

# Efficiency First!

# NewsFlash for Local Governments

from the Community Energy Partnership



April 2009

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## OUR PARTNERS



## part·ner·ship (n):

a cooperative relationship between people or groups who agree to share responsibility for achieving a specific goal

## Message from Executive Director, Craig Perkins

Having been a long-time public servant in my previous professional life, one of the most enjoyable parts of my job with The Energy Coalition is the opportunity to interact with staff and elected officials from our Partner Cities. I am always amazed that although each city must deal with many of the same issues and challenges, each is entirely unique in terms of its history, community profile and vision of their community's future. A key strength of the Community Energy Partnership is that we can take significant collective action while at the same time recognizing the individual needs of the each city partner. Cities come in many different shapes, sizes and geographic locations but they all exist for the same purpose, to improve the quality of life for their citizens.



As we work together over the next several months to maximize the benefits to our partnership with respect to the technical and financial resources available from the CEP program, as well as funds available from the federal stimulus bill and other sources targeted at energy actions by cities, I am excited by the fact that there has never been a better time in our state's or our nation's history for cities to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. So, let's get to work!

## Program Highlights

### *New Name! New Title! New Focus!*

*This April 2009 issue marks the launch of CEP's revamped e-newsletter format, newly named "Efficiency First! NewsFlash for Local Governments," or E1! NewsFlash, for short. E1! NewsFlash brings Partner Cities the latest CEP news as well as updates from the energy efficiency industry, as it relates to local governments. The next issue will incorporate new sections, and any other suggestions you may have. We look forward to getting your feedback!*

## Community Energy Partnership Promotes Energy Efficiency At Little League Western Region





An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company



A Semptra Energy utility



### CONFERENCES & TRAININGS

#### 8th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo Building on a Foundation of Change

Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Energy Resource Center  
Downey, CA

Hosted by the US Green Building Council - Los Angeles Chapter and the Southern California Gas Company.

This event brings together Southland municipal policy makers & implementers along with leading architects and engineers to further the development of a sustainable and energy efficient future.

Registration and additional information:  
<http://seminars.socalgas.com>

#### Implementing SB 375: What local governments need to know about climate change legislation

Thursday, April 16, 2009  
8:00 AM - 4:15 PM  
Riverside, CA

Hosted by the Local Government Commission, the Governors Office of Planning and Research and Senator Darrell Steinberg.

AB 32 and SB 375 create a framework to help California meet the challenges of climate change. Local governments play a crucial role in helping the state implement these new laws and helping to preserve the high quality of life that California residents value.

Registration and additional information:  
<http://www.lgc.org/events/>  
Charge for this event is \$75.

Contact:  
[Noelle Nichols](mailto:Noelle.Nichols@lgc.org)  
nnichols@lgc.org  
(916) 448-1198 ext. 327

Coachella Valley Energy Summit  
2009



Reception & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on February 25, 2009.

The Little League® Baseball and Softball Western Region received numerous energy efficient upgrades as a result of the City of San Bernardino's participation in the Community Energy Partnership. Nearly 80 people joined with the Mayor and other partners to celebrate energy efficiency at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Wednesday, February 25th. These retrofits have already led to a 20% reduction in electricity use and a 40% reduction in natural gas, which amounts to over \$4,000 in savings just over the past 6 months. The partnership hopes that this demonstration project will show local residents and businesses the benefits of energy efficiency improvements and encourage them to take advantage of utility rebates for products similar to those installed at this facility.

In 2007, the City of San Bernardino submitted a Demonstration Project proposal on behalf of the local Little League® Baseball and Softball Western Region to showcase various energy efficiency retrofits that could be made to educate the community on ways to save energy and money on their utility bills. Built in 1969 mostly by volunteers and run by a national non-profit, the facility was in dire need of energy efficiency upgrades. With nearly 75,000 people visiting during the Western Regional Little League® Tournament each August and its year-round use as a meeting location by local organizations, this facility serves as an ideal candidate for demonstrating energy efficiency to the community.

The energy efficient retrofits, which were completed in late 2008, included installation of highly insulating dual pane windows in the cafeteria, conversion of hundreds of inefficient T12s fluorescent lights to efficient T8s, installation of low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads, replacement of an old inefficient water heater with a tankless water heater and much more. All of these measures will help to lower the facility's electricity, gas and water bills, and make their building much more comfortable to the many community groups that use the facility year round. But that's not all! The facility staff were educated on further energy efficient and conservation recommendations that can be completed at their leisure.

The Little League Western Region is serving as a model for Little League® International, which is launching a green campaign of all of their facilities. "Hearing about these immediate benefits validates our new nationwide direction to implement sustainable practices at the local level. We hope that all of the facilities experience as great a success as we have experienced in San Bernardino," stated Dave Bonham, Assistant Director of Western Region.

