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New Program Can Help Santa Clara County Residents Save Energy, Save Money

*Silicon Valley Energy Watch and San José Public Library provide meters
to track energy use*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Residents can now check out free energy meters from several San José public libraries to evaluate their energy use beginning July 20. Saving energy can save you money and help you reduce pollution and greenhouse emissions.

The Silicon Valley Energy Watch, a partnership between the City of San José and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), is lending these Kill A Watt™ and Kill A Watt™ EZ meters to Santa Clara County residents free of charge. This program is part of the City's efforts to educate the community about energy use and efficiency.

Kill A Watt™ and Kill A Watt™ EZ are plug power meters that easily measure the electricity used by plug-in appliances. The meters will help residents determine when and how the most energy is used at home and work. Understanding energy use and associated costs of your appliances will help you determine the best way to conserve energy and save money through simple acts of conservation or efficiency. Tips on savings energy – from the simplest changes to more complex home upgrades – are available at www.svenergywatch.org or at www.pge.com/myhome.

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Santa Clara County Residents Measure their Home and Workplace Energy Use

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Santa Clara County residents with a valid San José library card can borrow a Kill A Watt™ through this program. A meter can be checked out from one of the following San José Public Library branches for three weeks at no cost. Normal late fees apply.

- Dr. Roberto Cruz – Alum Rock, 3090 Alum Rock Avenue, (408) 808-3090
- Evergreen, 2635 Aborn Road, (408) 808-3060
- West Valley, 1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, (408) 244-4766

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, residential and commercial buildings are responsible for 39 percent of the energy consumed nationwide, producing over a third (36.2 percent) of our greenhouse gas emissions. California imports more electricity than any other State, and our homes use 31% of the state's electricity. Appliances consume two thirds of the energy used in U.S. households. As consumer electronics become more common, this number is likely to grow over time.

The City of San José's Green Vision sets a goal of cutting the community's overall energy use in half by the year 2022. The State of California has also set ambitious goals to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

The Silicon Valley Energy Watch delivers energy efficiency education, outreach, and related services to residents, business, and organizations in Santa Clara County. The program is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. For more information about the Silicon Valley Energy Watch Program, and to see tips on saving energy at home and the workplace, please visit www.svenergywatch.org.

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