

# Green News

**Greetings,**

The Center for Sustainability at Santa Barbara City College is proud to announce the first ever SBCC edition of “Green News”, a Campus Sustainability Update.

The Center for Sustainability is dedicated to enhancing our curriculum with environmental literacy, improving our campus with sustainable practices and strengthening local community relationships through education & collaboration.

This brief “Green News” letter will provide important updates and information regarding college sustainability programs & initiatives, while inviting faculty, students & staff to participate & support these efforts. Please feel free to pass along this information & encourage interested individuals to get involved. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adam Green,  
 Director, Center for Sustainability  
 Environmental Studies Program Coordinator

**Energy Super Stars**



**Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL), motion sensor switches and mechanical equipment upgrades** are just a few examples of energy efficiency improvements implemented over the past few years by the Facilities and Operations crew at SBCC.

Including the Sports Pavilion solar panel installation, these conservation and energy efficiency programs, equal 2 million annual kWh (kilo Watt hours) of energy savings, which is equal to any one of the following:

- The power needs of 1900 residential households;
- 1 Billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions;
- The carbon stored in over 1200 acres of trees;
- People not driving over 12 million miles;
- Or about 32,000 barrels of crude oil.

In addition to saving resources, the college will save money too. SBCC will receive about \$500,000 in utility rebates for these energy efficiency programs, upgrades and improvements. This perfectly illustrates how going green can also help save green!

Please take the time to thank Facilities for their efforts.

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**One Solar Roof**

**SBCC Board of Trustees voted last summer to install over 200 kilowatts of solar electricity generation on the roof of the Sports Pavilion.**

According to Facilities & Operations, construction of this photovoltaic solar panel system is projected to begin around the end of this academic school year. Total upfront cost of the project is estimated at \$2,354,000. After rebates and energy savings payback will be 11 years, and then SBCC will be producing “free” renewable energy right at the center of campus.

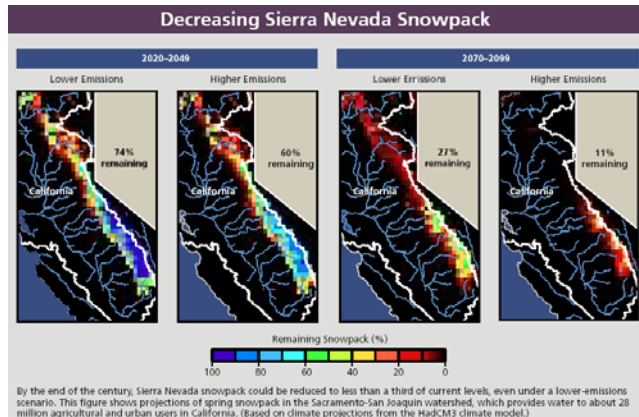
This solar installation is expected to produce about 10% of total campus energy needs.

Today, solar panels are guaranteed to maintain 80% of their original efficiency for 25 years, but they can continue producing energy for decades.



## College Climate Leaders

**Santa Barbara City College President John Romo is considering signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, joining over 475 college and university presidents across the nation in climate protection leadership.**



Signing the Presidents Climate Commitment means SBCC would commit to measuring green house gas emissions, developing a committee for college sustainability and within two years develop an action plan to achieve carbon neutrality. By meeting the goals of the Climate Commitment SBCC will significantly decrease its' environmental impact, save energy, resources & money while providing relevant educational opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

The Presidents Climate Commitment is part of a national movement to shift universities and institutions of higher education to the forefront of environmental sustainability. Among the over 475 colleges and universities signatories are: Harvard, Cornell, and Syracuse; at least 5 California State Universities; over 20 California Community Colleges; and the entire University of California system, all 12 campuses. A full list is available at: [www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org).

In early November of 2007 President Romo sent the Climate Commitment to an ad-hoc study group to assess feasibility. The study group recommended to move forward and to send the commitment through college consultative process. The College Planning Council, Academic Senate, Classified School Employees Association and finally the SBCC Board of Trustees must first approve the document before President Romo is able to sign the commitment.

Please help by contacting college administrators telling them that you support this initiative.

## SoMA to LEED Way



**The upcoming School of Media Arts Building will break new ground at SBCC by meeting LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification requirements.**

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the SBCC Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of meeting LEED building standards for the new SoMA project. LEED is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council that was designed to create a national "green building" standard ensuring that buildings are resource efficient, environmentally friendly, and healthy for occupants.

With proper planning, LEED projects require little or no increased upfront costs and when they do require added investments they typically pay back as quickly as one to three years via energy and water savings. A green building gives attention to indoor air quality, natural light and design features that make the interior work environment healthier and more enjoyable to be in. This results in better worker productivity and enhanced student success. Complying with LEED opens up doors and opportunities for SBCC to take advantage of new initiatives, incentives and grants targeted towards energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainable design.

Requiring LEED certification in buildings demonstrates a support for sustainability in addition to fiscal responsibility in a very tangibly practical and visible way. This LEED commitment at SBCC demonstrates the Board of Trustees responsibility to a healthy future and also provides students with a fantastic example of the fastest growing field of building & design.

With a relatively small added effort and expense the SoMA building could achieve a LEED "Silver" rating, a level required by all UC buildings for over two years.

### Santa Barbara City College Center for Sustainability



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