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Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

Making Every Day “Earth Day”

Every Day is Earth Day

VCREA would like to commend and lend support to the following communities and their earth day celebrations:

April 4

City of Oxnard
Downtown Plaza Park

April 11

City of Santa Paula
Glen City & Barbara Webster
Elementary Schools

April 18

City of Ventura
Ventura Beachfront Promenade

April 25

City of Ojai
Oak Grove School

April 25

City of Thousand Oaks
Conejo Creek Park North

For details on these and other events, contact organizations directly.

For information about VCREA and Energy Efficiency in the Ventura County region

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The Spring months are times of readiness for the various events scheduled throughout the county to celebrate annual Earth Day programs. VCREA is working closely with several cities and community organizations to provide energy efficiency information and training events to support understanding of what can be done by residents to care for the earth.

Energy efficiency is the first step to reducing carbon and greenhouse gases, and it is also a great step in reducing utility costs. Home maintenance and energy efficiency go hand in hand, and the spring months provide even greater incentive to make simple improvements.

Although repeated in utility bills and numerous radio and television advertisements, the work of energy efficiency begins with each resident doing their part. Take these steps in Spring cleaning for energy efficiency.

Start Spring cleaning with the replacement or cleaning of furnace filters. Dirty filters require more energy to push necessary heat through the system. Depending on the type of filter in your system, take time to wash or replace the filter and dust the furnace and its cabinet.

Air conditioning units benefit from

mechanical tune-ups, and now is the time to consider getting an appointment so systems are within range for the hotter months ahead. The benefits of a home air conditioning tune-up mean that the systems will perform at their efficiency.

Hot water tanks benefit from cleaning as well. Often the tank closet is a repository of dust or accumulation of dirt from outside sources. Take time to wipe the tank, check connections for leaks, and drain the tank to remove sediment that builds up and reduces efficiency. Setting the thermostat at the mid-range point rather than at the hottest setting reduces the amount of (gas) energy used to heat water that otherwise would become too hot and would require cold water to moderate the temperature. If rust or corrosion is visible, it may be time to replace the unit with a more efficient model, and always consider the highest efficiency possible when making a new purchase and the opportunities to apply for utility rebates.

Solar hot water heating systems are becoming more popular as a first-step in home solar systems. The overall cost is considerably less than whole house photovoltaic systems and the additional storage tank provides a reliable source of water in emergency situations.

VCREA will be hosting a **technical training for solar water heating systems on April 23**. This is a great opportunity for installers and contractors to be updated on the latest requirements to meet state standards and utility incentives.

Earth Day would not be complete without a comment on energy efficiency for outdoor projects. Water and energy efficiency compliment home landscape projects through the use of timers for sprinklers, improvements to spa and pool pumps for greater efficiency, and outdoor lighting enhanced with motion sensors and timers to optimize energy use.

Mother Earth will benefit from your Spring cleaning and the corresponding energy efficiency improvements that can benefit individual homes and improve our entire community.

Residential Solar Seminar

March 25, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
SCE Thousand Oaks
Service Center
3589 Foothill Drive

Learn solar basics, benefits of solar installation, finance options and detail on tax credits.

To register call
866-970-9221

Update Your Contact Information Online @ www.vcenergy.org Please go online to register or update your contact information to receive Energy Leader newsletter and training seminar "Email Blasts"

Energy Professionals and Energy Service Providers are encouraged to register their company under the **Vendor** menu among the business service categories.

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

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

www.vcenergy.org



2009 Calendar of Events

<p>By Appointment VCREA Office To schedule an appointment email: vcrea.admin@ventura.org or call: 805.289.3335</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency Design Review With Energy Projects Manager This design review will provide technical assistance to individuals who are in the early stages of remodeling or new construction of their homes and businesses. The focus will be on all aspects of energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings. Attendees should bring their plans and may invite their architects or building contractors.</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 17 The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey</p>	<p>Green Buildings and Climate Change Seminar (#20230) Understand how building design, construction and operations are related to climate change. Learn about the sources of Green House Gases (GHG), strategies and approaches to minimize GHG production during the lifecycle of buildings, tools and resources to quantify impacts, and the impact of green building systems. Note: 3 AIA learning units per class. For more information on this series and a complete listing of The Gas Company's Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html</p>
<p>Wednesday, March 25 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road, Suite 101, Ventura</p>	<p>Advanced Technologies in Outdoor Lighting with Stan Walerczyk This seminar will cover new products and advances in outdoor lighting. Stan, an internationally recognized expert in the field of lighting technology, will provide information on how these lights are coming to the marketplace and what new products fit the needs of your buildings and operations.</p>
<p>Thursday, March 26 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Southern California Edison Energy Resource Center 10600 Telegraph Road Ventura</p>	<p>Improving Pump Plan Efficiency To Lower Energy Cost (#20108) Water management professionals will learn practical issues and choices available regarding efficient pumping systems and effective management to maintain pump efficiency and minimize water use. Note: 4.0 Contact Hours, California Department of Public Health, For more information on this class and a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 31 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Southern California Edison "On-Line Training Course"</p>	<p>Introduction to the California Solar Initiative (CSI) "On-line Training" (#22428) This course is designed for Photovoltaic (PV) installers, self-installers, managers, and PV owners, and features new and updated information on the CSI program. Learn how to complete the CSI forms, take advantage of SCE's rebates on fixed and tracking photovoltaic (solar energy) systems, and interconnect to the grid. Other topics include metering, monitoring, shading issues, and CSI's "New" on-line power clerk database. For a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm</p>
<p>Thursday, April 23 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. VCREA Conference Room, Ventura</p>	<p>Solar Water Heating Training This session is designed for installers, building inspectors and designers who are interested in an overview of basic systems, understanding the structure of the State's Pilot Program and the "lessons learned" regarding installations, permitting, and Future policy including AB 1470.</p>
<p>Thursday, April 16 10:15 a.m. 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 150, Ventura</p>	<p>VCREA Quarterly Board Meeting The VCREA Board meeting is open to the public. The agenda is posted on the website: www.vcenergy.org</p>

Visit our website at www.vcenergy.org and go to the calendar of events for more detailed information on these and other free seminars---registration is required.

