

Sustainable Facilities:

Solar thermal system at Fire Station #3

- **What are they?** Sustainable facilities are those built, maintained, and operated in a manner that reduces consumption of energy, water, and materials and that minimizes impacts on human health and the environment. They include both staff-occupied buildings and unoccupied facilities, such as parks and utility system pumping stations.
- **How is progress measured?** For many years, staff has tracked electricity, natural gas, and water use at City facilities to compare usage against baseline years and to measure progress toward our reduction goals. The data is analyzed from several perspectives—adjusting for degree- day weather correction, comparing BTUs per square foot, and reviewing historical trends—to learn the effect of completed energy conservation projects and to prioritize new ones. Going forward, the City also will use LEED checklists to gather baseline data on existing buildings and will research assessment tools for parks.
- **City best practices:** In 2008 the City became a partner in the Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program. The City revised its internal energy conservation policy to provide direction to building occupants, as well as operations and maintenance staff.
- **Steps for 2009:** Apply LEED points to existing buildings to establish a baseline: Inventory current facilities and forecast new facilities through 2025 (including parks); Review 5-, 10-, and 15-year maintenance plans; Research other relevant organizations, cities, and buildings. Research green certification for public facilities (e.g., parks).

