

# PRESS RELEASE

Office of Supervisor Mark Church

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## **San Mateo County encourages residents to learn more about local government during National County Government Week**

*'Greening Our Future' is theme for May 3-9 recognition*

**REDWOOD CITY, Calif.** – San Mateo County is showing off its green government initiatives during this year's annual National County Government Week, May 3-9.

During the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, May 5, a video presentation highlighting the county's ongoing projects to 'go green' will receive its premiere viewing. The nine-minute video was produced by Peninsula TV at no cost to the county with the assistance of the County Employee Green Team Outreach Committee led by Mary Bell Austin and Danielle Lee. The video features interviews with the five county supervisors as well as various county employees involved in a wide range of energy efficiency and environmental projects. The "Easy to be Green" video will then begin a regular rotation on Pen TV so that as many residents as possible will be able to view it. The video will also be available on the county's website through the Green Team portal.

The production brings public attention to an important aspect of San Mateo County services. As part of the National County Government Week, the presentation is an effort to shine a spotlight on some of the environmental activities that benefit the residents of the county. From solar panels on government buildings to a fleet of hybrid cars, the video showcases specific programs as well as an overriding philosophy of environmental concern and green action.

"I am extremely proud of the commitment to innovative action that San Mateo County has shown in the green initiative area," said Board President Mark Church. "From our Green Building program to a partnership with PG&E that provides residents with a convenient way to recycle fluorescent lamps, San Mateo County is already 'Greening Our Future' in a big way."

County government plays a key role in "greening" the future of San Mateo County. Its employees are eager to teach residents how to reduce, reuse and recycle, help businesses boost environmental performance and promote local farmers, fishermen and ranchers.

A great resource is San Mateo County's RecycleWorks program. The hotline, 1-888-442-2666, and the website, [www.RecycleWorks.org](http://www.RecycleWorks.org), offer information on where to recycle or donate just about anything, including how to

compost, how to reduce junk mail, where to buy green building materials and how to start a commercial recycling program.

Another great resource is the County's Green Team, a dedicated group of employees who initiative energy-saving and environmentally friendly practices in addition to their regular duties.

The Green Team has developed the Green Portal on the County website ([www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/greenportal](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/greenportal)). The Portal includes more than 40 ideas for making the county a greener workplace. The suggestions include ways to save water and energy, reduce, reuse and recycle at work and decrease carbon emissions from commuting. In addition, the Green Team is sponsoring a "Green Bag" lecture series the first Wednesday of each month. The May topic is affordable options for clean, efficient travel. The Green Team education and outreach events share ideas with county colleagues and show them how easy it is to be green at work. There are some 3,068 counties in the United States that provide a variety of essential public services to communities serving 300 million Americans. Sometimes, the local government activities are seamlessly incorporated into the public's life and people are unaware of which municipal agency is responsible for specific activities. National County Government Week is an excellent opportunity for local county governments to connect effectively with residents.

San Mateo County and all counties take seriously their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of their residents in sensible and cost-effective ways.

Many county initiatives and programs involve the protection of valuable and vulnerable environmental resources in local communities. The National Association of Counties created National County Government Week in 1991 to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties to meet the needs of individual communities. The theme of "Greening Our Future" is being incorporated throughout the country this year as NACo encourages counties to highlight their green initiatives.

Held the first full week in May — National County Government Week is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1991, National County Government Week raises public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

There are activities at the national, state and local levels during county government week. More than 1,000 counties annually participate in NCGW by holding a variety of programs, presentations and events. These include tours of county facilities, presentations in schools, meetings with business and community leaders, recognition programs for volunteers, briefings on environmental projects and adoption of proclamations.

### **Upcoming Green Events in San Mateo County**

Green Bag Lunch Series: Affordable Options for Clean, Efficient Travel – vehicle display and safe biking workshop.

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon to 1:00 pm

County Center Plaza, Redwood City

Introduction to Green Building for Mandarin Speakers

Saturday, May 9, 2 - 4 pm

Chetcuti Community Room, 450 Poplar Avenue, Millbrae

Building officials from San Jose, Palo Alto and Atherton will provide an overview of Green Building products and practices, discuss relevant Federal, State and local legislation, and speak about resources for becoming trained and certified as green building professionals.

Taste and Talk Tuesdays in South San Francisco

@ the Green V Sustainable Center

1 Chestnut Avenue, South San Francisco

Tuesday, May 12, 5 - 6:30 pm

Improving Your Home's Energy Performance

Amy Roither of Sustainable Spaces will speak about how you can improve the performance and comfort of your home while potentially saving hundreds of dollars on your utility bills.

San Mateo County Campus Farmers' Market

County Government Center Courtyard

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

May, 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17 and October 15

Tuesday, May 26, 5 - 6:30 pm

Great Water Heating Technologies

Dan Passanisi of Cal Pacific Hydronics will discuss water heating technologies that can deliver hot water faster and cheaper and the appropriate situation for each application.

Taste and a Talk Thursdays in Redwood City

@ Redwood City Council Chambers

1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

Thursday, May 14, 5 - 6:30 pm

New, High-Performance Green Home

Randy Potter of VOX Design Group will speak about the innovative design features of a 242 Green Point Rated home in Mountain View, the second highest rated home in history.

Thursday, May 28, 5 - 6:30 pm

Practical and Smart Green Remodel

Paul Welschmeyer of Paul Welschmeyer Architects will speak about the remodel of his 1910 house that reduced energy consumption by 40%, and exceeds California standards by 25% without solar.