



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 9, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Development Department, Planning Division

SUBJECT: Solar Design Recognition Awards 2012

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a report regarding the 2012 Solar Design Recognition Awards.

DISCUSSION:

In 2006, the Council approved the City's Solar Energy System and Passive Solar Design Guidelines and Recognition Program. The intent of the program is to promote reduced fossil fuels energy consumption, efficient use of energy resources, and aesthetically integrated systems into the design of projects and buildings. The Guidelines include checklists that specify preferred design approaches for solar installations. The program provides that each year, Council would publicly recognize projects in each category established in the Guidelines.

This year marks the fifth Solar Design Recognition Awards event, and almost 200 solar energy system projects have received award recognition in past ceremonies. Awards are granted in the following categories. Award recipients for each are in the attachment.

I. Active Solar Energy System Projects:

Not Publicly Visible Solar Energy System Projects

- Ideal Sites
- Flat-Roof Panel System

Design Challenge Publicly Visible Solar Energy System Projects

- Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects:

- Mission-Style Tile Roofs
- Historic District and Structures
- Commercial/Institutional

II. Passive Solar Energy System Projects

Staff consulted Stella Larson, member of the Planning Commission, to review awards recommendations after staff analyzed over 70 projects permitted between June 2011 and June 2012. As a result, staff recommended that property owners, applicants and solar contractors representing 27 projects identified as consistent with the Solar Guidelines be presented with certificates, Attachment 1.

Staff also recommends that plaques be awarded to the property owners of five of those projects selected as best exemplifying the Solar Energy System Design Guidelines. The award plaques were created by Brian Chandler, a local artist who uses a magnifying glass to burn images onto wood using the sun's heat. Mr. Chandler hopes his artwork will inspire others to become more familiar with solar energy.

Over half of this year's award winning projects were contracted with REC Solar, Sun Pacific Solar, and California Solar Electrical Systems, all either former or current participants in the Community Environmental Council's widely promoted "Solarize Santa Barbara" Program. In recognition of this special program, the City is also recognizing CEC's achievements towards helping to create a more sustainable Santa Barbara with an award plaque.

The City is providing applicants and hearing boards with ongoing guidance regarding project consistency with the Guidelines. Staff now completes approximately 90% or more of solar energy system zoning plan checks in an expedited "over the counter" manner. The current review process can involve encouraging applicants to voluntarily adjust projects to be eligible for Solar Recognition.

Staff also helps to orient the Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Single Family Design Board, and Planning Commission during hearings where solar energy systems are proposed as part of larger development projects. Staff advises the boards on how to comment within the framework of State statutory limitations. This can be especially challenging where proposals for alterations to properties with historic resources are proposed. The Single Family Design Guidelines (SFDG) also encourage applicants to reserve approximately 300 square feet of roof space free of mechanical or rooftop equipment in a location where a solar energy system could be integrated with the structure. The Building and Safety Energy Ordinance and SFDG also encourage passive solar design principles. Santa Barbara's solar energy promotion and education efforts were recognized in 2011 by the California Central Coast Chapter of the American Planning Association with an "Outstanding Planning Award: Education Project Award, Award of Excellence".

Solar Trends in the City of Santa Barbara

According to a 2012 report by "Environment California", cited in an article by the CEC, Attachment 2 of the 170 municipalities in California with populations over 50,000, Santa Barbara ranks 9th in number of solar installations per capita (0.81 installations per 100 people). The city is also ranks 19th in installed capacity per capita. The city has over 550 kw of solar systems on city properties. The city has worked with the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB), which has installed 100kW of solar. Notably, the recently published Draft Central Coast Electrical Vehicle Readiness Plan

(version 2.5), calls for increased use of solar panels to fuel electrical vehicle charging stations. Due to programs to be implemented by the recently adopted City Climate Action Plan, projected increased electric vehicle use as well as many other factors, staff foresees solar energy use will become even more popular in Santa Barbara in years to come.

