



News Release

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Governor Names Sustainable Silicon Valley Winner of 2007 Top Environmental and Economic Leadership Award

San Jose – Today, Governor Schwarzenegger announced that Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) has won the 2007 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) for its Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction Program in which key Bay Area public and private entities voluntarily commit to reducing the Valley's carbon footprint. SSV was selected for its "innovative and forward thinking approaches that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on public health and our vast natural resources."

The GEELA Program is the State of California's highest and most prestigious environmental honor. The program recognizes individuals, organizations, and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving California's precious resources, protecting and enhancing our environment, and building public-private partnerships.

"SSV is appreciative of this award which recognizes the environmental and economic success already achieved by the public-private collaboration catalyzed by SSV," said Rick Row, executive director of SSV. "There is so much more to do. Our business, government, academic and non-governmental partners look forward to other organizations following their lead in joining us to assure that Silicon Valley enjoys a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and a socially equitable community into the future."

Since 2001, SSV has engaged and supported regional businesses, governments and non-governmental organizations that pledge voluntarily to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, share best practices and report their emissions annually to SSV. Over 70 pledging partners, including Hewlett Packard, Cisco, Intel, eBay, San Francisco International Airport, City of San José, and Sun, report cumulative carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reductions totaling 517,000 tons as of 2006. This is equal to taking 102,000 automobiles off the road for one year, or removing more than 355,000 homes from the electricity grid for one year.

Twenty-two SSV partner organizations have already met or exceeded their own 2010 CO₂ emissions reduction goals and are continuing to pursue further reductions.

SSV partners with data from 2000 to 2006 have reduced their CO₂ emissions by 24% over that time period, as compared with a seven percent decline for the region as a whole. Many report significant economic benefits from their energy-saving programs.

"As a pledging partner of SSV's Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction Initiative we have been able to experience first hand the value SSV adds to organizations such as ours who are focused on the reduction of CO₂," said Cecily Joseph, Director of Corporate Responsibility at Symantec Corporation. "SSV not only provides resources to assist Symantec in reducing its CO₂ through its education and networking efforts, but is also a trusted advisor. SSV members meet personally with Symantec to encourage our efforts and offer advice and guidance."

Award recipients are chosen in eight different categories based on their strength in specific areas including results, transferability, environmental impact, resource conservation, economic progress, innovation and uniqueness, pollution prevention, and environmental justice.

The Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards program was established in 1993. The award program is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Resources Agency in collaboration with the State and Consumer Services Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

SSV will accept the award at a ceremony tonight (Tuesday November 20) in Sacramento.

Photos available November 21. Please contact rrow@sustainablesiliconvalley.org.

About Sustainable Silicon Valley

Sustainable Silicon Valley is a voluntary partnership of business, government, academic and non-governmental organizations collaboratively creating a more sustainable future for Silicon Valley. The SSV CO₂ Emissions Reduction Initiative has set a goal of reducing CO₂ emissions in the Silicon Valley region 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010. SSV partners pledge to help meet SSV's regional target, set their own individual targets, report their progress, share information, and mentor one another in quarterly educational forums and monthly meetings.

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