

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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## **SMUD uses national recognition to encourage others to go green**

Sustainable construction, operation and maintenance practices earned the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) top honors earlier this year for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®). SMUD wants to help other local building owners earn similar local and national attention as well as lower their operating costs.

SMUD will offer a free three-hour presentation on **August 15, 2007 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Energy & Technology Center located in the Customer Service Center, 6301 S Street, Sacramento** for customers interested in pursuing LEED® certification for their own buildings.

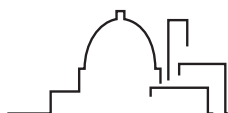
Brian Sehnert, AIA, Doug Norwood, P.E., and Jack Paddon, AIA, will present the project's successful processes and features as well as highlight effective solutions to overcoming challenges to certification, such as costs, changing facility operations, and employee buy-in.

LEED® standards were developed by the U.S. Green Building Council and provide independent, third-party verification that a building meets the highest performance standards and is proof that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live or work.

The SMUD Customer Service Center, designed nine years prior to the creation of the LEED® Rating System, is the first utility building in the nation to achieve the rating of LEED® Platinum for Existing Buildings. The platinum level is the highest of four levels of excellence the council recognizes.

The SMUD Customer Service Center was built “green” in 1995 with additional green features and maintenance practices incorporated last year.

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## **2-2-2-2 LEED certification**

Examples of improvements SMUD made in 2006 include:

- Installation of new devices to better control indoor humidity and temperature levels.
- Installation of carbon dioxide sensors in conference rooms, training rooms and other high-density areas to reduce air conditioning needs when rooms are unoccupied.
- Installation of water meters and data collection to eliminate unnecessary irrigation.
- Installation of BTU-monitoring equipment in each wing of the service center to pinpoint areas on high energy usage for potential energy reduction projects.
- Adoption of new strategies to maximize the building's daylighting features such as exterior light shelves pressure washed twice a year to maintain high reflectivity.

Additionally, SMUD adopted new sustainability maintenance practices that will be extended to all SMUD buildings and facilities.

- A switch to environmentally benign cleaning products, pest management and fertilizer solutions.
- Stocking restrooms with recycled toilet tissue and paper towels.
- On-site mulching of all green waste.
- Use of only recyclable and low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) construction materials, including carpet and paint.

For more information, or to register for the free class on-line visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).

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