

## ***San Gabriel Valley Tribune***

### **San Gabriel Valley cities honored for energy savings**

By Erick Galindo Staff Writer

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SAN GABRIEL - The cities of South Pasadena, West Covina, Pomona and San Gabriel have received awards from the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership for their efforts to reduce energy consumption.

The awards were handed out Tuesday at the second annual Energy Efficiency Awards Luncheon, held at the San Gabriel Hilton. The partnership is a collaboration between the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and Southern California Edison.

Through the partnership, Edison provides incentives to local governments to reduce energy usage in the region by offering enhanced rebates for installing energy efficiency measures in municipal facilities, technical assistance, and various training and educational opportunities.

"It's a great opportunity and it certainly helps us with our tax challenge," said San Gabriel Mayor David Gutierrez, whose city won the Ingenuity Award for replacing illuminated street signs with reflective ones.

"This innovative project saves the city 77,325 kilowatt-hours each year and serves as a model to other cities to undertake similar creative efforts," said Marissa Castro-Salvati, Edison's region manager. That translates to a savings of more than \$9,000 each year and also earned the city a \$13,000 rebate.

Gutierrez called the partnership a win-win. "It helps us protect the environment and save, always with the intent of doing something for our cities," he added.

In 2010, the program supported the installation of projects totaling more than 870,000 kilowatt-hours in energy savings. The cities honored at the luncheon were at the forefront of those achievements, Castro-Salvati said.

The Energy Savings Impact Award for a Large City was given to West Covina. West Covina completed retrofit projects totaling 158,119 kilowatt-hours of savings this year. The projects included traffic signal upgrades and window-film installation.

South Pasadena won the Energy Savings Impact Award for a small city. The city saved 152,118 kilowatt-hours by replacing incandescent traffic signals with LED signals.

The Green Leadership Award was awarded to Pomona for shown outstanding commitment to improving the environment across all sectors, including energy efficiency, with the development of an interdepartmental green team, the development of a city green plan and completion of a greenhouse gas-emissions inventory.

Despite challenging economic times, the San Gabriel Valley has demonstrated great effort and commitment to energy efficiency in 2010, said Pascal Okpo, Edison's project manager. The EWP has set an ultimate goal of reducing energy usage in city facilities by approximately 5 million kilowatt-hours by 2012.

"Collectively we have achieved our goal to reduce energy consumption," said Walnut Councilman Thomas King, who is also president of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. "We have made our cities a more likeable place to live using cost-effective measures that not only save money but improve the environment."

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