

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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For immediate release

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VSP Vision Care wins SMUD award for responsible energy stewardship

SMUD Board recognizes energy-conscious commercial customer

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is honoring VSP Vision Care for its overall commitment to implementing energy efficiency measures to reduce energy consumption and promote environmental protection.

The SMUD Community Energy Award honors commercial customers who share SMUD's values of efficiency and environmental sensitivity, and who have turned these beliefs into actions. These customers have controlled their energy usage, improved their bottom line, and reduced the amount of energy that must be generated for our region.

This award recognizes VSP for the following efforts that exemplify their commitment to sustainability and actively working to be a model for other organizations and the community:

- VSP's achievement of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification for their HQ1 building is a testament to their environmental stewardship. This prestigious award by the U.S. Green Building Council is the highest LEED certification level and has only been awarded to 14 other buildings in the nation, one of which is the SMUD Customer Service Center building. This effort included the following measures:
 - Reducing water usage by 50 percent
 - Contracting with sustainable suppliers
 - Using recycled and recyclable materials
 - Recycling 75 percent of refuse
 - Using only green cleaning products and low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints
 - Saved more than 500,000 kilowatt hours by installing and using energy-efficient systems and equipment including lighting occupancy controls (This represents the equivalent of reducing CO2 emissions by 690,000 pounds per year.)
- VSP is a SMUD Greenergy partner, powering 60 percent of their HQ1 building with 3,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy, equivalent to reducing CO2 emissions by 4.1 million pounds per year.
- VSP is a valued member of SMUD's Voluntary Emergency Curtailment Program, agreeing to voluntarily curtail load to help the community in an electrical emergency.
- VSP participated in SMUD's Data Center Cooling Optimization pilot using SynapSense wireless solution to identify 260,000 kilowatt hours annual savings for its data center. Once these measures are fully implemented they will reduce CO2 emissions by 350,000 pounds annually.

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2-2-2-2 VSP Vision Care wins SMUD award

“VSP Vision Care provides excellent leadership among business customers and helps our community by being more energy efficient,” said Nancy Bui, SMUD Board Ward 2 Director.

“Hopefully, more customers will follow VSP’s lead by taking advantage of SMUD programs that can help them reduce energy and save money.”

VSP is one of the top eye care benefits providers in the U.S. (with about 55 million members, about one in six people in the U.S. use the company's services), offering vision coverage ranging from general plans to laser vision correction procedures. The company has about 30,000 clients. Its Sight for Students program provides uninsured children with vision exams and glasses. The VSP network includes 25,000 doctors who provide eye exams and eyewear nationwide. The company was founded in 1955 and is headquartered in Rancho Cordova.

To be eligible for the SMUD Community Energy Award, commercial customers share SMUD’s strategic directives in environmental protection and efficient energy use. The customers also incorporate the innovative use of emerging or new energy technologies. One customer is chosen in each of the seven SMUD Board wards.

For more information about SMUD’s commercial programs that can save businesses money on electric bills, visit smud.org.

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A print-quality file of the image below is available on request.



Suggested caption: SMUD Board President Howard Posner presents Laurel Bane of VSP Vision Care with a SMUD Community Energy Award. The award honors commercial customers who share SMUD’s values of efficiency and environmental sensitivity, and who worked with the utility to turn these beliefs into actions.

