

May/June 2010

Energy Leader

A Publication of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Home of the Ventura County Energy Resource Center

Energy Management Options

VCREA to launch new website in early May.

Visit us online @ www.vcenergy.org

Regional public agencies and organizations, businesses and individuals all can find relevant information to increase energy efficiency.

Register to receive the Energy Leader newsletter and training seminar "Email Blasts." If you have already registered remember to update your contact information as needed.

Energy service professionals/vendors are encouraged to register to inform the public of services and products available.

Look for regular updates and additional information significant to our region. Your comments and input would be greatly appreciated.

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Energy use management, including methods available to develop long-term strategies is an important topic to both public agencies and individual commercial business. In response to inquiries, VCREA notes that one of the options available to commercial customers comes through an ESCO.

What is an ESCO?

The term "ESCO" is short for *energy service company*, which is a professional service business that provides comprehensive energy solutions such as design and installation of energy efficiency projects, energy finance, power generation and risk management---all designed to improve the overall operation and consequent "bottom line" of prospective clients.

ESCOs may typically offer services such as installing and maintaining energy efficient equipment; this would include replacement of outdated lighting, controllers and regular repairs and maintenance to heating/air-conditioning equipment. By managing on a contract and matching regular maintenance with retrofit opportunities, the commercial customer's energy consumption is reduced and the cost of maintenance is offset by the energy savings.

Another example of ESCO work could include the measurement, monitoring and verification of savings associated with an energy efficiency project. Those savings may be in more efficient use of the electricity or natural gas, such that the business can reduce its overall energy load or redirect energy use to avoid peak demand time and subsequent additional charges.

When a commercial property undertakes an energy efficiency audit, one of the first steps is generally going online to SCE or SCG to plug in account information specific to the property and current use. These utility websites will provide suggestions for energy efficiency improvements and may include rebate or incentive opportunities. While this is useful information, it may not be the actionable detail

that the property owner requires to implement a full course of energy-efficiency. ESCOs play an important role in helping translate the general to the specific for the benefit of consumers and utilities.

A good ESCO is capable of responding to a request for proposal from a potential large business customer. The response should provide a full range of cost effective services that will allow for significant energy efficiency improvements bundled into a comprehensive strategy and repaid through the dollar savings generated. The ESCO should link financial expertise with technical tools that will reduce the customer's risk over a sustained period of time. Usually an ESCO undertakes a big energy efficiency project that requires significant capital investment over a long period such that the customer's debt is tied to the energy savings, all of which is based on excellent pre and post-installation testing. This level of testing and monitoring is beyond that of the basic maintenance service and requires specific equipment and training expertise. The benefit to the commercial business is that ESCO services are provided by a trained professional and not simply added on to the duties of the business owner, general manager or another employee who would be less likely versed in the efficiency technologies that would lead to the economic benefits.

A good ESCO will also be knowledgeable of the utility programs provided to local customers, as well organizations like VCREA to lend its customers the best options for energy efficiency education. ESCOs provide the often desirable "business to business connection" and fill a niche market that is valuable in these challenging economic conditions. ESCOs operate around the world and provide a source of employment for those interested in the energy efficiency sector. More information on ESCOs and the companies that provide these services is available on the website of the National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO) at www.naesco.org.

VENTURA PARTNERSHIP NEWS



Southern California Edison Smart Grid

A smarter grid will enable us to deliver more renewable energy into the electricity supply, give our customers more power to control their energy use and costs, and help prevent large-scale power outages. With high-tech digital devices incorporated throughout the electric system along with advanced intelligence, the smart grid will provide information necessary to optimize electric service and empower customers to make informed energy decisions. SCE is now investing \$1.5 billion in grid technologies, and we're leading efforts on a national level to establish standards for smart grid interconnectivity and security.

