

SAN JOSÉ ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION CENTER PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Description

The San José Environmental Innovation Center (EIC) will be a living laboratory for innovators to demonstrate and deploy emerging technologies in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green building, and alternative clean transportation. These program elements will create opportunities to stimulate economic growth, promote energy efficiency and reliability, and reduce waste going to landfills in support of the City's Green Vision <http://greenvision.sanjoseca.gov/>

The Environmental Innovation Center is located in San José on the south side of Las Plumas Avenue, west of King Road, at 1608 Las Plumas Avenue. The 4.2 acre property, owned by the City of San José, is located in an industrial area and is part of the City-designated economic development Enterprise Zone.

At project completion, the EIC will house the 1) Clean Tech Demonstration Center which will provide space to design, develop, commercialize and manufacture prototypes of advanced clean and renewable energy transportation technologies for green fleet vehicles; 2) training, conference, office space for clean tech companies and environmental nonprofits; and, 3) a Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which will sell used construction materials to contractors and the general public and 4) a Household Hazardous Waste facility.

A brief description of each of the project components is provided below:

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore—15,440 sq ft of retail space where customers can purchase new, or like new, construction materials for projects. ReStore will provide the surrounding community an opportunity to purchase building and home improvement materials at more affordable prices than chain retail stores (e.g. 50% less costly). Furthermore, ReStore provides an environmentally and socially responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of the waste stream and aid the City achieve its goal of Zero Waste.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility—in addition to the renovation of the existing warehouse, a new building will be constructed to serve as a permanent HHW drop-off facility. The facility will provide residents with the needed infrastructure to conveniently, safely, and legally dispose of common toxic residential waste (such as batteries, cleaning chemicals, fluorescent light bulbs, and paint). It is estimated that more than 25,000 drop-offs appointments will be accommodated at this facility annually.

Clean Technology Development Center (CTDC)—where startups and small companies will collaborate on designing, testing and commercializing prototypes of advanced clean and renewable energy technologies. For example, companies would work on transportation technologies for green fleet commercial vehicles of all types (including buses and heavy-duty trucks) as well as test new battery or solar technologies to speed their adoption into the market by taking advantage of San José's Demonstration and Green Vision policies.

Display of Green Building Materials & Technologies—where visitors (e.g. contractors, designers and consumers) learn about green building construction materials and technologies on-site (e.g. modular wetland filtration units that screen stormwater pollutants, water efficient landscaping,

recycled water, composting toilets, waterless urinals, pervious pavement, light-emitting diode (LED) streetlights, and energy efficient HVAC systems). In addition, environmental programs allowing contractors, remodeling experts, and designers to learn about green construction and green building materials will be offered.

Conference/Training Space—equipped with state-of-the-art teleconferencing and distance-learning technologies to be used during meetings and green job training classes. Additionally, the City of San José will leverage funding already allocated to Work2Future by the Department of Labor (funded under the Workforce Investment Act) to provide on-the-job and career development opportunities for individuals seeking to enter the green economy. Work2future’s programs will be integrated with any offered by the EIC’s tenants and seek to partner with others, such as City’s clean tech and bioscience incubators to provide the training.

Interesting EIC Facts

- 1608 Las Plumas Avenue was designed by J. Francis Ward and is a very good example of mid-century modern industrial architecture
- The building is tracking LEED Platinum Certification – the highest level of LEED certification possible
- Innovative stormwater technologies are integrated in the sidewalk area