

From: SustainLane Government
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Subject: The Latest News on Sustainable Development



Advancing Sustainability

January 31, 2007

Greetings!

Here's the latest news on sustainable development in State and Local Government.

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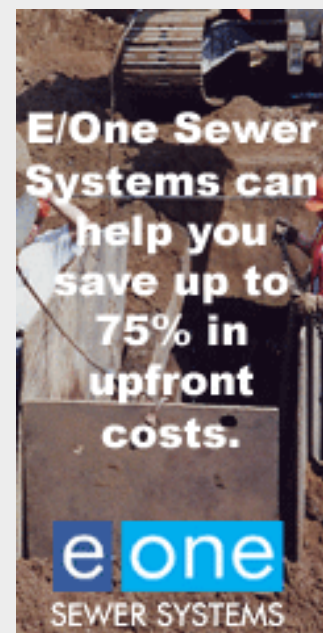
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Our Top Ten Green Cities Featured on Weather Channel's *Climate Code*



The [SustainLane US City Rankings](#) and SustainLane's Warren Karlenzig were featured on The Weather Channel's [The Climate Code](#) Sunday, January 21, along with mayors Richard Daley of [Chicago](#), Greg Nickels of [Seattle](#) and R.T. Rybak of [Minneapolis](#).

Karlenzig explained to "The Climate Code" host Heidi Cullen why measuring city sustainability factors is so important:



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"Getting feedback from citizens, and politicians, and business owners, is all so critical because this involves everyone. This just isn't about politicians or policy or ordinances, this is about people's quality of life and economic development for the future of this nation, and cities are really leading the way right now in this category."

Mayor Daley spoke of wanting Chicago to be the greenest city in America:

Cullen: "So does Chicago deserve its #4 ranking?"

Daley: "We're looking at all aspects life in regards to green technology, and I think we do deserve it, and we're going to try to get better, we're going to try to move up, all the way up to #1."

Both Mayor Rybak and Mayor Nickels spoke about the responsibility and efficiency of cities in addressing climate change at the local level.

Nickels: "We know that human beings are causing climate change and we now have at least some understanding of what that disruption means not only to our species but to other species that we share this Earth with."

"We're not going to solve the problem in my generation, but we ought at least to recognize the problem and take the first steps. We need to be unafraid to experiment and occasionally to fail. I'm confident that we're going to find our way through this," Nickels predicted.

[Top Ten Things Citizens Can Do To Green Your Community](#)

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All this talk about climate change on television and elsewhere had us thinking about the best ways to do public outreach on sustainability issues. Check out our [Ten Things You Can Do To Green Your](#)

[Community](#), newly published on our website, which we're planning on reformatting into a brochure for general outreach.

[Send Us Your Best PSAs!](#)

We're putting out a general call for sustainability-related collateral, brochures, public service announcements—whatever your department or organization may be using. We'd like to exhibit them in a special section of our website and make them available for free distribution among government users. That way, [different departments from across the country](#) can recycle each other's outreach ideas.

Use the [upload feature](#) on SustainLane Government and send stuff our way! Deadline for outreach submissions is March 1, 2007. Contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

[State of California: New Solar Homes Partnership](#)

This issue we're highlighting a state contribution to sustainability: With Governor Schwarzenegger's signature, the State of California passed its California Solar Initiative (also known as the "Million Solar Roofs bill") ([SB1](#)) on August 21st, 2006.



Homebuilders, homeowners and home buyers now have the

means, motive and opportunity to green their communities by installing subsidized photo-voltaic (PV) solar panels on all new homes. Businesses will have a way of participating, too, to benefit from the state's \$3 billion in incentives for renewable energy generation. California's solar roofs program is massive and generates hope for a stable energy future.

California has the same problem as other large states, which is to keep up with the electricity needs of millions of citizens. The California Solar Initiative initiative uses the state's good sun exposure to help manage growing energy demands from its growing population's high [summertime](#) energy use. Cities such as Lakeland, Florida, have run similar programs successfully for years but California is advancing solar energy system installations on a vast scale for homes and businesses.

Statewide sustainability programs are growing quickly, and California is taking the lead with various programs. Of these programs, the [California Solar Initiative](#), or Million Solar Roofs program, is impressive for one reason. California has committed to producing 3,000 megawatts of new, solar electricity within ten years. This is *thirty times* the installed capacity of the previous ten years.

As the California Solar Initiative website puts it, "Governor Schwarzenegger's goal is to put solar systems on a million California roofs." If the state achieves this milestone, it will be far along in mitigating oil and gas supply issues.

The residential component of California's Million Solar Roofs campaign is the Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership. This program will disburse \$350 million of state funding over the next 10 years to encourage solar energy in new home construction.

[Featured Best Practice](#)



The following is an excerpt from the State of California's guidebook detailing the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) for homebuilders. You can download the entire guidebook, as well as the California Solar Initiative handbook, from our [knowledge base](#).

I. Introduction

The New Solar Homes Partnership provides incentives and support activities for installing eligible solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on new residential buildings that receive electricity from specified investor-owned utilities. The Energy Commission implements the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) in coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in the overall California Solar Initiative. This Guidebook describes the requirements to receive incentives for constructing energy efficient, solar homes under the NSHP.

A. Purpose

The goal of the NSHP is to create a self-sustaining market for solar homes where builders incorporate high levels of energy efficiency and high performing solar systems. The NSHP provides financial incentives and non-financial assistance in the form of builder and market support to accomplish this goal.

B. Program Overview

The NSHP is part of a comprehensive statewide solar program known as the California Solar Initiative (CSI). The NSHP builds on the success of the Energy Commission's Emerging Renewables Program (ERP), which began providing rebates for renewable energy systems in 1998. Senate Bill 1 (SB1)² establishes three goals of the CSI: 1) to install 3,000 megawatts (MW) of distributed solar PV capacity in California by the end of 2016; 2) to establish a self-sufficient solar industry in which solar energy systems are a viable mainstream option in 10 years, and 3) to place solar energy systems on 50 percent of new homes in 13 years. The Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission will

each administer separate, but coordinated elements of the CSI.

The NSHP will implement the Energy Commission's portion of the CSI and provides financial incentives to encourage the installation of eligible solar energy systems on new residential construction. The Energy Commission will administer the program, beginning January 2007, and envisions turning over program administration to the electric utilities or a third-party administrator by mid-2007. Any changes to the reservation process, as a result of changing program administration, will be incorporated into a revised guidebook at that time. The NSHP seeks to achieve 400 MW of installed solar electric capacity in California by the end of 2016.

The incentive is determined by the level of an applicant's commitment to solar and energy efficiency, and by the expected performance of the system (anticipated electrical generation over the life of the system), which depends on specific key factors regarding equipment efficiency and the design and installation of the system. The incentive is paid once the system is installed, operational and has met all program requirements.

To qualify for an incentive, the residential building, as well as the installed PV system, must meet specific program requirements included in this Guidebook. The residential buildings must receive electricity distribution service at the site of installation from one of four investor-owned utilities (IOUs) in California. The IOUs are: Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Water Company – doing business as Bear Valley Electric Service.

The solar electric system must be 1 kW AC or larger, interconnected to the utility distribution grid and generate electricity to offset the end-use consumer's on-site electrical load. The solar electric system must be located on the same premises of the end-use consumer where the consumer's own electrical demand is located. The solar electric system must use new certified components that have not been previously placed in service and are on the Energy Commission's list of eligible equipment. The solar electric system must come with a 10-year warranty to protect against defects and undue degradation of electrical output. The electric system must be installed and field-verified by a third-party as specified in this Guidebook.

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