



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, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, the City of Ventura, and the County of 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 receive our newsletter by e-mail, please log on to www.vcenergy.org. VCREA is your one source resource for energy efficiency.

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Foodservice Energy Efficiency

Commercial Kitchen Savings

Maintaining, optimizing and upgrading commercial kitchen equipment can help restaurant businesses reach savings goals. Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) and Southern California Edison (SCE) have energy management resources available to provide pivotal sustainable solutions for the foodservice environment.

Foodservice is energy intensive. Learn how to save by visiting the **Food Service Technology Center** website at www.fishnick.com, which promotes energy efficiency in foodservice, offers tips, information on latest codes and standards, life-cycle cost calculators, design guides, and access to events and educational seminars.

Access foodservice resources with the **California Energy Wise 2016 Rebate Qualified** equipment guide, available online at www.fishnick.com/saveenergy/rebates. California utilities rebate details for equipment include combination ovens, convection ovens, rack ovens, conveyor ovens, deck ovens, steam cookers, fryers, griddles, refrigerators and freezers, air cooled ice machines, insulated holding cabinets, demand controlled ventilation, and pre-rinse spray valves.

Foodservice businesses turn energy into profits by accessing the **SoCalGas Green Restaurant Guide** (available at www.socalgas.com/for-your-business/education-and-training/food-service-equipment-center), the **SCE Restaurant Energy Management Solutions Guide** (available at sce.com/restaurants) as well

as the **Energy Star Guide for Restaurants** (available online at www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-guide-restaurants-putting-energy-profit).

Top Foodservice Energy Efficiency Tips include:

- Eliminating energy wastes by updating old equipment. Having older equipment can lead to food safety, food waste and efficiency and profit margin reductions.
- Incorporating demand response for flexible energy usage.
- Switching to LED fixtures, exit signs and task lighting. Creating ambience with LED color and fixture options.
- Maintaining and operating equipment efficiently such as turning off door heaters on reach-in refrigeration and servicing condenser coils regularly.
- Establish energy efficient practices such as having start-up/shut-down schedules, setting task water heater temperatures (110°F or 140°F for the dishwashing machine) and installing/replacing strip curtains/plastic doors.

For more information on how to save and to register for educational opportunities at the full-service demonstration commercial kitchens, check out the **SoCalGas Food Service Equipment Center** in Downey, CA and the **SCE Foodservice Technology Center** in Irwindale, CA.

Energy Solutions

Did you know your utility company offers energy solutions, rebates and incentives for every type of business? Great energy savings ideas are accessible through the **Southern California Edison (SCE) Energy Management** (www.sce.com/business/ems) and the **Southern California Gas (SoCalGas)** (www.socalgas.com/for-your-business) websites.

Rebates are available for qualifying energy efficient equipment such as LED lights, occupancy sensors, pipe and tank insulation, HVAC units, water heaters, boilers, steam traps, motors and compressors, plug load devices, residential clothes washers for business, greenhouse heat curtains and infrared film, as well as foodservice equipment.

The SCE Business Energy Guide helps to navigate solutions including Renewable Energy choices, Energy Efficiency Express, Demand Response, Direct Install, and HVAC Optimization programs.

SoCalGas helps commercial, industrial and agricultural accounts with their Continuous Energy Improvement, Retrocommissioning and Energy-Efficiency Third-Party Programs.

Knowing where and how your energy dollars are spent is a start to finding opportunities to save. Monitor your energy

use by accessing your utility bills online and taking advantage of utility resources for maintaining, retrofitting and upgrading equipment to reduce your energy demand. Use rebates and incentives to assist with your energy-saving projects.

On-Bill Financing (OBF) can help fund energy efficiency improvement projects. The OBF, Continuous Energy Improvement and Savings by Design programs are available through both SCE and SoCalGas to qualified customers.

Energy assessments are available by request and can help identify equipment and/or operational process improvements, save energy and lower operating costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Get started by contacting your utility account manager about business solutions, rebates and incentives. Reducing your energy demand and experience the savings.

REMINDERS:

- Time-of-use (TOU) Summer On-Peak Rates are in Effect June 1. Learn more at www.sce.com/energytips.
- Colder weather means higher gas bills. Track usage, receive, view and pay bill online. Go to www.socalgas.com/pay-bill/my-account and www.socalgas.com/for-your-business/business-my-account.

CA Green Business Certification

Green Business Certification programs were started in 1996 to assist local businesses make lasting changes that benefit their bottom line, their employees and their community as well as the environment. The programs are typically started by local jurisdictions and as programs spread across the state the **California Green Business Network (CAGBN)** was developed to provide consistency among the programs and share resources, including a statewide certification database and directory available online at greenbusinessca.org.

CAGBN was inducted at the 6th Annual International Green Industry Hall of Fame conference on March 9th in Clovis, CA which recognized pioneers, leaders and visionaries for excellence and outstanding achievements in the green industry.

Want to go Green? Local support is available for Ventura County businesses. The City of Ventura and the City of

Thousand Oaks both operate Certified Green Business Programs. Courtney Lindberg, **City of Ventura**, is Vice-Chair of CaGBN and John Brooks, **City of Thousand Oaks**, is the Chair.

To be certified, businesses must demonstrate they meet all regulatory requirements and have taken action to conserve resources and prevent pollution in both facility (fixtures and maintenance) and operations (purchasing and other practices) measures. Then, let your customers know about the changes you are making.

Over 3,000 business were certified through CAGBN in 2015. Help California reach the 20K by 2030 certified CA Green Business goal. Get started by submitting your **registration form**. Access your CA green business portal to fill out your application. Contact your **local coordinator** if you have any questions.