### The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center Gets Green!

The Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center (SCVSC) was recently selected to receive numerous energy efficiency upgrades, including five sun tunnels, as part of a large-scale energy efficiency tune-up and demonstration project of the CEP. The retrofits will save the SCVSC approximately \$2,700 (14,933 kWh and 515 therms) annually. Additional energy savings will be tracked over the course of this next year.



Friday, April 17, 2009  
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM  
Palm Springs Convention Center

Hosted by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG).

The Summit will bring together regional leaders in government, energy, and the private sector to explore and discuss how the Coachella Valley can advance energy efficiency, sustainability, renewable energy and green job growth in the Coachella Valley.

Registration and additional information:  
[www.cvagevents.org/information](http://www.cvagevents.org/information)  
Charge for this event is \$75 presale, \$90 at the door

Contact:  
Josh  
(760) 327-9708 ext. 24

## ENERGY FACT



Just by using the "off the shelf" energy-efficient technologies available today, we could cut the cost of heating, cooling, and lighting our homes and workplaces by up to 80%.

*(U.S. Department of Energy and Maryland Energy Administration)*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS APRIL 2009

**4/18/2009**

Earth Day Festival & Arbor Day Celebration  
Santa Clarita, CA

Green Valley Earth Festival  
Dos Lagos, Corona, CA

**4/22/2009**

City of Santa Clarita Tri-Annual

Wellness Wednesday - Earth Day  
Santa Clarita, CA

**4/23/2009**

Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center Energy Workshop

**4/25/2009**

Irvine Earth Day

**4/29/2009**

Irvine Valley College Earth Day

For more information regarding upcoming events or to request CEP

Visitors of the Senior Center examining the new sun tunnels.

Craig Perkins, Executive Director of The Energy Coalition, stated, "We commend the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center on their commitment to save energy and their ongoing efforts to address climate change. For example, the Senior Center has installed an additional three tubular skylights, which will further reduce their energy consumption and utility costs while decreasing their carbon footprint at the same time. We anticipate long-term savings for them as a result of all of these energy efficient upgrades."

The collaboration with the City of Santa Clarita, the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center and the Community Energy Partnership goes back to 2007, when the CEP presented an energy efficiency workshop for the seniors and distributed energy efficient technology to be installed in their homes. From September 2008 through February 2009, approximately \$10,000 of energy efficiency retrofits and services have since been provided. The tubular skylights were installed as part of a CEP Demonstration Project to illustrate the different energy efficiency strategies that residents can implement to save energy and money on utility bills. CEP Demonstration Projects, which are located in different regions across Southern California, are intended to educate, inspire, and impress upon the consumer that simple and often inexpensive changes can be made in any home or business, to positively impact the bottom line.

Some key benefits of installing tubular skylights:

- Natural light can be used in place of electricity, and is easy on the eyes.
- Skylights have been shown to significantly reduce energy costs.
- Certain manufacturers of tubular skylights meet ENERGY STAR® guidelines.

On April 23rd, CEP will present another energy efficiency educational workshop to the seniors at SCVSC to highlight and share the benefits of these recent energy efficiency retrofits and to provide additional information on city and utility programs that will further help them with saving energy. For more details on this energy workshop, please contact Doris Do at [ddo@energycoalition.org](mailto:ddo@energycoalition.org).

## Utility Program Spotlight

### California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program

Southern California Edison (SCE) & Southern California Gas Company (SCG) offer many assistance programs for income qualified customers. Currently, both utility companies are promoting the CARE program, especially to those customers that are recently unemployed.



**SCE:** Under the CARE program, a customer is provided with a discount of 20% or more from their monthly electric bills.

**SCG:** The CARE program provides a 20% discount on the monthly gas bill for eligible households. In addition, for those who qualify, and are approved within 90 days of starting new gas service will also receive a \$15 discount on the Service Establishment Charge.

Qualification for both the SCE & SCG CARE program is based on annual income per household size. For instance, a household of 4 people making less than \$43,200 qualifies for this program. Additionally, if you or anyone in your household receives benefits from Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, TANF (AFDC), Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Healthy Families Categories A&B or LIHEAP you instantly qualify for the SCG CARE program.

For full SCE qualification guidelines & other assistance programs visit: <http://www.sce.com/assistance> or call 1-800-447-6620.

For full SCG qualification guidelines & other assistance programs

## Funding Opportunities

### Federal Stimulus Package



The Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) division will receive \$16.8 billion as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds will be used in cities to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, rebates, grants & programs.

#### Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants

The \$3.2 billion dollar stimulus package funding for the EECBG program will be dispersed by the DOE. There are two types of grants available: formula & competitive.

