

March/April 2010

# Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

## A New Year...A New Partnership

### Local Earth Day Events

**Saturday, April 3**

11 am

City of Santa Paula  
Glen City School

**Saturday, April 10**

11 am – 3 pm

City of Oxnard  
Downtown Plaza Park

**Saturday, April 17**

10:00 am – 5 pm

City of Ventura  
Promenade Park

**Saturday, April 24**

11 am – 4 pm

City of Thousand Oaks  
Conejo Recreation &  
Park District  
Conejo Creek Park  
North

**Saturday, April 24**

10 am – 10:30 pm

Ojai Community  
Groups – Ojai  
Meadows Preserve  
Maricopa Highway

For more events and  
information contact the  
public agency in your  
community.

Please visit us online @  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org) to  
register to receive the  
Energy Leader newsletter  
and training seminar "Email  
Blasts" and to update your  
contact information.

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Starting January 1, 2010, new statewide energy efficiency programs are in effect. These programs, funded by California utility customers and administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), will cover the calendar years 2010 through 2012. The Ventura Partnership, a collaboration among VCREA, Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SCG), is one of the many programs approved by the CPUC.

The new 2010-2012 energy efficiency program is a continuation of the VCREA utility partnerships that started in 2004. Each multi-year program cycle has been different than its predecessor. However, over the years, each Ventura Partnership program has shared three common elements: technical training, public education and outreach, and enhanced financial incentives to encourage energy efficiency upgrades in public agencies. The 2010-2012 program contains all these elements, but the focus and emphasis is different than previous programs.

In its proposal to the CPUC, our local utilities offered a program consisting of approximately 20 separate local government partnerships. Program participants are primarily city and county governments within the utility's service territory. Most of these local government partnerships involve a direct relationship between one or more cities, and/or counties and the utility. A smaller number of partnerships involve a regional consortium of local governments managed through an implementing organization such as VCREA.

Local government partnerships will focus on three main areas: 1) encouraging energy efficiency projects at municipal facilities by offering enhanced incentive levels; 2) providing training and outreach to a variety of audiences in the region; and, 3) aiding local governments in developing *strategic energy efficiency* plans that are consistent with the CPUC's Long-Term Strategic Energy Efficiency Plan.

### Incentives

A continued focus of the new partnerships is to encourage local governments to lead by example by improving the energy efficiency of their own facilities. Toward that end, SCE has created a "tiered" range of incentives for local government participants that increase as government facilities **and** the communities they serve reach higher levels of energy efficiency. Note that in this program it is not just how efficient a city makes its public facilities, but what residents and businesses do as well. For example, when a homeowner purchases a new ENERGY STAR® appliance and a local government completes an energy-efficient lighting project; both contribute to potentially achieving higher future incentive levels for projects at municipal facilities. Under this new program, local governments will be depending in part on energy actions taken by the private sector to achieve their energy goals. A city may have a very proactive energy efficiency program, but if complementary action is not taken by local businesses and residents, partnership incentive levels may not rise. Encouraging energy efficiency in the community will not only benefit businesses and residents through reduced energy usage, but will also benefit local governments by increasing their incentive potential for municipal projects. Many municipal facilities operate 24/7 and have significant potential for greater efficiency.

SCG's incentive program meshes local government incentives with SCG's standard program, offering up to \$1.00 per saved therm for energy efficiency projects. SCG offers an on-bill financing (OBF) program which provides a zero interest loan for qualified non-residential energy efficiency projects. The OBF loan payback is designed to offset the loan payment by the value of energy savings over the course of the loan term. The program is especially effective for gas customers who use large amounts of natural gas in facilities where efficiency projects have not been fully implemented. A companion financing program is being developed by SCE. (Cont. page 4...)

## VENTURA PARTNERSHIP NEWS



An EDISON INTERNATIONAL® Company

### Southern California Edison

#### Mobile Energy Unit

The Mobile Energy Unit (MEU) promotes energy-efficiency solutions and energy management for both residential and business customers.

The MEU is available to serve the entire SCE service territory, including customers in remote and diverse areas.

The MEU showcases SCE programs and services through hands-on interactive demonstrations of how SCE customers can save money, energy, and help the environment.

