

**Riverside Public Utilities
Alliance to Save Energy
Galaxy Star of Energy Efficiency Nomination
March 27, 2009**

In 1895, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) was formed as a municipally-owned utility to provide electric and water service to its citizens. Progressive visionaries with the need to ensure reliable growth to the citrus industry founded the utility. As a result, the city has been able to provide the highest quality electric and water services at the lowest possible rates to benefit the community for the past 110 years. Riverside is rich in history and has had a dual focus on historic preservation and the vision to look to the future. Strategic and innovative approaches to City living began with the founders and continues today. The City of Riverside now has a population of nearly 300,000 residents and is the largest city in one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States. RPU's service territory has over 106,000 meters, and generates annual revenues above \$330 million. The utility currently contributes 10% to the City's general fund to offset costs of vital city services such as public safety, parks and library services.

The benefit of owning a municipal utility has provided economic stability for decades. For the last 10 years, the city has recognized the need to provide a clean and sustainable environment, and the utility has played a primary role to fulfill this need. Utilizing a state-mandated public benefits surcharge for efficiency measures, RPU has aggressively planned use of these funds to strike an effective balance of use, providing customers with conservation education, efficiency rebates and ownership in photovoltaic projects on public buildings city-wide. Since 1999, close to 240,000 RPU customers have saved over 153,000,000 kWh through rebates, equivalent to eliminating almost 24,000 cars from the road, and saving over \$131 million. The utility has expended nearly \$38 million on efficiency measures for the community.

RPU's renewable power portfolio is currently 11%. The utility has strived to be a leader in the state, in providing renewable energy to its customers. With a combination of prudent development, public benefit programs and power contract negotiations, by 2013, RPU will be providing 50% renewable energy; the highest percentage of renewable energy, of all utilities in the State of California among both municipal and investor-owned utilities.

The major milestones that have put RPU on this path include:

- Geothermal power agreement with Shoshone Renaissance LLC in Utah providing 64MW for the city by 2011 and an additional 32MW provided by 2025.
- Construction of 606 kW of locally generated solar power, on low income apartments, senior center, public building carports, city hall roof, and local parks pool structures.
- Funded an additional 397 kW of solar projects through customer rebates on homes and businesses.
- Offering Solar project rebates for schools, businesses and homeowners.
- Received national Energy Innovator award from American Public Power Association in 2007 for funding a grant to develop a project that successfully converts restaurant grease to methane gas providing 1MW of power at the city's wastewater treatment plant.
- Designated by the State of California in January 2009, as the first "Emerald City" for partnership with the State bringing resources to Riverside, and utilizing Riverside as a leader and sustainable role model to other cities in California.
- Appointment of Sustainability Officer, to lead the City-wide adoption of Green Action Plan in 2007 and provide guidance on 38 action items broadening the city's vision to include areas not only focused on energy, but also water, transportation, urban nature, greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and urban design.
- Direct mailing of over 173,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs to customers providing 86.6 million kWh savings and offsetting 173 million lbs of emissions.
- Distribution of over 40,000 re-usable shopping bags to residents. The "Go Green Bags" remind customers to save resources and to think of the global implications of using plastic shopping bags.
- Since 2000, a free tree coupon has been placed on the March Utility bill. As a result, over 52,000 trees have been planted to offset greenhouse gas and reduce demand as much as 20% during hot weather.
- GreenRiverside.com and a public service campaign was created to raise awareness of environmental issues at the City, and to invite residents to participate in creating a sustainable lifestyle in their community.

As illustrated, Riverside Public Utilities is continuing the founder's progressive vision of looking to the future and preserving the community, by committing to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the State of California.