

November/
December 2008

Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

“A BEACON OF LIGHT”

Success Story Blanchard/Santa Paula Public Library District

Energy Efficiency Tips:

It's easy to FALL into Energy Efficiency...

Make the holidays brighter with new lighting technology provided by Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights.

Look for new LED products at local retailers in the form of holiday lighting strands and specialty lighting. LED lights are energy efficient, consuming only a few kilowatts per strand as compared to traditional twinkle lights and strand lighting.

LED flashlights are essential for safety and security in the darker fall and winter hours. Consider the convenience of the smaller LED lights that are included in key ring flashlights, and personal lights for cyclists, walkers and winter athletes.

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

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The Blanchard Library in Santa Paula is truly "a beacon of light" for the community. Fortunately, it is now shining with energy efficiency. A joint effort of the Blanchard/Santa Paula Library District, City of Santa Paula Building & Safety Department and the VCREA has resulted in a lighting upgrade project that will save the Library over \$7,500 per year in utility costs. The new lighting system uses 37% less energy than the old lights.

Longtime residents of the Santa Paula area may remember that the Blanchard Library took over what was the original Safeway supermarket on 8th Street in Santa Paula. One feature the Library inherited was the original fluorescent lighting system which dated from the 1950's. The lights were inefficient with relative short lived lamps that required considerable maintenance. Worse yet, libraries need high quality lighting to enhance the reading experience; the old system was anything but high quality.

The age of the existing lighting fixtures required that the majority needed to be replaced, rather than upgraded, with new lamps and ballasts. In the main reading and "stacks" area, high performance T-5 fluorescent fixtures replaced the old suspended "industrial style" T-12 fluorescents. New T-5's are very small diameter lamps which produce high levels of light without consuming a large amount of electricity. The new fixtures use half the electricity, yet produce more and higher quality light than the old fixtures.

Another savings is in reduced maintenance. The old T-12 lamps were rated for 12,000 hours of use, or about 5 years, given the Library's current operating schedule. That may sound pretty good until you compare the old lamps to the new T-5's which are rated for 42,000 hours, which is almost an incredible 17 years of life! Part of this long life is due to the special ballasts which are in the fixtures and operate the

lamps. These ballasts use electronic circuits which operate the lamps in a manner which enhances lamp life.

Library shelves (the "stacks") create a special challenge for lighting. The distance between the upper and lower shelves may be five or six feet. The upper shelves may have plenty of light, while the spines of books on the lowest shelves may be difficult to read. Special "high bay" light fixtures were installed at the ceiling level of the Library which spread the light in a much more even pattern than the old fixtures. Even the shelves closest to the floor now have adequate lighting. The lamps used in the new light fixtures were selected to produce the least amount of eye fatigue; a most welcome quality in a library!

Blanchard Library also wanted to improve the security and safety with better outdoor lighting. Fixtures using a special type of fluorescent

Over...

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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

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

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2008/2009 Calendar of Events

<p>By Appointment Through December 1, 2008 and Resuming after January 12, 2009 VCREA Conference Room</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency Design Review With Energy Projects Manager This design review will provide technical assistance, information and support 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. To schedule an appointment email: vcrea.admin@ventura.org; or, call: 805.289.3335</p>
<p>Thursday, November 20 (#21134) Southern California Edison "On-Line Training Course"</p>	<p>Introduction to the California Solar Initiative (CSI) "On-line Training" This on-line course is designed for Photovoltaic (PV) installers, self-installers, managers, and PV owners, and features new and updated information on the CSI program. For a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm</p>
<p>Thursday, December 4 Naval Base Ventura County - Energy and Sustainable Design Demonstration Facility (Bldg. 850) Multimedia Room, Port Hueneme</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Energy Standards with Martyn Dodd of EnergySoft This seminar will focus on the 2008 Title 24 Energy Standards and will provide attendees with an understanding of the anticipated changes in the following areas: Nonresidential building envelope, indoor and outdoor lighting and mechanical requirements as well as residential requirements. To register, please use one of the registration forms located on VCREA's website Calendar of Events and look for this entry.</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 16 (#19967) The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey</p>	<p>Water: How much? How hot? How fast? (Seminar #19967) This seminar will discuss the importance of the water-energy connection: This seminar will help participants come away with innovative, practical and cost-effective applications that they can start using right away to increase customer satisfaction while reducing energy and water waste and their associated costs. Note: Education Credits: 6 AIA learning units. For a complete listing of The Gas Company's Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html</p>
<p>Thursday, January 15 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>
<p>Save the Date Wednesday, March 25</p>	<p>Advanced Technologies in Outdoor Lighting with Stan Walerczyk Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about LED applications and new fixtures that reduce energy costs.</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.

lamp, called a "biaxial compact," were installed on the parking lot poles and the building facade. The building fixtures are controlled by motion sensors that turn the lamps off when no one is in the area. Working through its Ventura County Partnership Program, VCREA provided technical support and an incentive of \$9,345, or about 20% of the project cost.

The new system will pay for itself with energy savings in less than 5 years. Contact VCREA if you want to reduce energy costs and improve your light quality; we can "shine some light" on the subject for you!