Mayor's Solar Award Ceremony & Reception

In order to have time and a comfortable space to present the awards, this year staff worked with the Mayor to hold a presentation and reception on October 3rd, in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached (Attachment 3). Staff recommends the Council affirm the awards granted at the Mayor's Solar Awards Reception.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Active and passive solar energy are cleaner forms of energy than traditional fossil fuels and are safer than nuclear power. Less regional pollution will result from increased solar use, which this awards program promotes.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. List of Awards Recipients, 2012
2. "Santa Barbara Ranks in Top Solar Cities" article by CEC, 2/8/2012
3. Mayor's Solar Award Ceremony Presentation, 10/3/2012

PREPARED BY: Heather Baker, AICP, Project Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

2012 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Certificate and Award Plaque Recipients

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible (Category 1)

Flat Roof Panel System

3781 Hope Terrace (Category 1 & 3)

Owners: **James Milchak & Joni Gordon**

Contractor: **California Solar Electric Systems**

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible (Category 2)

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

1944 Gibraltar Road

Owner: **Dale Taylor**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects (Category 3)

Mission Tile

1510 W Mountain Drive (Category 1 & 3)

Owner: **Powell Family**

Contractor: **Solforce Systems Inc.**

Historic District

2414 Chapala Street (Category 2 & 3)

Owner: **Taylor Family**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

**2012 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Award Certificate Recipients**

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible

(Category 1)

Ideal Sites

603 E Calle Laureles
Owner: **Jeffrey Zuck**

Contractor: **California Solar Electric**

4099 Foothill Road
Owner: **La Colina Gardens**

Contractor: **Mac's Solar & Pools**

1600 W Mountain Drive
Owner: Ted Gardner

Contractor: **McCoy Electrical Corporation**

17 Via Alicia
Owner: **Mikhail Family**

Contractor: **Verengo Solar Plus**

2819 Panorama Place
Owner: **Layton Family**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

1225 Northridge Road
Owner: **Ken Allen**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

1643 Loma Street
Owners: **Robert & Suzanne Greenberg Family**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

826 Dolores Drive
Owner: **Richard Dallett**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

2511 Murrell Road
Owner: **Patricia Brennan**

Contractor: Sun Pacific Solar

129 Calle Bello
Owner: **U.S. Bank Trustee**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

333 Piedmont Road
Owner: **Roache Family**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

725 W Figueroa Street
Owners: **Paul Broeker & Deborah Lipp**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

497 Drexel Drive
Owner: **Mary Lee Hopkins**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

1539 Las Canoas Road
Owners: **Raymond & Donna Jordan**

Contractor: **Sun Pacific Solar**

Flat-Roof Panel System

1596 Oramas Road
Owner: **Raymond Clemencon**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

**2012 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Award Certificate Recipients**

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible (Category 2)

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

102 San Roque Road

Owner: **Kum-Kum Bhavnani**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

9 Solana Court

Owner: **Smith Family**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

2916 Paseo Del Refugio

Owner: **Teton Family**

Contractor: **REC Solar**

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects (Category 3)

Mission Tile

1244 W Micheltorena Street (Category 3 & 1)

Owners: **James Fischer & Judith Litschel**

Contractor: **Advanced Solar Electric**

1557 La Cresta Circle (Category 3 & 1)

Owners: **Tatiana Tikhonova**

Contractor: **Carlton Electrical Construction**

1406 Santa Rosa Avenue (Category 3 & 1)

Owners: **Hugh Kelly & Katya Bloom**

Contractor: **Planet Solar**

Historic District and Structures

117 W Mason Street (Category 3 & 1)

Owners: **Arthur Toga**

Contractor: **Solforce Systems Inc.**

**2012 Passive Solar Energy System
Recommended Certificate and Award Plaque Recipient**

1669 Las Canoas Road
Owner: **McNamara Family**

Contractor: **Peter Novak**
Architect: **The Fine Line**

**2012 Special Program Recognition
Recommended Certificate and Award Plaque Recipient**

Solarize Santa Barbara Program

Community Environmental Council

Location:
South Santa Barbara County, including City of Santa Barbara

49 South County projects participated in this program in three months in 2011.

Santa Barbara ranks in top solar cities

Megan Birney on Wednesday, 08 February 2012.



Environment California recently released a study comparing adoption of solar among California cities. As expected, big cities, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Jose (respectively) came in on top for total number of installed systems, and total installed capacity. Environment California also analyzed small and medium sized cities, and installations per capita. That's where things get interesting.

