



External Communications Department
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415/973-5930

NEWS
12.30

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2012

CONTACT: PG&E External Communications - (415) 973-5930

PG&E RANKED AS NATION'S TOP UTILITY FOR SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

Utility Helps Connect More Than 12,000 Homes and Businesses to Solar Power in 2011

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — A new survey by the [Solar Electric Power Association \(SEPA\)](#) ranks Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) as the nation's top electric utility in the amount of solar power added to its system in 2011. PG&E is first in the Annual Solar Megawatts category of the more than 240 utilities that participated in SEPA's 2011 Utility Solar Rankings survey.

"PG&E is pleased to support our customers' choice to go solar so they can realize the benefits of solar energy for their homes and businesses," said Helen Burt, Senior Vice President of Customer Care for PG&E. "We remain committed to providing our customers with clean, reliable, and affordable energy, including an increasing amount of power from large utility-driven solar projects."

PG&E delivers some of the nation's cleanest electric power to its customers, thanks in part to solar energy. On average, more than half the electricity the utility delivers comes from sources that are renewable and/or carbon free.

PG&E helped more than 12,000 customers in Northern and Central California connect 162 megawatts (MW) of solar at their homes and business in 2011, bringing the total number of customer solar installations to more than 63,000. It also connected 135 MW of new large solar projects for the benefit of all customers. This includes PG&E's own expanding solar facilities, which when completed will deliver 250 MW of clean energy -- enough to power about 150,000 average customer homes.

"We congratulate PG&E for being a solar power leader in the electric utility sector," said Julia Hamm, President and CEO of SEPA. "PG&E successfully adapted its business models and operations to allow for a significant amount of solar energy to be integrated into the grid last

year, delivering the many benefits of clean solar energy to its customers. The impressive gains solar energy made in the U.S. in 2011 can be largely attributed to PG&E's leadership."

Overall, utilities interconnected more than 62,000 photovoltaic (PV) systems of all sizes last year, according to SEPA's 2011 Utility Solar Rankings survey. These new systems resulted in almost 1,500 megawatts of new utility solar capacity, more than twice as much as was added in 2010. Both the number of systems and the amount of new capacity make solar electricity the fastest growing electric source in the U.S. in 2011.

"In addition to the photovoltaic systems added by customers and third-party producers, much of the growth has come from the direct actions of utilities," said Hamm. The findings show that 39 percent of new solar capacity came from utilities owning or contracting for solar power. Large solar projects, greater than 10 megawatts each, represent the bulk of this capacity.

The full report on the total solar capacity of U.S. utilities, rankings by regions and other utility solar trends will be available in late May at www.SEPATop10.org.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit <http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/> and www.pgecurrents.com.

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is an educational non-profit dedicated to helping utilities integrate solar power into their energy portfolios. With more than 1,000 utility and solar industry members, SEPA provides unbiased utility solar market intelligence, up-to-date information about technologies and business models, and peer-to-peer interaction. From hosting national events to one-on-one counseling, SEPA helps utilities make smart solar decisions. For more information, visit www.solarelectricpower.org.