



For Immediate Release

For Further Information:
Monica Devincenzi, RethinkWaste
Phone: 650-802-3509
Email: mdevincenzi@rethinkwaste.org

SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SOLAR PANEL INSTALL BEGINS *Using Solar Energy at Facility Estimated to Save \$2.1 Million Over Next 20 Years*

SAN CARLOS, CA – December 13, 2011 – Installation of 2,700 photovoltaic panels on the roofs of the Shoreway Environmental Center buildings in San Carlos has begun. Once completed, RethinkWaste estimates that it will save approximately \$2.1 million in energy costs over the next 20 years and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 1.6 million pounds per year – the equivalent of removing 252 cars per year from the road.

“This milestone highlights a win-win for the ratepayers and the environment as we will be reducing our utility bills at the Shoreway facility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” commented Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste.

Fresh Air Energy-II, dba Ecoplexus, is doing the installation of the solar panels through a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA,) which includes financing, owning, operating and maintaining the photovoltaic system. The panels are being installed on the roofs of Shoreway’s Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF, where recyclables are processed.) In return, RethinkWaste will host the system and purchase the electric output for a predetermined price for the length of the contract. The term of the contract is 20 years.

The system will be capable of producing approximately 740 kilowatts of electricity per hour – enough power to run nearly 6,000 60-watt light bulbs for eight hours. Approximately 45% of Shoreway’s Transfer Station and MRF energy needs will be supplied through the solar system.

The estimated cost savings is based on Shoreway’s energy needs and rising costs through Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) utility bills. PG&E’s rates have risen 35% over the past five years, or a rate of 7% per year. In comparison, the Solar PPA fixes the rate of increase to 3% per year for the term. It would also cost approximately \$3.5-\$4 million for RethinkWaste to self-finance the installation of the photovoltaic panels and system.

The Solar PPA project is a result of the Silicon Valley Collaborative Renewable Energy Project launched in 2008 by Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network’s Public Sector Climate Task Force,

610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | P: 650-802-3500 |
San Carlos, CA 94070 | F: 650-802-3501 | RethinkWaste.org

MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

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in partnership with the County of Santa Clara. The project evaluated collaborative procurement opportunities for a Solar PPA, with the goals of obtaining favorable pricing through a large-scale regional aggregate purchase and to allow smaller governmental entities to participate in a PPA that would otherwise be unable to participate due to the size of project sites. RethinkWaste Board of Directors approved the authorization of entering into the Solar PPA agreement with Ecoplexus in July 2011. Other agencies that made up the initial projects included in the collaboration along with RethinkWaste consist of the cities of Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, and Pacifica; the County of Santa Clara and the Valley Transit Authority.

The installation of the solar panels and use of solar energy will also qualify the buildings for LEED certification, and provide numerous other environmental benefits. Installation is expected to be completed the end of December.

RethinkWaste

Rethink Waste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at www.RethinkWaste.org or follow us at www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste or www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste.

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