to connect disadvantaged youth with the prospects of green career pathways with a specific emphasis on the solar industry.
- **Green Vision Education and Demonstration Center:** The City will develop an Education and Demonstration Center across the street from City Hall that will act as a hub for disseminating information on solar technologies and innovative financing options, and allow the community to gain hands-on experience with solar technologies.

Two years ago, San José, the nation's tenth largest city (population 1,007,000), implemented San José's Green Vision, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development.

Solar is a key component of the 15-year Green Vision, which envisions:

- Creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs.
- Installing 100,000 solar roofs (1/10 of Gov. Schwarzenegger's 1 million solar roofs for California initiative).
- Reducing per capita electricity use by half.
- Moving to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Installing solar on city buildings and retrofitting facilities to save municipal costs.

San José already is a leader in solar technology innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Nanosolar, Stion, Sopogy, SVTC, Fat Spaniel, and others headquartered here.

More information about the Green Vision is available at www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision.

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