



VCREA

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance



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About VCREA

VCREA is a Joint Powers Agency composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address good energy stewardship through integrated demand side management practices in the Ventura County region.

Ventura Partnership

The Ventura Partnership encompasses the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura to support energy efficiency improvements in public agencies and throughout the community.

Our Website and Newsletter

Energy Leader is a quarterly publication published to provide valuable resources and information regarding energy efficiency in the Ventura County region. To sign up to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please log on to www.vcenergy.org.

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History of Earth Day

Each year, April 22 marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement, Earth Day. Prior to 1970, mainstream America was unmindful to environmental concerns. "Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. "Environment" was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news."¹ In 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson was on a mission to convince the federal government that change was needed. "Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures." Gaylord Nelson expressed. Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center. Americans now had the forum to express their concerns about what was happening to the environment. Dennis Hayes,

a young activist and Earth Day's first national coordinator, contributed the success of Earth Day to the spontaneous response at the grassroots level.

Earth Day 1970 was effective in regards to raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, "Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969."

Earth Day 2015 marks the 45th anniversary of the movement and it is estimated that over 1 billion people, in more than 192 countries will participate in Earth Day. So the question stands, what are you going to do for Earth Day? Attend an Earth Day event, volunteer, change a habit, plant a garden, become more energy efficient, use reusable shopping bags- the possibilities are endless. And while Earth Day is the day that really drives the point home, the big changes will come when Earth Day is celebrated every day!!

1. <http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement> "Earth Day: The History of a Movement"

April 4th - Oxnard Earth Day, Plaza Park
April 18th - Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day, Conejo Creek Park
April 18th - Ojai Valley Earth Day, Oak Grove School
April 18th - Simi Valley Earth Day, Simi Valley High School
April 25th - Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest, Seaside/Promenade Park

Annual Energy Leadership Reception



On Thursday, January 29th, City of Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann presented a series of three new awards to local communities demonstrating significant leadership and energy efficiency impact. As Vice Chair of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), Mayor Heitmann helped to honor its partners for strides in energy savings at the 2nd VCREA Annual Energy Leadership Reception. The event provided an opportunity for partners and stakeholders to meet, acknowledge the program's 2014 community impact, and assess goals for the upcoming year. Three new awards were also introduced and presented at the event.

Green Community Leadership Award

John Brooks, Senior Environmental Analyst and VCREA Energy Champion, accepted the Green Community Leadership Award on behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks. The Green Community Leadership Award recognized the city's extraordinary community outreach and education efforts, engaging with the community through weekly blog posts, social media and a monthly e-newsletter that reaches more than 8,000 residents. The city also held several workshops for local residents focusing on greywater, energy efficiency, solar, and permaculture as well as engaged local businesses through their Certified Green Business Program.



Energy Saving Impact Award

Paul Young, GSA Chief Deputy Director and Bruce Fischer, GSA Energy Manager and VCREA Energy Champion received the Energy Saving Impact Award on behalf of Ventura County for having the largest total number of Kilowatt hour savings from projects completed in 2014, with over 1.5 million kWh saved.



Emerging Energy Leader Award

Douglas Tucker, the Mayor of Fillmore, accepted the Emerging Energy Leader Award on behalf of the City of Fillmore. The Emerging Energy Leader Award recognizes leadership of significant energy savings in a VCREA partner's own facilities, as well as participation in demand response programs and community outreach. In 2014, the city adopted an Energy Action Plan to help identify objectives and strategies to help the city realize its long-term energy efficiency goals and achieved "Gold Tier" denomination in the Southern California Edison Energy Leader Partnership Program.



