



For More Information

**City of Santa Cruz, CA / Wastewater Treatment Facility**

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For Immediate Release

**EPA RECOGNIZES CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, CA /  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
AMONG NATION'S LEADING GREEN POWER USERS**

**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, CA / WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY  
REDUCES CARBON FOOTPRINT WITH ON-SITE  
GREEN POWER GENERATION**

**Santa Cruz, CA** - The City of Santa Cruz, CA / Wastewater Treatment Facility announced today that for the first time it appears as No. 23 on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Top 30 On-site list of the largest green power users. The Wastewater Treatment Facility is using more than seven million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually, which is enough green power to meet 66 percent of the facility's electricity use. The Wastewater Treatment Facility is generating green power from on-site biogas and solar energy systems. This demonstrates a proactive choice to switch away from traditional sources of electricity generation and support cleaner renewable energy alternatives.

"I have worked with the EPA in the past on energy saving programs and it is always an honor to be recognized by them" said Greg Galvin, Electrical Supervisor at the Facility. "Not only do we strive to use less energy each year, but by taking advantage of the technology for generating our own power from our process, our Facility contributes to the City's Sustainability Plan. We also hope to send a message to the local community and around the globe that supporting clean sources of electricity is not only a worthy investment but also aids in mitigating the harmful effects of increased GHGs to help protect our sensitive environment."

*"We congratulate the  
City of Santa Cruz Wastewater  
Treatment Facility for using  
renewable energy and taking a  
leadership position on the  
environment..."*  
— *Blaine Collison,  
Director of EPA's  
Green Power Partnership.*



Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact hydro. Purchases of green power help accelerate the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.

“We congratulate the City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility for using renewable energy and taking a leadership position on the environment,” said Blaine Collison, Director of EPA’s Green Power Partnership. “The City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility’s impressive green power commitment helps to reduce carbon pollution and provides an excellent example for other organizations.”

According to the U.S. EPA, the City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility’s green power generation of more than seven million kWh is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of nearly 1,100 passenger vehicles per year, or the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the electricity use of nearly 800 average American homes annually.

**Additional Partner information:**

The City’s Wastewater Treatment Facility was the first City division to obtain the Green Business Certification from the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Council. Since then

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— Greg Galvin, Electrical Supervisor

other buildings have joined the ranks of Green. The Facility has also upgraded 400 sodium light fixtures to T5 and LED styles. This upgrade resulted in a huge energy savings as well as a large reduction in maintenance costs. We also incorporate variable speed drives in pump and fan applications for better and more efficient control, where originally these were direct drive full RPM processes.

The Facility is also submetered to monitor and analyze process energy demand and to verify demand reductions when equipment is replaced.

**About City of Santa Cruz, CA / Wastewater Treatment Facility**

The City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility is located near the heart of downtown Santa Cruz, the Beach Boardwalk, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Our location compels us to be good neighbors to the community and outstanding stewards to the environment. The City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility has invested in, and completed, numerous projects, training, and operational changes, resulting in a more efficient, environmentally friendly, cost effective, and safe facility.

We have made significant improvements to existing systems in order to exceed compliance:



- Odor Reduction Towers, utilizing ozone gas rather than conventional chemical treatment.
- Solids Dewatering System, where computer automation reduces requirements for flocculent and manual operation.
- Digesters, where upgraded components save our facility moneys, raw materials, and staff hours to operate.
- Generator Fuel Storage Tank, exceeding regulations while introducing automation and vehicle fueling to facility staff.
- Bar Screen, utilizing existing infrastructure and resources to further reduce the amount of solids within influent.
- Air Fuel Ratio Controller (AFRC) and Ignition System, reducing air pollution released to the environment during significant wet weather hydraulic loadings.
- Gas Metering Valves, eliminating waste while ensuring optimal performance of our gas handling system.
- Air Compressor, where a unit replacement in our DAFT system saves energy, paying for itself in less than a year.

This year the City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility became one of the first city facilities to become Green Business Certified. We accomplished this by reducing energy consumption and natural resource use, replacing paper products with recycled material, installing LED lighting throughout the plant, installing new power meters, and utilizing occupancy sensors at workstations. We are proud to be one of the few wastewater treatment facilities that is green-certified by the Monterey Bay Green Business Program.

Our facility has developed further insightful management systems and innovations including:

- Design, fabrication and installation of troughs for Semi-Permeable Membrane Devices, where contaminants of emerging concern are detected in ultra-trace concentrations within wastewaters.
- Improved methods and instruments for permitted laboratory analyses, including membrane filtration, total organic carbon, and the addition of an ion chromatograph.
- Completion of a comprehensive Electrical Safety Program, exceeding OSHA standards while providing outstanding worksite safety.
- Participation in NASA's Offshore Membrane Enclosures for Growing Algae (OMEGA) Research Project, where our facility's effluent fed special algae, which produced jet fuel.
- Dry Weather Diversion from Neary Lagoon, directing stormwater flows through our facility's treatment process in order to improve water quality at local beaches for the public.
- Energy Star Certified
- EPA Green Power Partner

### **About EPA's Green Power Partnership**



The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with electricity use. The Partnership currently has more than 1,500 Partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500<sup>®</sup> companies; small and medium sized businesses; local, state, and federal governments; and colleges and universities. For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>.