

# Green News

## Greetings,

The Center for Sustainability at Santa Barbara City College is proud to announce the first edition of the SBCC “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 and collaboration.

This brief newsletter will provide important updates and information regarding college sustainability programs & initiatives, while also 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.

Warmest Regards,

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 planned 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
- 32,000 barrels of crude oil.

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

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 power generation on the roof of the Sports Pavilion, located next to the campus bridge.**

According to Facilities & Operations, construction of this photovoltaic solar panel system is projected to begin before the end of this academic year.

This solar installation is expected to produce about 10% of total campus energy needs and the total upfront cost of the project is estimated at \$2,354,000.

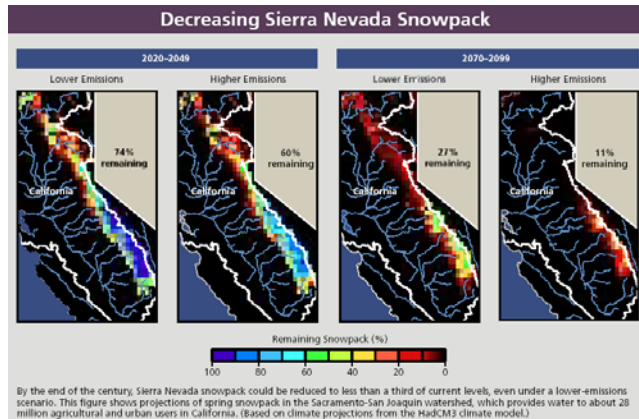
Including rebates and energy savings the payback for this project will be 11 years, after which SBCC will be producing “free” renewable energy right on campus.

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



## College Climate Leaders

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



Signing the Presidents Climate Commitment means SBCC would commit to measuring greenhouse 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 and 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 college and university signatories are: Harvard, Cornell, and Syracuse; at least 5 California State Universities; more than 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 moving forward with the commitment and sent it to the 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 can sign on.

If you want to help make SBCC part of the solution please contact your local college representative committee and tell them 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 workers and 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 which make the interior work environment healthier and more enjoyable to be in. The result is 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 support for sustainability as well as fiscal responsibility in a very tangible practical and visible way. This LEED commitment at SBCC demonstrates responsibility by the Board of Trustees to a positive and healthy future society and also provides students with a fantastic example of the fastest growing field of building & design; green.

With a relatively small added effort and expense the SoMA building could achieve a LEED "Silver" (or higher) rating. LEED "Silver" is required on all UC campuses.

### Santa Barbara City College Center for Sustainability



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