Santa Clara County, cities team on energy project

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Santa Clara County officials said Tuesday they will partner with cities and agencies to buy energy through renewable sources.

The regional effort to be known as the Regional Renewable Power Purchase Initiative was put out to bid Tuesday. The partnership, which includes nine cities, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Rethink Waste and Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network will purchase 14.4 megawatts of renewable power.

The power will be used at 70 sites across 43 separate locations, including rooftops, carports, bus depots and senior centers.

The first phase will be completed in 2011.

The project’s impact is equivalent to planting more than 2,800 acres of trees, or removing more 2,600 passenger cars from the roads, or the equivalent to powering 2,700 California homes for a year.

Twenty-seven of the 70 sites will be in Milpitas at 15 different locations.

Milpitas Mayor Robert Livengood praised the project, saying it was first suggested by his city. "I am pleased that Milpitas identified the opportunity for a Power Purchase concept and brought the Association of Bay Area Governments and Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network together to start the ball rolling. I am also very appreciative of all the work the County has done to implement this exciting project."