Strategy



Vision

The United States is at a critical juncture regarding energy. The stakes for addressing climate change, energy independence and infrastructure security are high. Policymakers on the federal and state levels recognize the need for:

- o A smarter, more robust electricity infrastructure in order to meet objectives related to relying more on renewable generation
- o Using electricity as a fuel for vehicles
- o Enabling consumers to become active participants in the energy supply chain, and
- o Ensuring the continued reliability and vitality of our nation's energy economy.

SCE is addressing these challenges while continuing to operate the grid in a safe and reliable manner.

SCE has been a leader in fostering the development of advanced grid technologies and the adoption of technology to create a smarter grid. We recognized the need for a smarter grid more than a decade ago. The climate and energy policy objectives introduced since then, and after the 2001 energy crisis, underscored this need. Smart grid technologies are recognized as a main investment area for the next 20 years.



A Sempra Energy utility

Southern California Gas Company's 2010 Energy Efficiency Expo

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM

"Position your Business for Success: Discover the Secret Savings of Energy Efficiency"

Economic Forecast: Dr. Jerry Nickelsburg - UCLA Anderson Forecast

Reserve your place at Southern California Gas Company's 5th Annual Energy Efficiency Expo - Come see one of the leading experts in forecasting the health of the economy of the greater Los Angeles area, Dr. Jerry Nickelsburg, tells us what to expect in 2010 and beyond. Learn how the continuing economic and political changes could impact your business, and how Southern California Gas Company's energy efficiency programs can help. Let us demonstrate how our energy-efficiency rebates, incentives, assessments, and other services can help to reduce your up-front costs and shorten your payback time. We'll show you ways to reduce your energy usage and lower your operating costs year after year. We'll have businesses in attendance to share with you how they are achieving energy efficiency success.

We'll also provide information on our expanded rebate and incentive programs, training and certification opportunities, and more.

Don't miss out on this great event. Please RSVP early. Space for this event is limited.

Registration is easy:

- 1) Register online at seminars.socalgas.com
 - a. Find the event date
 - b. Click on event name
 - c. Complete registration
- 2) Contact your account executive directly;
- 3) Call 1-800-427-6584 and select option #1
 - a. Let them know you are registering for **Seminar #21675**

Location:

**Southern California Gas Company
Energy Resource Center
9240 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241**

**(7:30 check-in & breakfast)
Cost: Free (lunch will be provided)**

Calendar of Events

<p>Wednesday, May 12 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road Ventura</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Documentation for Contractors Workshop A A survey of the new Residential and Non-Residential compliance forms that are part of the 2008 Title 24 Energy Standards which went into effect January 1, 2010.</p>
<p>Thursday, May 20 (#22982) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>Biomimicry: Planning and Designing with Nature Biomimicry offers a holistic and deeply rooted method to achieving true sustainability. Nature embodies more than four billion years of experience perfecting the designs and behaviors to make organisms and living systems thrive. Discover how to solve real-life design challenges by applying nature's design successes. As a planning and design approach for single and multi-building developments or as an auxiliary tool for LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) or the Living Building Challenge, this workshop will provide you with new tools, knowledge and inspiration to design for sustainability, energy efficiency and beyond. (6 AIA learning units.) Register online @ seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26 (#25401) 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Southern California Edison's Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Rd., Ventura</p>	<p>Technology Update Facility staff and management professionals will learn about current energy efficient technologies used in commercial and industrial businesses. Topics include lighting, chilled water systems, electric motors, drives, energy management systems, HVAC, and distributed energy resources. Attendees will learn how to save money by implementing basic technology changes. To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/energycenters.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26 (#22947) 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro® (State-certified Software): Envelope and Windows Learn how to model and document Title 24 compliance for building envelopes. Participants in this workshop will practice using the latest version of EnergyPro 5.0, an energy modeling software certified by the State of California. Explore advanced envelope design options. Learn about new fenestration requirements, and how to select windows for maximum energy efficiency and comfort. (3 AIA learning units.) Register online @ seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 26 (#22948) 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro® (State-certified Software): Indoor and Outdoor Lighting Learn how to model and document Title 24 compliance for commercial lighting designs. Participants in this workshop will practice using the latest version of EnergyPro 5.0, an energy modeling software certified by the State of California. Explore lighting analysis basics, the proper application of advanced fixture technologies to energy-efficient designs and how cost-effective lighting designs can maximize potential energy efficiency incentives. (3 AIA learning units.) Register online @ seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com</p>
<p>Thursday, May 27 (#22949) 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro® (State-certified Software): Mechanical Participants will practice using the latest version of EnergyPro, an energy modeling software certified by the State of California. Learn how to model mechanical system designs in commercial buildings, and to document Title 24 compliance. Discover how easy it can be to integrate mechanical, lighting and envelope designs for peak energy-efficient performance. (3 AIA learning units.) Register online @ seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com</p>

