



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CITY OF HESPERIA, COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE AWARDED AIR DISTRICT'S HIGHEST HONOR**

Victorville – A High Desert city and the Morongo Basin’s premier higher learning institution were recognized today by the Governing Board of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, as the local regulatory agency presented its 2010/2011 *Exemplar Award* to the City of Hesperia and to Copper Mountain College for implementing energy-saving, carbon-cutting renewable energy projects.

The City of Hesperia was recognized for designing its new police station – which opened last October – to be the first Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building within city limits. Almost 75% of the 42,887 square foot facility’s energy needs are met by 923, 216 kW solar panels which are mounted on the station’s roof and atop its carport structures. A \$775,100 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant was used to partially fund the photovoltaic system, whose total cost was \$1.9 million. Remaining costs were covered by the City and a California Solar Initiative rebate. Between December 2010 and August 2011, the station’s solar system has generated 257,462 kWh of energy, while reducing an estimated 319,252 lbs. of carbon dioxide - a key greenhouse gas – and dramatically cutting the City’s energy bills. Hesperia’s police station also boasts a variety of other “green” design features, including energy efficiency lighting systems, water efficient landscaping and irrigation, and “purple pipe” plumbing for a future recycled water irrigation system. The City of Hesperia’s *Exemplar Award* was presented to City

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Manager Mike Podegracz.

Copper Mountain College of Joshua Tree was awarded the *Exemplar* for implementing a campus-wide energy savings project which reduced the college's energy use by 538,590 kWh per year and potential carbon dioxide emissions by 433 tons per year – the equivalent of removing 77 cars from the highway. In addition to installing a 240 kW solar covered carport/shade structure PV system, CMC erected a 2.4 kW energy-producing wind turbine, which will figure prominently in future renewable energy education curriculum being developed by the college. Other project features include the integration of nine buildings and 36 mechanical units into the campus-wide energy management system, which automates the college's heating, ventilation and air conditioning units to correlate with class schedules; retrofit of over 580 lamps and ballasts with lower wattage CFL and fluorescent units; replacement of CMC's 25-plus year old HVAC units with highly-efficient forced air and condensing units in multiple campus buildings; and the use of 19 solar-powered trash compactors throughout campus. Dan Cain, Chief of Facilities, accepted CMC's *Exemplar* Award.

The *Exemplar* Awards recognize High Desert entities which demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities/projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. The *Exemplar* Awards are presented annually in association with National Pollution Prevention Week.

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