



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject : City of West Covina is a Model of Efficiency by Saving Energy and Money

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City of West Covina is a Model of Efficiency by Saving Energy and Money
City is Recognized for Leading the Way in Energy Efficiency to Maximize Cost Savings

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West Covina, Calif., (June 22, 2011) – The City of West Covina was recognized in front of an audience of 200 West Covina community leaders, residents, and businesses for being one of only three (3) local governments out of an eligible 111 in Southern California Edison's (SCE) service territory for its accomplishments in energy reduction and long-term energy planning. The City's achievements have resulted in more than 80 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy saved and approximately \$184,800 in avoided energy costs per year for municipal facilities alone. The City was hailed for its forward thinking approach to investing precious dollars into energy efficiency projects that will reap short- and long-term cost savings in spite of challenging economic conditions.

"West Covina's commitment to investing in energy efficiency projects and programs is a great example of how local government can reduce City costs of doing business and decrease the City's energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions that are generated in our community. By improving our energy efficiency, those dollars not spent on energy bills are now going towards new investments (public safety, park improvements, street rehabilitation, etc.) in our community that our residents rely on," stated West Covina Mayor Steve Herfert.

West Covina has set an example for other local governments with achievements in three areas:

- 1) **Energy Savings** – Achieved energy savings of approximately 13% in municipal facilities (930,000 kWh) and 17% in community-wide consumption (79.5 million kWh) since 2005.
- 2) **Energy Planning** – Strategized for long-term energy management needs and developed a road map for achieving energy reduction goals.
- 3) **Demand Side Management** – Enrolled city facilities in programs to reduce power when statewide energy supplies are low, or when energy prices rise, to earn incentives or save on energy costs.

The SCE Local Government Energy Leader Partnership Program encourages municipalities to "lead by example" and offers incentives for energy efficiency projects completed in municipal facilities. Since 2008, the city has received nearly \$140,000 through SCE for its energy efficiency projects. However, the City of West Covina has not stopped there! They are currently completing a major outdoor lighting project estimated to save another 600,000 kWh which would translate to an estimated \$90,000 in annual energy savings. When city budgets are tight,

these savings prove critical to balancing the bottom line.

"When cities like West Covina take a leadership role in making their own facilities more energy efficient, they're saving money on their utility bills and playing an important role in leading by example with their communities," stated SCE Partnership Programs Manager Nancy Jenkins.

The recognition luncheon event was hosted by the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, a joint effort

between SCE, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and 29 cities in the San Gabriel Valley to bring energy savings to the region through innovative public education and energy efficiency projects. The program described West Covina's path to success and featured city and community leaders that have been involved in leading the city towards energy efficiency.

For more information about the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership, please contact Nicholas Conway of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments at (626) 457-1800 or visit <http://www.sgvenergywise.org/>.

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