The County of San Diego, under the leadership of its Board of Supervisors, has been committed to energy efficiency and sustainability efforts for more than a decade. In 2009, the County developed the 2009-2012 Strategic Energy Plan to meet energy and sustainability goals in the areas of water conservation, sustainable design, energy supply, generating their own electricity or distributed generation, transportation, energy and sustainability education, recycling and landfill diversion, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The campaign proved so successful, the Board implemented the 2013-2015 Strategic Energy Plan to build on a comprehensive approach to aggressively pursue these objectives and strategies and to achieve positive environmental and economic impacts for County facilities, unincorporated land, and the private sector, as well as to continue the County’s leadership role in energy and sustainability.

“"The County of San Diego is dedicated to reducing its energy use through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects as well as promoting and implementing sustainability practices for County operations.” – Rich Grudman, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, County of San Diego

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:

The County of San Diego has reduced its annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in several areas since 2010 including county landfills, buildings, fleet, lighting, and wastewater. Overall, the County has reduced its annual GHG emissions by 20% since 2010.

- From fiscal year 2007-2008 to fiscal year 2013-2014, overall electricity use in County of San Diego facilities decreased 19 percent and water use dropped 24 percent. This was accomplished through various energy efficiency improvement projects including retro-commissioning, lighting modernization, and replacing sink fixtures, toilet flush valves, shower heads and irrigation controls.

- The San Diego County Fleet Division was recognized by Government Fleet Magazine as the #4 most leading Fleet in the nation. The award acknowledged “Operations that are performing at a high level, particularly in fleet leadership, competitiveness and efficiency, planning for the future, and overcoming challenges.” This marks Fleet’s second Top 20 award by Government Fleet Magazine in two years.

- County buildings designed to the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building (USGBC LEED) Rating System increased by over 800,000 Gross Square Feet (GSF) from 2009 to 2013. Most recently the County approved its first Zero Net Energy Building to begin design and construction. It is expected to be complete by 2016.

- Deployed a centralized County-networked Building Automation System or “Smart Building,” which provides an innovative way to control, monitor and report on various building mechanical and utility systems, such as air conditioning, heating, lighting, and water meters. This technology allows the County to use data analytics and manage energy demand from a central point. It was installed at the South Bay Regional Center, Southeast Family Resource Center, El Cajon Family Resource Center and Lincoln Acres Library. South Bay Regional Center had an 11% energy savings over Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

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