Of the 170 municipalities in California with populations over 50,000, Santa Barbara ranks 9th in number of solar installations per capita (0.81 installations per 100 people). While we don't fair quite as well in installed capacity per capita (19th), we are by far above average in both categories.

The other cities in our region that made the list are Ojai, ranked 12th in the small cities category with almost four solar installations per 100 people, and Paso Robles ranked 7th in the large town category with 0.17 installations per 100 people.

We give credit for this accomplishment to a combination of forward thinking individuals and good government policies.

Ever since the 1969 oil spill, Santa Barbara residents have recognized the importance of moving away from our dependence on fossil fuels for environmental and economic reasons. By installing solar, residents have stabilized their energy costs and those with electric vehicles have switched to fuel supplied by the sun for their transportation needs. We at CEC like to think that we might have helped some of those people make the decision to go solar with events like [CEC's Earth Day Festival](#) and [Solar SUNday](#), and our publications like [Get Started with Solar \(PDF\)](#).

The City of Santa Barbara also deserves recognition. Not only has the City has installed solar on government facilities; they have also created a streamlined permitting process for rooftop solar, allowing homeowners to get a permit in less than an hour. Streamlined permitting creates certainty and reduces costs for solar. CEC is proud to have helped develop that process years ago and continues to work with the City on further improvements to the solar permitting process.

And a big thanks to Environment California for collecting and analyzing the data. We look forward to next year's report.

Rank	City	# of Installations per 100 people
1	Santa Cruz	1.44
2	Clovis	1.18
3	Rocklin	1.09
4	Davis	1.09
5	Watsonville	1.09
6	Roseville	0.98
7	Santa Rosa	0.87
8	San Ramon	0.85
9	Santa Barbara	0.81
10	Berkeley	0.76
11	Rancho Cordova	0.76
12	Pleasanton	0.75
13	Petaluma	0.75
14	San Rafael	0.72
15	Chico	0.71
16	Palo Alto	0.70
17	Livermore	0.68
18	Napa	0.66
19	Novato	0.66
20	Walnut Creek	0.63
21	Cupertino	0.57
22	Madera	0.57
23	Encinitas	0.56
24	El Cajon	0.54
25	Woodland	0.53
26	Mountain View	0.52
27	Brentwood	0.50
28	Escondido	0.49
29	San Marcos	0.49
30	La Mesa	0.48



Report on Mayor's Solar Awards Ceremony October 3, 2012



Award Plaques and Certificates

- ◆ 27 projects: award certificates for contractors & property owners; projects consistent with guidelines
- ◆ 5 of the 27 projects: award plaques for property owners & certificates for contractors; projects best exemplifying guideline application. Plaques by Brian Chandler, local solar artist



Current Status of Solar Energy in Santa Barbara

Quantity:

- ◆ Over **600** systems have been installed in the City.
- ◆ City municipal installation of over **550 kW**, including corporate yard, airport quick turnaround facility and Fire Stations 1 & 2.

Projects Support:

- ◆ Illustrated Design Guidelines
- ◆ Solar Design Recognition Program
- ◆ Clear Building & Safety requirements
- ◆ Approvals over-the-counter as standard
- ◆ Boards and Commission encourage set-aside of roof area on projects for solar panels

Active Solar Award Categories

1. Not Publicly Visible

- Ideal Site: 85%+ efficiency & not publicly visible
- Flat Roof System: ex: panel angled at 5 degrees or less

2. Design Challenge: *Publicly Visible*

- Building Integrated Technology
- Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel System

3. Special Challenge

- Mission Tile
- Historic Structures
- Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Systems

Active Solar

26 Certificate Awards

- (8) REC Solar*
- (8) Sun Pacific Solar Electric*
- (2) California Solar Electric Systems*
- (2) Solforce Systems Inc.
- (1) Carlton Electrical Construction
- (1) Mac's Solar & Pools
- (1) Planet Solar
- (1) Advanced Solar Electric
- (1) McCoy Electrical Corporation
- (1) Verengo Solar Plus



Yellow = local Santa Barbara office

Orange = no Santa Barbara office

*Either former or present CEC "Solarize Santa Barbara" program contractor

Active Solar Certificate Awards - (8) REC Solar*



Active Solar Certificate Awards - (8) Sun Pacific Solar*



Mayor's Ceremony & Reception Photo October 3rd, 2012



Over 30 attendees. Pictured are residential property owners with leadership solar energy projects and their solar energy contractors, Mayor Helene Schneider, and staff.

