



**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT**
City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education



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San Diego Community College District projects honored for sustainability and design

Higher education sustainability and energy efficiency program honors SDCCD with two Best Practices

SANTA BARBARA – The San Diego Community College District's newest 'green' campus, a gymnasium lighting retrofit, and a college urban farm program were honored Monday at the 9th annual UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference, highlighting best practices and innovations in sustainability in higher education campus operations, planning, design, curriculum, and research within the California State University (CSU), California Community College (CCC) and University of California (UC) systems. Held in conjunction with the California Community College/Investor Owned Utilities (CCC/IOU) Energy Efficiency Partnership, the conference promotes collaboration between higher-ed campuses, government, business and non-profit entities

The three awards included:

Best Practice – Lighting Design/Retrofit: Harry West Gym, San Diego City College



As part of a districtwide effort to reduce energy consumption and protect natural resources, a daylighting retrofit project for the Harry West Gym involved changing out the High Intensity Discharge (HID) light fixtures with natural daylight harvesting fixtures, and incorporating high output T-5 light fixtures for the evening hours. The advantages are:

- Savings of between \$17-18K annual in electricity costs, not counting savings from reduced A/C bills.
- Significantly improved lighting levels and lighting quality

during both daytime and evening hours.

- Reduction of replacement costs for materials and labor by approximately 50%.
- Ability to take advantage of incentive rebates offered by SDG&E to transition to this energy-efficient solution



Best Practice – Student Sustainability Program: Urban Farm, San Diego City College

The idea was simple but revolutionary: convert an under-utilized, water- and chemical-intensive lawn into a productive, organic, educational mini-farm right on the City College campus, the first-ever college urban farm in San Diego County. The benefits of the urban farm were immediate:

- It uses **1/10th** as much water as the lawn
- It uses **none** of the chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides
- It has drastically reduced fossil-fuel consumption and our carbon footprint - no mowing or trucking away clippings means fewer greenhouse-gasses; our plantings fix more CO2
- Volunteers learned the principles of sustainable agriculture



The Urban Farm is the only source of fresh produce in downtown San Diego. Its farmer's market stand feeds more than 50 families each week, and serves as a site for weekly workshops on transplanting, composting, nutrition and more.



Honorable Mention – Best Overall Design: West City Campus, Continuing Education

The \$18 million [West City Campus](#), serving as San Diego Continuing Education's Campus of Excellence for

Hospitality and Consumer Science, is a model of smart construction and energy efficiency, reducing utility and maintenance costs substantially compared to a standard building. The project includes a number of [sustainable features](#), incorporates several recycled materials, such as [fencing](#) made of recycled plastic, [countertops](#) made of recycled newsprint, a [play area surface](#) made from recycled tires, and carpeting with a high volume of recycled content.



Quality of life for the building users is enhanced by better connections to the outside environment, and reduction of materials and systems contributing to indoor pollution. The use of sustainable materials or those with a high

volume of recycled content is proving to have an aesthetic value as well, prompting users to learn more about these materials and see the benefits of including these materials in their learning and working environment.

The West City Campus has been recognized by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) as a Sustainable Communities Champion, and was built as part of the \$1.555 Propositions S and N construction bond program, providing for new instructional facilities, major renovations and campus wide infrastructure projects at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges, and six Continuing Education campuses. For additional information, please visit www.sdccdprops-n.com.

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