

# City of Vacaville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2007**  
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## **VACAVILLE HITS 3 MEGAWATT MARK FOR SOLAR POWER PRODUCTION**

With the Dec. 5 dedication and ribbon cutting of a 1 megawatt solar facility located at Alza Corporation's Vacaville facility, the total amount of solar power being generated in the City of Vacaville has topped the 3 megawatt mark.

The Alza solar array features close to 5,800 solar panels on a six-acre site located adjacent to the facility. The array provides about one-third of the plant's energy needs.

The City of Vacaville has been one of the leading agencies in the State in terms of innovative programs, recycling, and other conservation efforts.

The City's well-known alternative fuel vehicle programs include a fleet of 25 electric vehicles as well as a Natural Gas Vehicle program. The NGV program provides a variety of incentives to those who live and work in Vacaville. The goal is to have 100 of these vehicles on the road through this program by early 2008.

The City also has several Honda NGVs as part of its vehicle fleet as well, while City Coach – Vacaville's bus system – currently has five busses using natural gas, with plans to convert the entire fleet of 12 busses to natural gas in the next two years.

Solar panel projects are also an important part of the City of Vacaville, with a solar array atop the roof at City Hall and another array of panels in place at the Bella Vista Park and Ride Lot. Those panels provide energy for the electric vehicle charging stations located nearby.

(More)

Two of the City's newest buildings – the Vacaville Police Department facility and the Easterly Wastewater Treatment facility – were both built using green principles such as taking advantage of as much natural light as possible; installing energy management systems and implementing energy-saving devices.

In terms of private sector involvement, Meritage Homes is constructing a community of energy-efficient homes that will save homeowners up to 70 percent on their electricity bills thanks to solar panels, energy management systems and other built-in technology.

The City's Planning Department reports that a variety of businesses have taken out permits to install solar arrays, from Creekside Orthodontics to Kohl's, Staples and the under-construction State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Recently, SPG Solar – the company which installed the solar array at Alza – opened an office in Vacaville, pointing to the impact alternative energy can have on the business community.

Recycling efforts are making an impact in Vacaville as well. In 2006, over 5,405 tons of recycling materials were collected curbside; in 2007, through August, over 4,500 tons of material has been collected; 13,199 tons of yardwaste was collected curbside in 2006, with 9,230 tons collected this year through September.

The Curbside Oil and Filter recycling program is having success as well, with 3,586 gallons of oil and 2,088 filters collected curbside in 2006.

The Electronic Waste Pick-up program resulted in over 12,000 pounds of TVs and computer monitors being picked up last year, while another 8,650 pounds have been collected through August of this year.

The Electronic Waste Drop-off program has been even more successful, with 378,248 pounds of e-waste collected last year. Through August 2007, over 240,000 pounds of e-waste have been collected.

Future City plans include installing solar panels at the new Police Department building, the Walter Graham Aquatic Center, updating technology at other City facilities, and attracting other energy-related businesses as well.

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