Upcoming Events

<p>Monday 03/30/2015</p>	<p>“Go Solar California! Residential Webinar” 9:00AM-10:00AM The "Go Solar California! Residential Webinar" is a non-technical, easy to understand FREE webinar session that will teach you about how to "go solar". You will learn about the money-saving and environmental benefits of solar energy and receive information to help determine your home's potential for a photovoltaic or solar water heating system.</p>	<p>Where: Online - Webinar To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac</p>
<p>Wednesday 04/15/2015</p>	<p>Ventura Regional Energy and Energy Efficiency Update 9:00AM-12:00PM Come learn about emerging technologies, sustainability, zero net energy, state of the utility and rates, and more.</p>	<p>Where: Ventura County Office of Education Conference & Educational Services Center Board Room To enroll and for more information visit www.vcregionalenergyupdate415.eventbrite.com</p>
<p>Thursday 05/14/2015</p>	<p>Water-Energy GHG Guidance and Technical Brief Workshop (SCE Business Customers ONLY) 10:00AM-12:00PM This workshop is open only to SCE business customers. You must RSVP at least two weeks prior to the workshop in order to attend. This workshop will provide an opportunity for SCE business customers to offer input and provide feedback on various topics surrounding The Climate Registry's Water-Energy GHG Guidance Technical Brief. A webinar option is also available.</p>	<p>Where: City of Ventura, City Hall To enroll and for more information visit www.theclimateregistry.org/events</p>
<p>Wednesday 05/27/2015</p>	<p>Title 24 Part 6 Essentials– Residential Standards 8:30AM-4:30PM This hands-on course is designed to provide plans examiners and building inspectors with the knowledge and skills needed to more quickly and effectively enforce the energy code for residential and low-rise multifamily residential projects.</p>	<p>Where: Simi Valley City Hall To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/workshops or call 626.812.7537</p>
<p>Thursday 06/11/2015</p>	<p>Save Energy, Save Money: An Introduction to Energy Efficiency and Rebates 8:30AM-12:30PM Come learn tips on how to save money on lighting, air conditioning, motors, controls, refrigeration, and other equipment. Topics include how to read your electric bill and complete your own energy audit. Attendees will learn easy ways to reduce energy and how to use SCEs programs, rebates, and incentives to help reduce costs.</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Edison Irwindale Education Center 6090 N. Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91702 To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac</p>
<p>Wednesday 06/03/2015</p>	<p>Title 24 Part 6 Essentials– Non-Residential Standards 8:30AM-4:30PM This hands-on course is designed to provide plans examiners and building inspectors with the knowledge and skills needed to more quickly and effectively enforce the energy code for non-residential projects.</p>	<p>Where: Simi Valley City Hall To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/workshops or call 626.812.7537</p>

The event listing in this publication is just a sampling of events offered in Southern California. All dates/topics are subject to change and provided to open discussion of regional interest and need. To see a complete list of events, please visit the following websites:

Resources to Help You Reduce Your Monthly Electric Bill

Southern California Edison wants you to know about the many resources available to help reduce your monthly energy costs. You may qualify for one of more of these solutions.

California Alternate Rates for Energy

You can receive a discount of approximately 30 percent on your monthly electric bill, if you meet this program's income qualifications. **(800) 447-6620**

Energy Assistance Fund

We help by providing you with up to \$100 toward your SCE energy bill, if you meet the program's income qualifications. This assistance is available to you once during a 12-month period. **(800) 205-8596**

Energy Savings Assistance Program

You can receive free energy-saving appliances and services, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, home weatherization, lighting, and a smart power strip at no cost if you meet the programs' eligibility and income requirements (not all services are available in all areas). **(800) 736-4777**

Family Electric Rate Assistance

If you have three or more individuals in your household, and exceed your baseline electricity usage by over 30 percent, you can receive a discount on your energy bill by meeting the program's income requirements. **(800) 447-6620**

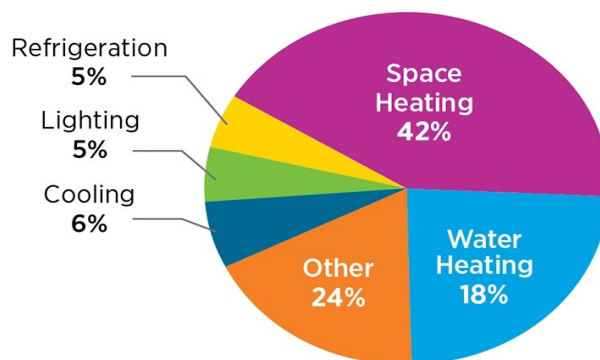
To learn more about these helpful programs, please visit sce.com/billhelper.

These programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California

Home Energy Audits

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, this is how we use energy in our homes. Receiving a home energy assessment means getting advice from professional auditors that will work with you to find cost-effective energy improvement. These improvements will enhance your safety and comfort in your own.

To learn more, visit: <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-energy-audits>



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Our Partners



The Ventura Partnership Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison, in collaboration with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Copyright 2014 Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance. Trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved. Some materials used under license with all rights reserved by the Licensor.