



For Immediate Release
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SHOREWAY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER AWARDED LEED® GOLD CERTIFICATION
Largest Recycling Facility to Be Awarded Certification

SAN CARLOS, CA – June 26, 2012 – RethinkWaste announced today that its Shoreway Environmental Center has been awarded LEED® Gold certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

“We are proud of our efforts to showcase and demonstrate how green features can be readily and simply incorporated into a new building,” stated Kevin McCarthy, Executive Director of RethinkWaste. “As a publicly owned and publicly accessible facility we show our customers every day the benefits of building green.”

Shoreway received LEED certification as a result of RethinkWaste’s five-year, \$46 million master plan project to redesign and construct an innovative recycling and transfer facility that incorporated as many sustainable strategies as possible, including energy, lighting and materials used in the construction. LEED certified buildings save money for the taxpayers, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. The certification is particularly significant as Shoreway’s Materials Recovery Facility (MRF, where the recyclables are processed) is the largest MRF to be certified and the building type was unique, making it a challenge to fit the U.S. Green Building Council’s evaluation framework.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “The Shoreway project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come.”

Installation of 2,700 photovoltaic panels on the roofs of the Shoreway Environmental Center buildings was an essential ingredient in qualifying for LEED. The solar project is one of the largest installations in the Bay Area, and is estimated to save approximately \$2.1 million in energy costs over the next 20 years for RethinkWaste.

The system is capable of producing approximately 650 kilowatts of electricity per hour – enough power to run nearly 6,000 60-watt light bulbs for eight hours, and is the largest of its kind in San Mateo County. Approximately 100 percent of the MRF’s equipment energy needs are now supplied through the solar system, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 1.6 million pounds per year – the equivalent of removing 252 cars per year from the road.

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MEMBER AGENCIES: Town of Atherton • City of Belmont • City of Burlingame • City of East Palo Alto • City of Foster City • Town of Hillsborough
City of Menlo Park • City of Redwood City • City of San Carlos • City of San Mateo • County of San Mateo • West Bay Sanitary District

Fresh Air Energy-II, dba Ecoplexus, did the installation of the solar panels in December 2011 through a Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA,) which includes financing, owning, operating and maintaining the photovoltaic system. In return, RethinkWaste will host the system and purchase the electric output for a predetermined price for the length of the contract. The term of the contract is 20 years.

The Solar PPA project is a result of the Silicon Valley Collaborative Renewable Energy Project launched in 2008 by Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network's Public Sector Climate Task Force, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara. The project evaluated collaborative procurement opportunities for a Solar PPA, with the goals of obtaining favorable pricing through a large-scale regional aggregate purchase and to allow smaller governmental entities to participate in a PPA that would otherwise be unable to participate due to the size of project sites.

Other green building features include the use of white roofs (cool roofs) to reflect the sun's heat, translucent panels to maximize day lighting, energy efficient equipment and lighting, concrete and steel framing members made of post-consumer recycled content, sustainable timber for wood-based products and use of native and low-water plants, among others.

Shoreway also earned points on its evaluation for having a dedicated Environmental Education Center housed in the MRF building, featuring museum quality exhibits promoting resource conservation and RethinkWaste programs. The Environmental Education Center is used for tours for schools, community groups and the general public starting and has hosted over 3,000 tour participants since opening in January 2012.

The Shoreway Environmental Center was also recently awarded the 2012 Recycling Systems Excellence Gold Award by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the top national award for a recycling facility.

About RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit www.RethinkWaste.org or follow the agency at [www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste](https://www.facebook.com/rethinkwaste) or [www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste](https://www.twitter.com/rethinkwaste).

U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 80 local affiliates, more than 18,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 167,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant

economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. Over 100,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED rating systems, comprising over 8 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

USGBC was co-founded by current President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi, who spent 25 years as a Fortune 500 executive. Under his 15-year leadership, the organization has become the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, influential, education and research organization in the nation.

For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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