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Energy Leader

A Publication of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Home of the Ventura County Energy Resource Center

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS PART OF A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

Please visit us online @ www.vcenergy.org to register to receive the Energy Leader newsletter and training seminar "Email Blasts" and to update your contact information.

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

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New information about the benefits of sustainability is being announced daily and the principles behind sustainability are becoming better understood by the public. Yet when it comes time for implementation, many business owners and managers have the impression that the transitions to a sustainable business model are difficult to achieve and expensive.

Transforming a business into a sustainable model is challenging, because implementation requires strategies which may appear to be fundamentally different than traditional business plans. With most initiatives to grow or enhance a business, the direct link to profit is clear. However, sustainability initiatives require a slightly different approach such that changes to the business for the purpose of mitigating social and environment impacts can be achieved while simultaneously maintaining strong financial performance. And, like any other business decision intended to change or enhance performance, improve process or capture greater market share, a sustainability initiative requires careful analysis to determine if the long-term benefits outweigh the short-term costs.

One of the easiest and possibly best first steps on the road to a sustainable business is energy efficiency. Think of energy efficiency as an investment, rather than a cost; as such it reduces overhead and can improve the "bottom line".

Lighting

Many businesses, particularly smaller ones, are still using fluorescent lighting technology that dates back 30 years. Recent advances in high performance fluorescent lighting can reduce energy use by 50% while improving light quality and reducing maintenance costs. For example, a business could upgrade 25 existing fixtures with the latest generation fluorescent lamps and ballasts for about \$1500. If the lights were on 50 hours per week, the annual savings from this upgrade would be about \$375. Even without any rebates or tax credits, this project would pay for itself in four years, which is a 25% return on investment.

Utility rebates and federal tax credits could bring the net payback to less than two years.

Heating & Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Most heating and cooling units suffer from "benign neglect" through lack of preventive maintenance services. A typical air conditioning unit that has not been serviced in two or more years may be using 15-30% more energy than a properly serviced unit. Older units may suffer even greater losses. A \$150 maintenance "tune-up" could yield a \$20 (or more) reduction in monthly utility costs. This is a 150% annual return on investment.

Manufacturing Equipment

Many manufacturing processes use electric motors. One recent study concluded that electric motors use 20% of all electricity generated annually in the United States. Motors are very reliable and long-lived, but that old reliable motor is not very efficient. Any motor over 10 years old is a good candidate for replacement with a "premium efficiency" motor. Depending on the horsepower rating of the motor and the annual hours of operation, a premium efficiency motor may pay for itself in energy savings in one to two years.

When motors fail, they are often taken to specialty shops for "rewinding." Rewinding tends to reduce the efficiency, so an already low efficiency motor will be even less efficient. Unless it is a specialty motor with no new replacement, it is always more cost-effective to buy a premium efficiency motor than to rewind an old one.

The Business Case for Green Economy

These examples help clarify the investment opportunities available through energy efficiency. Once the immediate investment costs have been recovered, the business will be generating additional cash. In turn, that cash can be paid out to owners or share holders; it can be reinvested in the business to expand product lines, or advance marketing. Smart businesses that take initiative and make some of the suggested investments now will stand to gain a competitive position over those that delay.

VENTURA PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Operation Lamp Exchange

VCREA is pleased to coordinate with utility partner **Southern California Edison** to bring the **Lamp Exchange Program** to Ventura County on the weekend of September 26-27 as a part of our utility partnership program.

This is an exceptional event that is made possible by the ratepayers fund to help SCE customers (in our case, All Ventura County residents) replace old lamps and receive **FREE** replacements that include the highly efficient new lighting products.

Freeway close Pacific View Shopping Mall in Ventura has been selected for convenience, and preparation is underway to accommodate thousands of exchanges.

Flyers in English (see below) and Spanish are being circulated through school districts, community organizations, and public agency networks.

Questions should be directed to the Operation Lamp Exchange information line **1-800-865-6483**.

VCREA and utility partner, **Southern California Gas Company** presented a **technical seminar in August, entitled "Accounting for the Water/Energy/Greenhouse Gas Relationship"**. Nearly 40 individuals attended the session presented by Gary Klein, an energy policy expert with state and national experience. Ventura County Public Works Agency, Groundwater Management Agency helped support a county case study approach, using GIS technology to illustrate geography, trends and data that are included in the energy and water decisions. The training session would normally be presented in Downey, but was relocated to reduce travel time and costs.

VCREA Received Recognition from Southern California Edison



Andres Herrera, Vice-Chair of VCREA Board accepts a plaque in recognition of 2006-08 achievements "Saving Energy and the Environment" from Marjorie Hamilton, Program Manager - Energy Efficiency of SCE at the July 16, 2009 Board Meeting

Calendar of Events

<p>By Appointment VCREA Conference Room 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, 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.</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 15 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura</p>	<p>Introduction to the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Technical Training - Presented by Ben Garcia of SCE This course is designed for Photovoltaic (PV) installers, designers, facility managers, PV owners and self-installers (please invite your installer). 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.</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 23 (#20327) 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro (State-Certified Software): Envelope and Windows Workshop (#20327) Learn how to model and document Title 24 compliance for building envelopes. Participants in this workshop will be provided the opportunity to practice using the latest version of EnergyPro 4.0, an energy modeling software certified currently 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. Education Credits: 3 AIA learning units. Register online at: www.seminars.socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 23 (#20328) 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro (State-Certified Software): Indoor and Outdoor Lighting Workshop (#20328) Learn how to model and document Title 24 compliance for commercial lighting designs. Participants in this workshop will be provided the opportunity to practice using the latest version of EnergyPro 4.0, an energy modeling software certified currently 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. Education Credits: 3 AIA learning units. Register online at: www.seminars.socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 24 (#23689) 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" (#23689) 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 more information and to register please call 800-336-2822 ext. 42537.</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.

For more information and a complete listing of The Gas Company's Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html.

For more information and a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm

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 Continued

<p>Thursday, September 24 (#20329) 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro (State-Certified Software): Mechanical Workshop (#20329) Participants will practice using the latest version of EnergyPro 4.0, an energy modeling software certified currently 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 efficiency performance. Education Credits: 3 AIA learning units. Register online at: www.seminars.socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Thursday, September 24 (#20330) 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>EnergyPro (State-Certified Software): Advanced Workshop (#20330) Expand your basic knowledge of EnergyPro 4.0, an energy modeling software certified currently 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. Education Credits: 3 AIA learning units. Register online at: www.seminars.socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Thursday, October 1 (#23121) 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Southern California Edison's Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Rd., Ventura</p>	<p>Green Building Hype of Help? (#23121) This course is designed to familiarize commercial and industrial property owners, architects, engineers, and others interested in "green buildings" with state-of-the-art sustainable design, current issues, and design tools. Participants will develop an understanding of sustainable design practice, including the LEED certification process, and will be introduced to EnergyPlus, the public domain analysis tool that can be used to satisfy the design criteria for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system. To enroll, and learn more about this presenter, visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/ERC/EnergyCenterClassSchedule.aspx?SORT=L&ORG=ALL#On-Line.</p>
<p>Thursday, October 15 10:15 a.m. 1001 Partridge Dr., 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>Thursday, October 22 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road Ventura</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential Lighting Workshop A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which go into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed.</p>
<p>November 2009 Data/Time/Location To be determined</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential HVAC and Building Envelope Workshop A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which go into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed.</p>

