



Energy Center
San Diego

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**Vibrantly
Sustainable
W San Diego
Shines
Downtown**

Courtesy of the School. Photo © Bill Timmerman.

Newly Reimagined: W San Diego

WHEN THE W SAN DIEGO opened in downtown just over a decade ago, it featured the spare, modern design for which the worldwide luxury hotel chain is known. Last year, the 258-room W San Diego, an NRG Energy Center San Diego

customer, unveiled a \$5 million renovation that remained true to the brand.

Owned by Starwood Hotels & Resorts, the W San Diego remodeled its 11,000 square feet of meeting space and opened up space for its new Grand Ballroom. It also redesigned its chic lounge and dining options to reflect W's vibrant atmosphere and encourage mixing and mingling. The W's revamped lobby, called the Living Room, is an eclectic lounge with a vividly lit bar, plush seating and an elevated DJ stage.

The hotel's signature restaurant KELVIN has been renovated with sleek white furnishings and bright orange accents. The W also relaunched its ROOFTOP Bar—San Diego's original rooftop lounge.

"The ROOFTOP Bar is a stunning special feature that guests can enjoy year-round," says Michael O'Donohue, General Manager, W San Diego. "It used to feature a sand beach, but now it has stiletto-friendly wood plank flooring that has proved quite popular!"

W San Diego is also decidedly forward-thinking when it comes to the environment. Besides using chilled-water service from NRG San Diego to efficiently air condition its guest rooms,

back of house and public spaces, the hotel has launched several sustainability initiatives. These aim to conserve energy with high-efficiency lighting and an energy management system that allows the property to turn off HVAC when spaces are not in use.

Other initiatives are designed to reduce water use, minimize waste, integrate eco-friendly housekeeping and more. The hotel's "Make a Green Choice" program offers Starpoints® to preferred guests when they choose to participate in green practices during their stay.

These efforts are paying off. Jim Bennett, the hotel's Director of Engineering, notes, "In 2008, Starwood Hotels committed to cut energy use by 30% and water use by 20% by 2020. Our property has already reduced energy use by 39% and water use by 17%." As a result, W San Diego has lowered its carbon dioxide emissions by 47%—a measure of success that should help the hotel's pursuit of the Green Key hotel rating.

NRG San Diego congratulates W San Diego on its accomplishments and stylish new look. We're pleased to support its sustainability goals.

Courtesy W San Diego.



The W San Diego's Rooftop Bar features private bottle-service cabanas, in addition to other seating; a bonfire sculpture of stacked chairs (foreground); and, of course, gorgeous views.



Located in W San Diego, KELVIN offers a menu of fresh, locally sourced ingredients prepared by chefs who redefine classic flavors and entrée temperatures.

Courtesy W San Diego.

Way to go, NRG eVgo!

NRG eVgo recently unveiled a new Freedom Station®, the first electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the country that can support all EVs on the road. Nicole Capretz, Director of Environmental Policy, City of San Diego (at left in photo), participated in the ceremony along with Terry O'Day, Vice President of Business Development, NRG eVgo, and officials from Simon Property Group and major EV manufacturers. The station represents one of many EV charging stations that NRG eVgo will build in California, which accounts for one-third of all electric vehicle sales in the United States. The Freedom Station is located at the Fashion Valley Mall, second floor of Parking Garage D, 7007 Friars Road, San Diego. Learn more at tinyurl.com/nrgevgoSD and tinyurl.com/nrgevgoSD2.



Courtesy NRG eVgo.

"Imagine Downtown"

Visioning effort charts course for city's future

OVER THE NEXT 40 YEARS, the San Diego region is projected to add 1.3 million residents, 400,000 housing units and 500,000 jobs. Can downtown San Diego accommodate this growth? San Diego Foundation research results say yes, but only if downtown establishes new priorities and solutions to respond to current economic realities.

That's why the Downtown San Diego Partnership took on that task and for the past year has spearheaded an effort to involve thousands of area residents, businesses owners and other community stakeholders in crafting a vision for the city's urban core. NRG Energy Center San Diego, a member of the partnership, has been a part of this process.

"For our region to compete on the global stage, we need to have a world-class downtown—one that attracts both the talent and the businesses needed to propel our economy forward." — Kris Michell, President and CEO, Downtown San Diego Partnership

The partnership met with more than 6,000 people in 43 communities last spring in a series of 23 town halls throughout the region. Attendees learned about the jobs, housing and other

amenities that will be needed in the next 40 years, and had the opportunity to share their perspectives on the city's future.