5 Plaque Awards

- ◆ Four Active Solar Electric
- ◆ One Passive Solar
- ◆ Special Program Award for CEC's "Solarize SB" Program



Active Solar

Category 1 & 3

Special Challenge: Flat Roof & Mission Tile

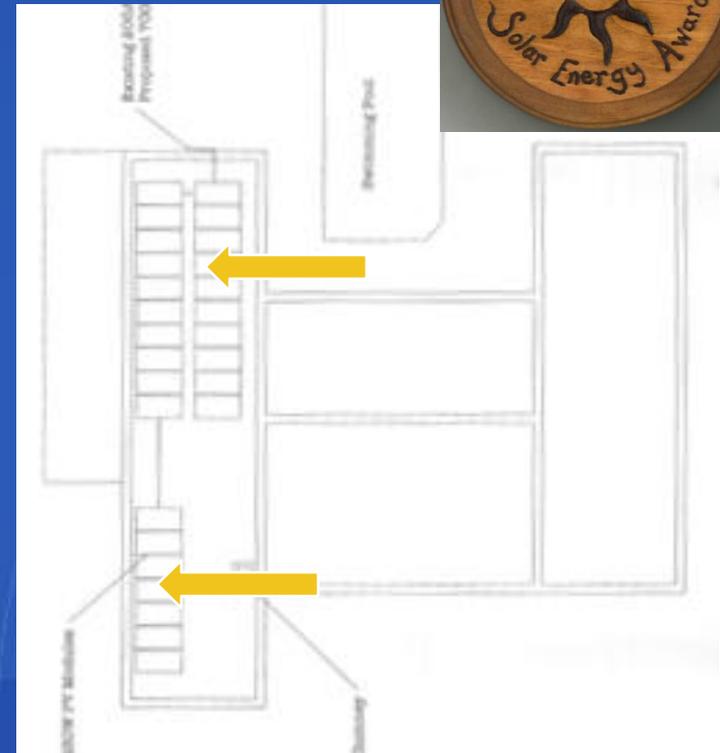
Plaque

Owners: James Milchak & Joni Gordon

Hope Terrace

Contractor: California Solar Electric Systems

6.21 kW



Active Solar

Category 1 & 3

Not Publicly Visible & Special Challenge: Mission Tile

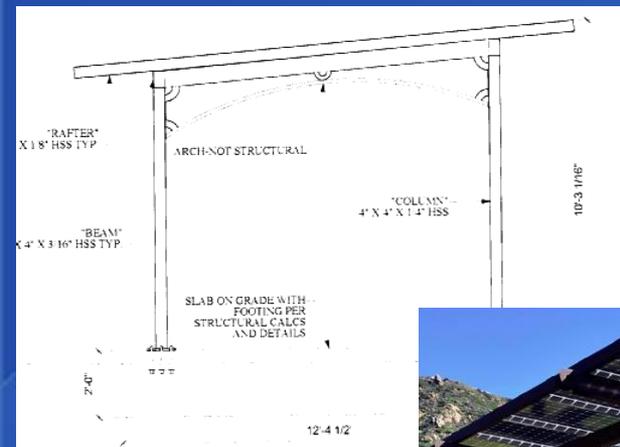
Plaque

Owner: Powell Family

W Mountain Dr

Contractor: Solforce Systems Inc.

