



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock
County Administrator

Beth Gabor
Manager of Public Affairs

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8042 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.yolocounty.org

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Contact: Beth Gabor, Manager of Public Affairs
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

EPA Recognizes Yolo County Among Nation's Leading Green Power Users

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County, for the first time appears as number 14 on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Top 20 On-site list of the largest green power users as result of generating nearly 14 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power from on-site solar energy production, a program which creates enough green power to meet 152 percent of the county's electricity use.

“This is a huge honor and we are proud to be recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,” said Terry Vernon, Yolo County deputy director of General Services. “Using green power helps our county become more sustainable, while also sending a message to others across the U.S. that supporting clean sources of electricity is a sound business decision and an important choice in reducing climate change risk.”

Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro. Purchases of green power help accelerate the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.

“This is a demonstration of our proactive choice to switch away from traditional sources of electricity generation and support cleaner renewable energy alternatives,” said Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad.

According to the U.S. EPA, Yolo County's green power generation of nearly 14 million kWh is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of nearly 2,000 passenger vehicles per year or the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of more than 1,000 average American homes annually.

“The EPA applauds Yolo County for its impressive use of on-site solar power,” said Blaine Collison, Director of the Green Power Partnership. “Yolo County is helping to reduce harmful carbon pollution while generating revenue from its on-site generation and should serve as an example for other cities and counties seeking to make meaningful environmental progress.”

Yolo County is a climate action leader. The Board of Supervisors adopted a Yolo County Climate Action Plan in March 2011. This plan was one of the first of its kind, and encompassed a strategy for smart growth implementation, greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation to global climate change. The Board of Supervisors also approved a number of renewable energy projects that would zero out the county's entire electric bill, while clearly establishing an environmental leadership commitment to reducing the county's carbon footprint and the effect on climate change.

The EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with electricity use. The Partnership currently has more than 1,500 partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state and federal governments, and colleges and universities. For additional information, visit: www.epa.gov/greenpower.

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