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CITY OF CHULA VISTA

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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City Recognized by U.S. Department of Energy in Better Climate Challenge

The U.S. spends more than $800 billion each year to power buildings, industrial plants and homes and on average, 20-30% of that energy is wasted. By reducing this waste, building owners can save money and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In 2022 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) created the Better Climate Challenge to accelerate investment in energy efficiency and emission reduction approaches throughout the commercial, public, industrial and residential sectors.



In 2022, the City joined the DOE's Better Climate Challenge and made a voluntary goal of reducing GHG emissions in municipal operations by 50% by 2032. Remarkably, by the end of 2022, the City surpassed this goal and reduced GHG emissions by 64% from the 2018 baseline year!

How did we do it? In support of the City Council adopted Climate Action Plan goal of procuring 100% renewable electricity by 2035, the City joined other local agencies to create San Diego Community Power (SDCP), a community choice energy program which provides electricity for its customers and allows more options in the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered.

The City enrolled all municipal electricity accounts in the Power100 renewable electricity product from SDCP and the first full year of procuring this electricity was 2022. The City also saw a large reduction in fleet GHG emissions due to the switch from 20% biodiesel

to 100% renewable diesel and the increase in electric fleet vehicles. The City also has solar installations at over 20 municipal locations.

The City was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as a goal achiever in the Better Climate Challenge and received an award as the first public sector agency in the nationwide program to achieve this goal. Environmental Sustainably Manager, Coleen Wisniewski, accepted the award on behalf of the City. To learn more about the Better Climate Challenge or see other goal achievers, check out the Better Climate Challenge website.