HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ON CARBON REDUCTION

The City of Ventura takes an active leadership role in protecting its natural resources and promoting environmental quality. The City uses solar power to generate some of its electricity and is a leader in sustainable “smart” growth. Through the support of the community, the leadership of the Ventura City Council, and in partnership with their local energy utilities, the city has pursued programs that promote economic and environmental sustainability. Extensive energy saving measures have reduced the City's municipal greenhouse gas emissions by more than 16% since 2007, the equivalent of removing 1,100 vehicles from the road.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

The City of Ventura pays over $4.5 million each year for electricity to run its facilities and treat and transport water and wastewater. This cost would be significantly higher except that four years ago, the City began to implement an intensive energy efficiency program. It reduced energy use through streamlining wastewater treatment processes and cutting back on city-owned vehicle use. Also, the City of Ventura has been buying gas-electric hybrid cars and maintaining its existing fleet more thoroughly, which helps the vehicles get better gas mileage. These recent efforts add to the 12 million kilowatt-hours and $1.7 million already being saved annually through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Installed solar panels at the City Maintenance Yard to produce 45% of its electricity needs (about 180,000 kilowatt hours per year – the amount used by 30 homes).
- Reduced the city’s electricity use by 2.8 million kilowatt-hours each year through energy efficiency measures at city facilities – saving over $300,000 annually on the City’s electricity bill.
- Produced over 2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually by renewable waste gas cogeneration, which meets 20% of the Water Reclamation Facility’s energy use.
- Save 400,000 kilowatt-hours by upgrading 500 street lights with light emitting diode (LED) lamps.
- Installed 11 public accessible and 2 City use only electric vehicle charging stations and replaced 3 gas only vehicles with plug-in hybrids.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.CITYOFVENTURA.NET