Don't miss the MEU! We are scheduled to be at the following events in your region:

#### City of Calabasas Earth Day Celebration

Date: **Saturday, April 3, 2010**  
 Time: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 Location: 26533 Agoura Road, Calabasas  
 (Behind Starbucks)  
 Contact: Rudy Gonzales

#### City of Simi Valley Earth Day Celebration

Date: **Friday, April 16, 2010**  
 Time: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 Location: Simi Valley Town Center  
 1555 Simi Town Center Way, Simi Valley  
 Contact: Gilbert Delgado

If you are interested in finding out more about Southern California Edison's Mobile Energy Unit please go to <http://www.sce.com/CommunityandRecreation/meu> or email: [meu@sce.com](mailto:meu@sce.com)

*Please be aware that SCE is limited in its ability to honor all booking requests. Calendar is subject to change.*



A Sempra Energy utility®

### “Advancing the Vision”

**The US Green Building Council - Los Angeles Chapter and the Southern California Gas Company will be hosting the 9th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Energy Resource Center in Downey.** Each year, this event brings together Southland municipal policy makers and implementers along with leading architects and engineers to further the development of a sustainable and energy efficient future. Breakout sessions will feature all aspects of sustainable design, construction, and operations practices for buildings and communities, including their impact on people, climate, the environment, and the economy.

#### **Morning Keynote: Bill Reed, AIA, LEED, Hon. FIGP**

An internationally recognized proponent and practitioner in sustainability and regeneration, Bill is president of the Integrative Design Collaborative - a consulting organization working to evolve green building design practice. He is a principal of the regenerative design planning firm, Regenesi, and the educational group, Delving Deeper. His work centers on creating the framework for, and managing, an integrative whole systems design process. Ultimately, his objective is to improve the overall quality of the physical, social and spiritual life of our living places.

**Afternoon Keynote: Panama Bartholomy, Advisor to Karen Douglas, California Energy Commission** As advisor to Commissioner Douglas, Panama has been called upon as point person for climate change, land use, renewable energy, transmission, green building and bio fuels policy. Currently serving on the City of Sacramento's Planning Commission and the County of Sacramento's Environmental Commission, he is also Vice Chair of USGBC - Northern California Chapter and the Humboldt Bay Center for Sustainable Living. Previously, Panama has worked for the California Conservation Corps on vocational environmental education and the Division of the State Architect where he ran the Sustainable Schools program. He is the definition of a humble and, seemingly tireless, public servant.

**Seminar will be held at:**  
**Southern California Gas Company**  
**Energy Resource Center**  
**9240 Firestone Blvd**  
**Downey, CA 90241**

**7:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast**  
**Event begins promptly at 8.00 AM**

**To register and for seminar details call 1-800-427-6584 or visit The Gas Company's website at [seminars.socalgas.com](http://seminars.socalgas.com) or e-mail [erc@socalgas.com](mailto:erc@socalgas.com).**

## Calendar of Events

<p><b>Thursday, April 15</b>  <b>10:15 a.m.</b>  <b>1001 Partridge Dr.,</b>  <b>Suite 150, Ventura</b></p>	<p><b>VCREA Quarterly Board Meeting</b>  The VCREA Board meeting is open to the public.  The agenda is posted on the website: <a href="http://www.vcenergy.org">www.vcenergy.org</a></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, April 21</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Technology Development</b>  <b>Center</b>  <b>5200 Valentine Road</b>  <b>Ventura</b></p>	<p><b>2008 Title 24 Residential Workshop</b> A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which went into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, April 28</b>  <b>(#25394)</b>  <b>8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Southern California</b>  <b>Edison's</b>  <b>Ventura Service Center</b>  <b>10060 Telegraph Rd.,</b>  <b>Ventura</b></p>	<p><b>Basic Heating, Ventilation &amp; Air Conditioning (HVAC)</b>  Technicians, maintenance workers and other newcomers to the field will learn the basics of HVAC systems in both residential and commercial applications. Participants will learn how various HVAC systems and applications can save energy and, by understanding which unit has the best overall value, will be able to select and recommend the most appropriate HVAC unit. <b>To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ <a href="http://www.sce.com/energycenters">www.sce.com/energycenters</a>.</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday, June 16</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Technology Development</b>  <b>Center</b>  <b>5200 Valentine Road</b>  <b>Ventura</b></p>	<p><b>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential Lighting &amp; Building Envelope Workshop</b> A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which went into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, June 23</b>  <b>9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</b>  <b>Technology Development</b>  <b>Center</b>  <b>5200 Valentine Road</b>  <b>Ventura</b></p>	<p><b>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential HVAC &amp; Building Envelope Workshop</b> A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which went into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed</p>