Additional workshops were held in September.

The result of these efforts is a recently unveiled blueprint—"Imagine Downtown"—meant to guide the city through 2033. The plan has more than 150 tactics and policy priorities including:

- ❖ Fostering a startup tech hub downtown with a large-scale incubator,
- ❖ Strengthening downtown's ties with its bi-national border,
- ❖ Creating a circulator shuttle to improve mobility downtown and ensuring that downtown is both walkable and bikeable,
- ❖ Nurturing a unique arts and cultural scene with a variety of events and using creative ways to engage the community and reimagine public spaces downtown, and
- ❖ Promoting downtown's unique neighborhoods and advocating for a variety of housing options.

To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/downtownSanDiego.

As the region grows, NRG San Diego is well-positioned to efficiently accommodate the cooling needs of buildings in a growing downtown. We're ready to help!



NRG Solar in Borrego Springs

Utility-scale solar facility providing power in San Diego County

THE SUN WAS SHINING brightly in Borrego Springs this past April as NRG Solar and San Diego Gas & Electric cut the ribbon to commemorate the completion of the NRG Solar Borrego I Project. NRG San Diego is pleased to see this addition to the NRG family!

Located 90 miles east of San Diego, NRG Solar's 26 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic facility started commercial operation in February 2013 and is currently producing clean, renewable electricity to SDG&E customers. SDG&E signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with NRG Solar to buy the electricity.

At full capacity, Borrego can generate enough power to meet the energy demands of approximately 20,800 homes. This means that the facility can potentially avoid the emission of 33,000 tons of carbon into the atmosphere, the equivalent of taking 6,000 cars off the road.

Based in Carlsbad, NRG Solar LLC, a subsidiary of NRG, has more than 2,000 MW of photovoltaic and solar thermal projects in operations, under construction or in development across the southwestern United States. Learn more at www.nrgsolar.com.



The NRG Solar Borrego I Project consists of 102,000 photovoltaic panels, each one measuring roughly 3 feet by 6 feet, installed on 308 acres owned by NRG Solar in the Borrego Valley.

Courtesy NRG Solar.

Our own EV.



NRG Energy Center San Diego employees use a modified electric golf cart to get around town to visit our customers and check out our piping distribution system. We've used it for six years and charge it daily. It's been a great addition to our "fleet."



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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

NRG Growing Along With San Diego

WITH "IMAGINE DOWNTOWN," a blueprint for the future of downtown recently released, it's an exciting time to be a part of downtown San Diego. The Downtown San Diego Partnership sought input from thousands of stakeholders in and around San Diego, including NRG Energy Center San Diego. (See separate article this issue.)

NRG San Diego has been a part of the downtown community since 1997, and the district cooling system it operates has served the area since 1971. So we have seen the city grow as well as prove its resiliency through tough times.

Right now we see it poised for even greater success, and NRG San Diego has repositioned itself to meet downtown's needs, bringing our customers access to a host of additional services provided by NRG in the region.

Brian Marshall, long-time NRG San Diego Plant Manager, continues to be responsible for our chilled-water facility. Brian and his crew are vital to our operation, ensuring that our customers can count on reliable service every day of the year.

I'm Jim Lodge, and I serve as NRG San Diego's General Manager and Vice President. I look forward to being involved

in the downtown San Diego community, reflecting NRG's commitment to San Diego growth and investment as well as regional expansion.

I also oversee NRG's district energy businesses in Arizona, including its district cooling system in downtown Phoenix that serves 12 million square feet of space in 34 downtown buildings.

Larry Russell, who has been with the NRG Phoenix system since its inception, joins us in San Diego as Account Manager.

He'll provide customer service and share the offerings of other NRG companies, such as NRG eVgo and NRG Solar, with our customers.

Downtown San Diego is a vital and growing market. Our vision is to grow along with it, adding to our chilled-water network to meet the demands of a vibrant city that is alive and well.

We're pleased to be here.

Jim Lodge
 Vice President and General Manager
 NRG Energy Center San Diego



NRG Energy Center San Diego's management team, from left to right: Jim Lodge, Vice President and General Manager, James.Lodge@nrgenergy.com; Brian Marshall, Plant Manager, Brian.Marshall@nrgenergy.com; and Larry Russell, Account Manager, Larry.Russell@nrgenergy.com.