Battle of the Buildings



The ENERGY STAR® National Building Competition: BOOTCAMP! is a competition that challenges building owners, managers, and occupants to reduce energy and water use, and save money in just 90 days! Organizations from across the country will select up to five buildings to compete in the BOOTCAMP. Participants will benchmark energy use (required) and water use (optional) in Portfolio Manager, sign up to compete during the registration period, and then work to save as much as possible over the competition period.

During that time, EPA will provide engagement toolkits focused on specific energy or water saving topics to help building owners, managers, and occupants save as much energy and water as possible. These kits will include posters, blast emails, tweets, and other resources to get your team fired up!

The average building wastes 30 percent of the energy it uses on things like lights and equipment being left on overnight, scheduling misalignments, and other inefficiencies. Join the BOOTCAMP to jumpstart your energy management program and trim the extra weight from your energy bill.

Winners will be recognized by building category. The buildings in each category that achieve the greatest percentage-based improvement in energy use intensity (kBtu/ft²) or water use intensity (kGal/ft²) will be named Top in Category and receive special recognition from EPA. Recognition will include a feature on the ENERGY STAR website and in the Battle of the Buildings *Wrap-Up Report*.

BOOTCAMP runs from September 1 – November 30, 2016. Key dates to remember:

- May 17 to July 17:** Registration is open.
- July 17:** Energy Star Treasure Hunt webinar.
- September 1:** BOOTCAMP begins!
- November 30:** BOOTCAMP ends.
- January 15:** Competitors submit data to EPA.
- Winter 2017:** EPA announces winners.

Save energy, save money... and get some well-deserved recognition. Learn more at energystar.gov.

Not competitive but want to find savings for your company? Visit the buildings and plants section for service and product providers at <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/service-providers/service-and-product-providers>.

Education & Training Resources

Southern California Edison: Offers training and workshops at two *Energy Education Centers (Irwindale and Tulare)*, in addition to online webinars. To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac or www.sce.com/workshops.

Highlighted courses offered include: Zero Net Energy, Go Solar California! Webinar For Residential and Commercial, Pump and Water Delivery courses, Lighting Technologies Series, HVAC/R Systems and Technologies Trainings and Certifications, Foodservice Technologies Training, Electrical Training Workshops, Commercial and Industrial Benchmarking, Building Envelope, Construction and Software Training.

SoCalGas: Offers Commercial and Industrial, Sustainability and HVAC seminars at the *Energy Resource Center (Downey)*. To enroll and for more information visit www.socalgas.com/for-your-business/education-and-training.

Highlighted courses offered include: Net Zero 2016 Seminar, Gas Engines Seminar, Building Operator Certification, Boiler Water Treatment for Energy Efficiency, Energy Smart Landscapes Sessions, and Best Practice Design for High Performance Recommendations Building Enclosures.

Energy Star: Offers a variety of information and tools through the *ENERGY STAR Training Center*. To enroll and for specific courses and more information visit esbuildings.webex.com.

California Energy Commission: Offers webinars on current energy efficiency standards and regulations rulemakings. For more information visit www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency and click on the *Notices & Workshops* link.

Green Building & Efficiency Tools

Resources are available to integrate best practices in building performance and energy efficiency.

- The **SoCalGas Company** has a dedicated page *For Your Business* at www.socalgas.com/for-your-business. The commercial customer site provides a gateway for businesses seeking ways to increase efficiency, save energy and lower operating costs. Users can manage usage, access natural gas vehicle data, apply for energy-savings programs offered to businesses, access services for building energy-efficient homes and more.
- You can now securely share your **Southern California Edison energy data** via automated access with third party vendors. This feature leverages technology consistent with the standard adopted by the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) in support of the Green Button Initiative. Visit SCE's Green Button - Third Party Connection page at www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/partners/partnerships/access-energy-usage-data to learn how to get started.

- The **County of Ventura Planning Department** has tools available for those wanting to incorporate "green building" into a project. Visiting the Build It Smart page at www.ventura.org/rma/planning/conservation/green-building-energy-tools.html to access these tools and additional ways to take steps to create buildings that are safe and healthy for people and that protect our environment.
- Want to learn more about how to be a green business or how to get certified? Check out the **California Green Business Program** web portal at www.greenbusinessca.org. Customers can search green businesses in the database, businesses can apply to be certified as a green business, access resources or learn how to start a green business program in your area.

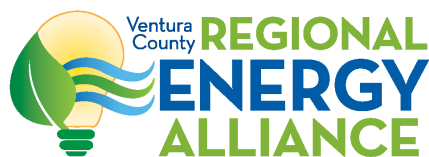
For more information about these and other programs, contact **VCREA** at 805-654-3874 or at vcrea.admin@ventura.org.

VCREA'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: NEXT STEPS

During the first two quarters of 2016, VCREA staff will meet with City staff and Councils to review the Climate on the Move inventory results, projected emissions and efforts to reduce our regional carbon footprint. Stay tuned for more information, in this newsletter and at our next Board meeting in April 2016. See the [full report](http://www.vcenergy.org) at www.vcenergy.org.

UPCOMING VCREA OUTREACH EVENTS

- APR 09 Oxnard Earth Day (Plaza Park)
- APR 16 Thousand Oaks Earth Day (TO Community Park)
- APR 16-17 Conejo Home and Garden Show (Westlake)
- APR 20 CSUCI STEM Expo (Ventura County Fairgrounds)
- APR 23 Ojai Earth Day (Oak Grove School)
- APR 23 Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest (Promenade Park)
- May 14 Simi Valley Street Fair (Cochran Street)
- May 21 Ojai Green Living Home Show (Ojai)



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Our Partners



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