



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 2, 2007

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## **Yolo Bauer Building Joins EPA's Green Power Partnership**

**(Woodland, CA)** – In recognition of Yolo County's commitment to lessening environmental impacts, most recently manifested in the sustainable design of the county's newest building – the Herbert Bauer M.D. Health and Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Building – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has welcomed the county as a member of their Green Power Partnership. The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to lessen the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use.

The Bauer building, constructed in 2006 to consolidate into one central location eight county health and alcohol, drug and mental health programs, promotes sustainable design in a variety of ways, including roof solar panels. The half-megawatt system replaces the equivalent energy used by 200 California homes, leaving that energy on the grid for other uses. The solar cell system also prevents 600 tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere annually. Note: it requires 50 acres of trees to absorb that much carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere.

“The spaces previously used by the departments of Health and Alcohol Drug & Mental Health annually saw \$180,000 in conventional fossil fuel energy consumption,” said General Services Director Ray Groom. “The net reduction in utility costs, including the solar cell contribution, will be approximately \$70,000 and this environmentally sound system will produce power for at least twenty five years without ever contributing pollutants to the environment.”

The solar cell system generates approximately forty percent of the power for the building during peak demand hours. Under California's net metering regulations, public utilities must credit energy producers for the electricity they send to the grid. On sunny days and weekends the system sends the extra energy it generates to the grid ultimately earning credit with PG&E. At night or on rainy days, PG&E provides the power and Yolo County taps into the credit earned while the sun was shining.

“Yolo County is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and proud of the specific measures we've taken with the construction of the Bauer building, including solar roofing, bike commuter amenities, alternative vehicle preferred parking, and environmentally sound landscaping,” said Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “We are very honored to have our efforts recognized by the U.S. EPA, and will continue to incorporate ‘green policies’ in our future facilities decisions.”

For more information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/index.htm>.

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