

connected.....to the community

Champions engage local youths in caring for the environment

Local environmental organizations received \$1.4 million in 2012 through SDG&E's Environmental Champions Initiative, which helps protect and preserve the earth. With these grants, community-based nonprofit groups are working with local youths to nurture nature. Here are three of the many groups engaged in these creative and inspiring efforts.

GRID Alternatives knows solar. This organization combines environmental education, workforce development and community

service in its Green Education Partnership Program. At-risk teens from underserved communities learn about energy efficiency, solar basics and job safety. They also gain hands-on experience in solar power installations for low-income families.

The Academy for Environmental Stewardship at the **Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center** will welcome about 7,200 third graders from North County schools in the 2012-2013 school year. Watershed and wetlands education is aimed at awakening a love of nature, a desire

▶ Check out ways to save

Though springtime brings an end to winter's chill, you may still be seeing the effects of increased home heating on your energy bill. To find out whether you qualify for programs that could help you save money, call **1-800-411-7343** or visit sdge.com/assistance.

to care for the environment and an awareness of the impact of human activities on natural surroundings.

Olivewood Gardens uses its 6.85-acre property in National City as an interactive, indoor-outdoor classroom, primarily for underserved kids. With the help of more than 400 volunteers, service groups and supporting companies, Olivewood Gardens offers environmental education, hands-on gardening and cooking experience to students who are at risk for nutrition-related diseases and obesity.

Learn more at sdge.com/community. ■

About 10,000 children have visited Olivewood Gardens, one of SDG&E's Environmental Champions, in the last two years. It's an oasis of nature where kids try their hands at gardening and learn to cook healthy foods.



▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at sdge.com.



Center serves as your community resource for energy innovation

Ready to go with an electric vehicle?



If you're in the market for an electric vehicle (EV), you're in good company. California has one of the highest EV adoption rates in the nation.

Connect with us at sdge.com/ev when considering your options. You'll find information about special rates for plug-in vehicles to help you pay the lowest price for your car's electricity.

With EV time-of-use rates, you set the timer on your car to charge from midnight to 5 a.m., when the cost of electricity is lowest. Whether you choose an all-electric or plug-in hybrid EV, driving it on electricity can reduce your car's fuel bill by 75%. Learn about other advantages at sdge.com/ev. ■

Whether you're serious about sustainability or just want to satisfy your curiosity about the latest energy and environmental technologies, you'll find plenty to explore at our Energy Innovation Center.

Community organizations, local businesses and technology sponsors helped shape the center into a showcase, living laboratory and classroom where you can learn about energy efficiency, clean transportation and environmental sustainability.

Make sure you start your visit with a tour. It can be geared to the interests of homeowners, high school groups or businesses. We'll walk you through the most popular stations: Smart Home, the lobby and solar technologies. Also, don't miss the fast-charge system for electric vehicles – one of only two installed in the country.



SDG&E's Energy Innovation Center

A produce demonstration garden maintained by the Urban Corps shows how vegetables and herbs can be grown even in the middle of a parking lot. Colorful succulent plants cover the Living Wall, and drought-tolerant landscaping lines the Water-Wise Walkway.



The Living Wall

You can attend seminars on topics such as solar power and solar water-heating for homeowners, and borrow books or DVDs from the resource library.

The Energy Innovation Center is located at 4760 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92117, and is open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours are available by appointment only; call **1-800-613-8970**. For more information about the center and how you can use it, visit sdge.com/eic. ■