Over \$2.6 billion in formula grants is now available to U.S. states, territories, local governments and Indian tribes under the (EECBG) Program to fund projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions. Specifically, nearly \$1.9 billion in formula grants is available to cities and counties.

Approximately \$455 million for competitive grants is available, which is awarded through a separate Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The applications for competitive grants are handled by the California Energy Commission (CEC). It is expected that the majority of these grants will benefit cities under 35,000 in population and counties under 200,000.

#### State Energy Program

The stimulus bill provides the DOE's State Energy Program (SEP) funding in the amount of \$3.1 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in order to promote energy conservation and reducing growth of the of energy demand. Of this amount, \$226 million has been allocated to the California Energy Commission to implement various energy programs including energy efficiency retrofits of buildings and industrial facilities and to support renewable energy projects.

#### Weatherization Assistance Program

The bill will offer \$5 billion in funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program, enabling low-income families to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32% and overall energy bills by about \$350 per year at current prices. Since the beginning of the program in 1976, 6.2 million low-income families have been serviced by the weatherization program, and with the expected redefining of income qualification caps, the DOE expects to expand weatherization projects.

#### Other allocations

In addition to the above mentioned programs & grants, \$300 million in stimulus package funds will support energy efficient appliance rebates such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program.

\$4.5 Billion in funding is also available for California transmission systems in the areas of worker training and the "smart grid" program. Also, \$2 billion will be supporting grants for advanced battery system manufacturing and software development for transportation energy. The Alternative Fueled Vehicles Pilot Program will receive \$300 million from the act.

## Technology Spotlight



### Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Benchmarking is the process of documenting a building's energy use over time. One recommended tool to accomplish this is Energy Star's Portfolio Manager (ESPM). Through the

LEARN MORE AT  
[energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

Community Energy Partnership's (CEP) Benchmarking project, we plan to assist our Partner Cities in identifying which of their municipal facilities have the greatest need of energy efficiency retrofits by comparing municipal buildings of similar use (i.e. fire station to a fire station).

ESPM is a free web-based tool that allows users to benchmark and track energy consumption in buildings in a secure environment. The CEP will be scheduling a web-based training with the EPA and our Partner Cities on how to get started with ESPM. After some initial data collection and setup, Partner Cities will be able to utilize the following benefits:

#### **Identify Energy Efficiency Projects**

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) paired with the enhanced incentives offered through the CEP, make this an ideal time to implement municipal energy efficiency projects. These available funds must be used by Partner Cities or they are lost! Many public buildings suffer from a lack of investment and, on average, waste up to 30% of their energy consumption. One of the most efficient processes to identify low-performing buildings is to compare them to other buildings of similar functions through benchmarking.

By entering the appropriate data into ESPM, cities will be able to prepare reports that help to identify their most inefficient municipal buildings. These buildings can then be prioritized for a free energy audit by utility account managers to evaluate energy efficiency opportunities.

#### **Track Progress Over Time**

By tracking energy consumption and costs over time, Partner Cities will be able to monitor the effects of their EE and operational improvements.

With the help of Southern California Edison and The Gas Company<sup>SM</sup>, Partner Cities will also be able to effortlessly track a building's energy consumption over time through Automated Benchmarking Service (ABS). ABS allows for electricity and gas consumption usage data to be automatically uploaded monthly to ESPM, thus removing the need to manually enter data. This service is offered at no cost and as an added benefit, SCE & SCG will also upload a building's historical energy usage data when a city enrolls in ABS.

#### **Verify and Document Results**

ESPM supports AB 32 and EECBG tracking requirements for GHG and building performance. Partner Cities can quickly produce easy-to-read reports that document greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, water use and costs for either a single building or a group of buildings. By uploading this data, Partner Cities can satisfy the accountability and transparency necessary when utilizing EECBG funds and quantify their progress when reporting out to the broader community.

According to Alyssa Quarforth, Program Manager of Energy Star's Commercial Properties Division, "Energy efficiency is the first step to green. People recognize it as a good business decision - not only helping their bottom line, but helping the environment as well...Benchmarking of energy consumption...increases awareness, not only for building owners and managers, but for consumers as well."

Benchmarking with ESPM is a free, convenient first step towards measuring achievements in energy savings. We hope every CEP Partner City will use this tool to demonstrate their leadership in energy efficiency!

For more info, please visit Energy Star at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_index) to learn more about Portfolio Manager and other free tools available to improve building performance.

Please contact Laurel Faulkner at [lfaulkner@energycoalition.org](mailto:lfaulkner@energycoalition.org) with questions or comments about the CEP Benchmarking project.

## **Contact Us**

**Your feedback is important to us. Please contact the CEP team with any questions or comments:**

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Visit our new website: [www.communityenergypartnership.org](http://www.communityenergypartnership.org)

*This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.*