

2011 Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

THE VCREA MISSION IS TO ESTABLISH VENTURA COUNTY, ITS COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORING REGIONS AS THE LEADER IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING DURABLE, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT SENSIBLE GROWTH, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE AND GREATER SELF-RELIANCE FOR THE REGION BY (1) REDUCING ENERGY DEMAND AND INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND (2) ADVANCING THE USE OF CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND RENEWABLE LOCAL RESOURCES.

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
1000 Hill Road, Suite 230
Ventura, California 93003
805.289.3335
www.vcenergy.org

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VCREA is a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in the Ventura County region. Each agency appoints a representative Board Member and Alternate to serve on the VCREA Board. Quarterly Board meetings are held in January, April, July and October on the third Thursday of the month; meetings are open to the public. Membership may be expanded at any time to include new public agency members with shared interests and powers in common.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) provides a valuable public/private partnership connection to VCREA and lends essential technical and business support to the Board and staff. TAC Member appointments are based on their skills and background with public agencies; utility and business partners; research or education; and general energy interest and willingness to serve. TAC meets three times a year and is "on-call" to assist in strategic planning and long-term projects.

Nan Drake
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MainStreet Architects
Energy Systems, Inc.
Southern California Gas Company
Verified Inc/Tanaka Associates
NRG, LLC
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
Southern California Edison

YEAR IN REVIEW

Public agencies and their complimentary non-profit community organizations have made energy efficiency projects a priority for their facilities and encouraged their staff to participate in technical trainings that advance new technologies and support green initiatives.

LENDING SUPPORT TO ENERGY STIMULUS FUNDED PROJECTS

- As part of a coordinated effort VCREA provided technical support to the cities of Fillmore, Ojai, Port Hueneme and Santa Paula, as well as the County of Ventura that included refining project proposals and feasibilities analysis, developing contract and bid documents and supporting report documents.
- Facilities managers from nine cities and the County working on behalf of their organizations and in coordination with VCREA have been able to complete an estimated 23 energy efficiency projects in 2011, and are expected to complete approximately 65 projects through mid-2012.

SERVICE BUREAU CONTRACTS

Working together and lending support from one public agency to another, VCREA's Service Bureau approach helped four public agencies with direct projects that will now position new projects and programs that have energy efficiency as core benefits.

- ❖ Ventura Unified School District and VCREA jointly developed an approach to lend support to the District's "Green Initiative" by creating a service contract to assist in indentifying opportunities for energy efficiency in facilities and operations. The goal of the contract is to position the District for greater long term sustainability in the midst of current severe budget cuts. One of the outcomes will include providing additional training to District staff in energy efficiency maintenance and looking for efficiencies within existing operations.
- ❖ City of Ventura – VCREA continued to provide technical support for the City's Non-Profit Energy Efficiency Program benefitting 20 non-profits using a portion of federal stimulus funds to install various lighting improvements.
- ❖ Ojai Valley Sanitary District and VCREA worked closely over the year to complete an Energy Efficiency Identification Study to evaluate and verify best practices undertaken and determine opportunities for immediate improvements, as well as longer term projects.
- ❖ County of Ventura – VCREA completed two solar studies for the County's General Services Agency that will help provide background information on solar programs, incentives and finance options. The County is expected to use the reports in support of broader Climate and Energy Action Plans to support decisions associated with proposed photovoltaic installations that will have long term benefits such as reducing green house gas emissions.

IMPLEMENTING THE 2010- 2012 UTILITY LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Working in conjunction with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, VCREA continued as the Local Government Partner to coordinate efforts among the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks and Ventura, and the County of Ventura to undertake energy efficiency projects, train public agency staff and consider opportunities for long term strategic energy efficiency planning as part of the 2010-2012 program cycle.

The Partnership Program has been the cornerstone of the VCREA program and has provided a strong impetus toward meeting the VCREA mission. The current program cycle has been augmented with programs like Energy Upgrade California that is a jointly sponsored program between the Investor Owned Utilities and has been locally supported by the Ventura Partnership Program to encourage the training, certification and employment of energy efficiency contractors and service providers. And finally, the VCREA Board has undertaken its own strategic planning effort to align its mission with available resources in support of statewide goals and local objectives.

The CPUC has begun extensive review of all energy efficiency programs, including local government partnerships to determine the quality and persistence in energy savings that can be attributed to ratepayer funds. The Commission will entertain on-going dialogue with local government stakeholders in 2012 to support existing programs and create bridge programs for the 2013-2014 years.

The Ventura County Partnership Program

*Southern California Gas Company
Southern California Edison
Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

The Ventura County Partnership Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Southern California Gas Company (SCG) and Southern California Edison (SCE), in partnership with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the purpose of advancing energy efficiencies in public agencies.

Since 2003, ratepayer public goods funds have come to the Ventura County region to benefit energy efficiency programs. Each program has taken a slightly different direction, pending the direction of the CPUC. The 2010–2012 Partnership Program was developed to support the CPUC's statewide strategic plan that encourages local cities and counties to lead by example through the implementation of energy efficiencies in their own public buildings and supporting greater energy efficiencies through local building codes and high standards for performance with new technologies.

Southern California Edison has focused the partnership on its "Energy Leader Model" which is aimed at supporting the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks and Ventura, and the County of Ventura with incentives to develop energy and climate action planning and undertake facility improvements through retrofit projects that reduce energy consumption. Southern California Gas Company supports all public agencies in gas efficiency projects, recognizing these are found in cities, schools and other public facilities.

VCREA continues to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of a local energy efficiency clearinghouse office, website, training seminars, project identification, technical project support and energy planning. VCREA works to identify best available technology and new product information, enhance maintenance and operations, lend support for contract and bid documents, verify that facilities have installed improvements and their energy consumption has been reduced.

The Partnership Program also provides residential and small business utility customers with a direct link to dozens of energy rebates, training workshops and customer programs.

2011 Ventura Partnership Program Accomplishments

Four Technical Training Seminars benefitting approximately 138 individuals; Ten Community Events reaching approximately 18,800 individuals; and, Coordination of a BOC Level I Course for our region benefitting 11 local agencies - 23 staff/individuals.

Strategic Planning Efforts – Six workshops and meetings covered planning efforts and codes benefitting approximately 97 individuals.

Six Bi-monthly Newsletters in print and electronic formats; and, and operation of informational website.

Marketing and Information Outreach to 17 kiosks located at Libraries, Chambers of Commerce, and City Halls.

2012 Ventura Partnership Program Preview

VCREA has identified approximately 63 Public Agency Energy Efficiency Projects that are expected to be completed and enrolled in the SCE Energy Leader Model program in 2012 that will contribute to an estimated savings of 3.5 million kWh over the three year program cycle for the participating 10 agencies.

In addition, gas saving projects have been identified for 2012 that could result in an estimated savings of 46,750 therms for projects undertaken by the County of Ventura and City of Ventura.

Strategic Planning efforts will remain underway to draft and implement energy action plans among local cities with interest to support stronger codes and standards that align with statewide energy efficiency goals for long term sustainability.