

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

• 916-732-5111

For immediate release

January 23, 2008

## **SMUD calls on students and teachers for the next great solar idea**

*Energize Minds for Solar Design grant program awards money to help educators teach solar*

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) realizes that some of its youngest and future customers may have some of the best ideas to use solar-generated electricity. So, for the third year, SMUD is calling on students and science and technology educators in SMUD service territory high schools and community colleges to submit proposals to win grant awards of \$5,000 and \$10,000. One of SMUD's goals is to create a better future with renewable energy sources like solar power.

SMUD's program, Energize Minds for Solar Design, teaches students about solar energy and its practical applications in our community and around the world. Students will develop a solar education project using their own ideas, and learn how to create a sustainable, zero-emission future.

Last year, Laguna Creek High School earned a \$10,000 grant for a shade structure with solar panels built over one of the school's large rooftop air-conditioning units. The solar panels power one or more banks of classroom lights. Teachers and students from three other schools, Rancho Cordova High School, Bella Vista High School and San Juan High School earned \$5,000 each for various solar projects. In 2006, the first year of the grant program, SMUD awarded \$30,000 to three schools: Sheldon High School, American River College and Will Rogers Middle School.

Interested students and teachers must apply for the grants by submitting an application that includes a project summary, description, expected outcome, budget and schedule. The application and program information are available at <http://www.smud.org/education-safety/classroom.html> or contact the project manager Rachel Huang via phone at 916-732-6930 or e-mail at [rhuang@smud.org](mailto:rhuang@smud.org).

As the nation's sixth largest publicly owned utility, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 60 years to Sacramento County (and a small portion of Placer County). SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. For more information about SMUD visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).

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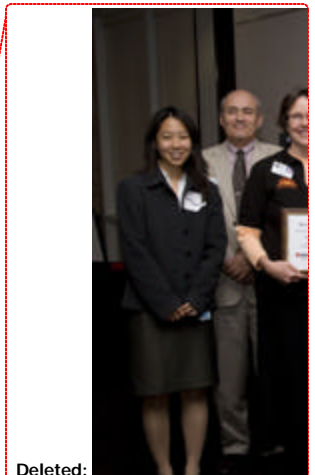
## 2-2-2-2 SMUD calls on students and teachers for the next great solar idea

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

**Suggested caption:** Winning teachers who earned grant money through the SMUD Energize Minds for Solar Design program display their plaques with SMUD solar program managers. The teachers from Will Rogers Middle School, American River College and Sheldon High School were each awarded \$10,000 to help realize products they and their students developed.



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