3.72 kW



Active Solar

Category 2

Design Challenge: Publicly Visible Plaque

Gibraltar Rd

6.11 kW

Owner: Dale Taylor

Contractor: Sun Pacific Solar



Eastern roof



Western roof



Active Solar

Category 2 & 3

Design & Special Challenge: Publicly Visible &

Historic Site

Plaque

Owner: Taylor Family

Chapala St

Contractor: REC Solar

3.52 kW



Active Solar Not Publicly Visible Certificate

Foothill Rd

Category 1

Owner: La Colina Gardens

Contractor: Mac's Solar and Pools



Solar pool heating system

Passive Solar Plaque

Owner: McNamara Family

Designer: The Fine Line

Designer & Contractor: Peter Novak Building and Design

Las Canoas Road

kW



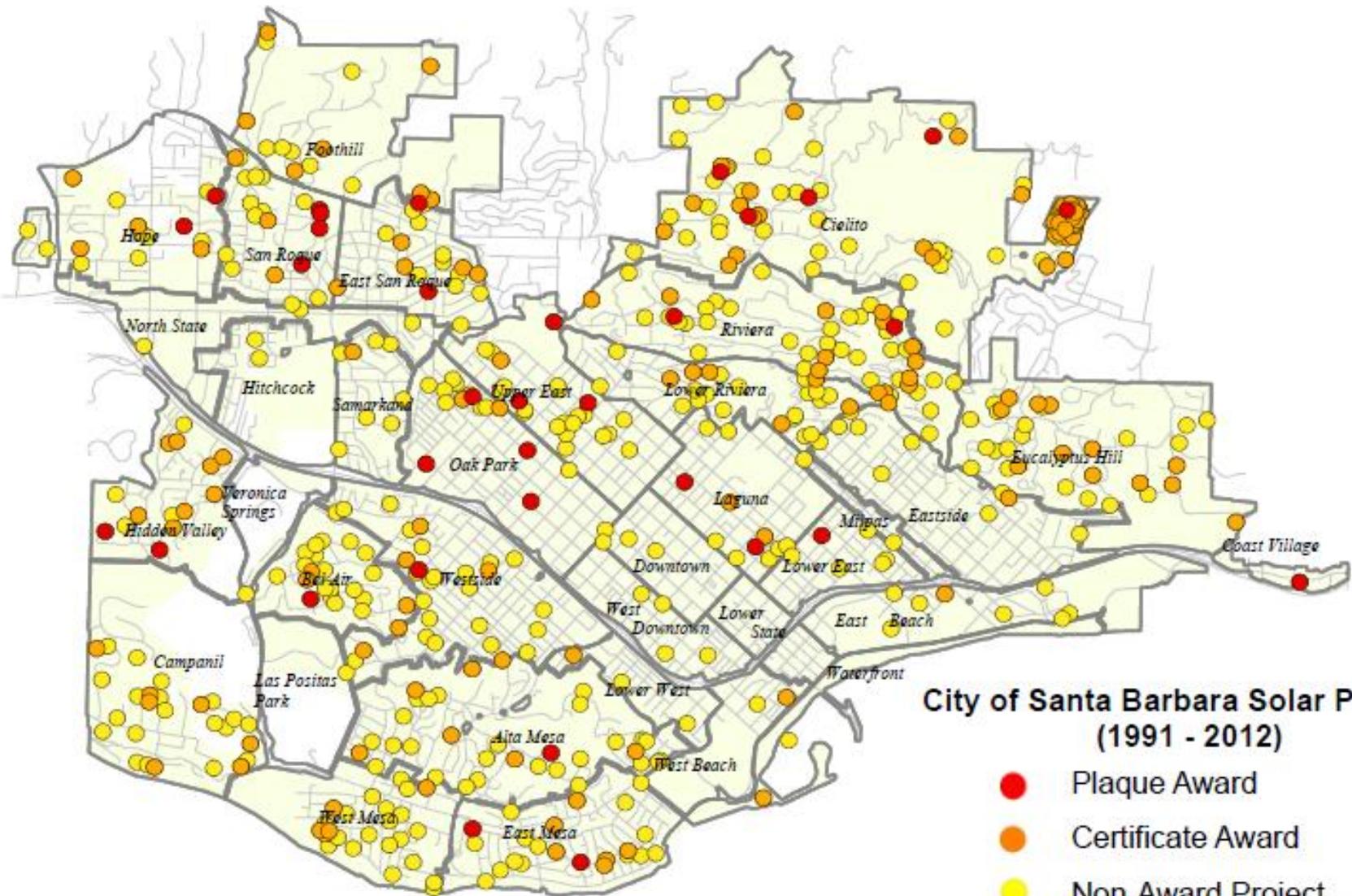
Special Solar Program Recognition South Santa Barbara County, including City of Santa Barbara



**Community
Environmental
Council's
Solarize
Santa Barbara
Program**



>600 Solar Projects 1991 - 2012





Congratulations!

To all award recipients of this year's

City of Santa Barbara

2012 Solar Recognition Program

It is through your efforts that our city has developed and maintained a more beautiful and sustainable community. Thank You!