*All dates/topics are subject to change and provided to open discussion of regional interest*

*Visit our website at [www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org) and go to the calendar of events for more detailed information on these and other free seminars---registration is required.*

*For more information and a complete listing of The Gas Company's Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: [www.seminars.socalgas.com](http://www.seminars.socalgas.com)  
Phone: 800-427-6584 or 562-803-7500*

*For more information and a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: [www.sce.com/energycenters](http://www.sce.com/energycenters)  
Phone: 800-336-2822 or 626-812-7537*



## VCREA Member Agencies:

County of Ventura  
City of Ventura  
City of Oxnard  
City of Santa Paula  
City of Thousand Oaks  
Ventura Regional Sanitation District  
Ventura County Community College District  
Casitas Municipal Water District  
Ventura Unified School District  
City of Camarillo  
City of Fillmore

## VCREA Mission

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.



## Energy Leader

Continued from first page...

### Training

VCREA has emphasized the need to provide a wide range of energy efficiency trainings tailored to different groups in our region. Through the utility partnership program, we have delivered everything from basic energy efficiency awareness for homeowners and employees to highly technical offerings such as new developments in lighting, energy-efficient PC networks, "green" building practices and advanced chiller plant operations that contribute to the knowledge base of the local green jobs network.

Other seminars have addressed the energy concerns of decision-makers, planners, non-profit organization managers, etc. VCREA has also specialized in providing detailed energy code training to local city and county permitting offices, as well as the design and construction communities.

The new California Energy Code (Title 24) went into effect on January 1, 2010. Title 24 establishes efficiency standards for all new buildings, additions and remodels. VCREA continues to provide Title 24 training to a variety of groups within the region including building inspection personnel, architects, engineers and contractors. Starting in 2009, VCREA offered several seminars on the new code, and will continue this ongoing training as part of the new partnership. Training opportunities can be offered to as few as 15 or as many as 100 participants. A new round of training will begin in April.

### Strategic Planning

The CPUC has published its Long-Term Strategic Energy Efficiency Plan to identify goals that the State needs to attain for a sustainable energy future. Local governments will have a major responsibility in reaching these goals. The Strategic Plan encourages cities and counties to enhance their own energy efficiency efforts and to develop strategies that increase performance levels of the community at large. Proposed actions may include:

- Developing programs to ensure high levels of compliance with existing codes and standards.
- Passing local energy codes which go beyond current State standards.
- Including climate change policies and energy elements into local planning documents.
- Encourage the development of "zero-net energy housing" for new construction.

One of the tasks for the Ventura Partnership Program will be to help the participating county and cities understand and promote the Strategic Plan goals. Local government decision-makers are challenged to integrate this plan along with other pending legislative plans and locally adopted general plan documents. Given the financial challenges that face local government today (and likely into the future), it will take both commitment and creative thinking to reach these energy goals while still responding to all the other pressing concerns facing cities and counties. In the face of limited resources, regional collaborative efforts are the best hope for realizing these goals, and VCREA is committed to working with its utility partners to achieve mutual benefits of the Ventura Partnership Program.

### KIOSK SYSTEM REACHES OUT

VCREA would like to thank all of the agencies and staff supporting our efforts to inform the region about energy efficiency:

Blanchard Library, Daniel O. Robles; City of Camarillo, Roger Pichardo; Fillmore Library, Cathy Krushell (photo); Ojai Library, Kit Willis; City of Oxnard; Ray D. Prueter Library, Cathy Tomason; City of Thousand Oaks, Gail Kaufman; City of Ventura, Joe Yahner.

The purpose of the KIOSK SYSTEM is to advance an *Energy Efficiency Ethic* and promote the goals and services of the Ventura Partnership Program. This collaborative effort is supported and advanced by the Host organizations and is achieving the goals set out in the Partnership's Program Implementation Plan, as well as VCREA's Marketing Plan. The interest and efforts of the Host organizations is vital in keeping the public informed and versed in the subject of Energy Efficiency. Kiosk locations are selected based on ability to reach all customers where they would be most inclined to desire, retain and research Energy Efficiency information. VCREA will continue its efforts to expand the Kiosk System. Materials are updated regularly, as needed and as new materials are available.

Kiosks are available for interested agencies/organizations. Please contact VCREA for more information.



Cathy Krushell  
City Librarian

Fillmore Library  
502 Second Street  
Fillmore, CA 93015