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

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.



Calendar of Events

<p>Thursday, May 27 (#22950) 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro® (State-certified Software): Advanced Expand your basic knowledge of EnergyPro, an energy modeling software certified by the State of California, and learn how to produce energy-efficient designs that meet or exceed the minimum Title 24 energy standards. Get hands-on experience in modeling and upgrading envelope, lighting and mechanical designs to maximize potential energy efficiency incentives. Practice estimating utility energy costs, simple paybacks and life cycle costs. (3 AIA learning units.) Register online @ seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 16 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road Ventura</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential Lighting & Building Envelope Workshop 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>Wednesday, June 23 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road Ventura</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential HVAC Workshop 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>Friday, June 25 (#25401) 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Southern California Edison's Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Rd., Ventura</p>	<p>Beyond Efficient Lamps This basic level class will examine luminaires and their application to specific lighting challenges. Learn about photometry and how to interpret specifications and photometric reports to choose the best lighting equipment for the job and save even more energy. (4 AIA/HSW Learning Units) To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/energycenters.</p>

Ventura College Community Education presents cleanedison Energy Audit Training - BPI Certification – Tuition \$1,600.00

5 sessions starting June 14, 2010, ending June 18, 2010 – Tomorrow's job Today!

Train to become an energy efficiency auditor and earn your BPI Certification (Building Performance Institute) in only one week. A recent study by the California Community Colleges' Centers of Excellence indicates that the need for building auditors will increase by 54% over the next three years throughout South Central California. Individuals in the fields of construction, design, inspection, contracting, and utilities will want to take this new course to learn to identify the relationships among overall performance, efficiency and durability. Class participants will learn to target, diagnose, and recommend procedures to remedy inefficient building performance. Course fee includes classroom training (1 full day + 2 half-days), field training (2 half-days), course materials, study materials, BPI application fees, written exam fee and field exam fee. The written and field exams will be held on Day 4 and 5 of the course.

For information and to register online: www.communityed.venturacollege.edu or call 805-654-6459

California Cash For Appliances Rebate Program (April 22 through May 23, 2010)

Consumers can combine these rebates with existing rebates offered by California utilities or appliance manufacturers. To see energy products that qualify for rebates, check out Flex Your Power at www.fypower.org and the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov.

Follow three easy steps and get your rebate today: 1) **BUY** – Select and purchase an eligible energy-efficient appliance that is rated higher than Energy Star standards from a participating retailer or partner. Eligible appliances include clothes washers, refrigerators, and room air conditioners. A list of eligible appliances and retailers can be found at: www.cash4appliances.org; 2) **RECYCLE** – To receive a rebate you must recycle your existing, inefficient appliance. Your inefficient appliance can be recycled through an Energy Commission platinum partner, utility buy-back program OR you must take your appliance to a certified appliance recycler. A platinum retailer or certified appliance recycler will provide you with the recycling form to attach to your rebate application; 3) **SAVE** – Get Cash and Save Energy on Refrigerators (\$200), Clothes Washers (\$100), Room Air Conditioners (up to \$50). Your rebate package must include: a completed rebate application, a completed proof of recycling form; copy of original receive or an original rebate request; purchaser's utility bill. Mail-in completed rebate application package within 30 days of purchase starting April 22.

For program rules and more information visit www.cash4appliances.org