



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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Energy & Climate Solution:

Demand Response

In plain terms, demand-side management is an advanced way of running the grid and reducing our impact on the environment. Instead of relying on power plant capacity and revving power to keep energy provisions stable, active management systems with [demand response](#) (DR) maintains balance of both supply and demand, and saves energy at the same time.

What if we simply wasted less energy? That is the main idea. Demand response encourages energy-saving behaviors and returns savings to homeowners and businesses. It is an opportunity for consumers to play a substantial role in the way the electric grid provides energy by reducing or shifting usage during peak periods in response to time-based rates and other forms of financial incentives. Demand response relies on people and technology, not just power plants, to meet electrical demand.

How is demand response different from energy efficiency? The goal of energy efficiency is to lower overall energy use, while demand response aims to lower consumption at specific times based on price changes. Corporate efficiency initiatives are meant to lower monthly energy bills. By contrast, a change in the price of power, which varies by the hour, triggers a demand response event that

leads to curtailing power for a short period. For users of renewable wind or solar energy, demand response can even out delivery fluctuations.

Why do the utilities encourage customers to participate in demand response programs? Because during extreme temperatures and high usage times of the day, there is a need for DR actions (i.e. lowering grid demand) during these peak electricity times. Demand response programs were developed to prevent having to turn on expensive, auxiliary "peaker" power plants. Instead of relying on these power generators to meet high demand and pushing more power onto the grid, grid stress can be relieved by power curtailments.

Based on the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) annual survey of electric power sales, revenue, and energy efficiency, about 9.3 million customers in the United States participated in demand response programs in 2014. Most of these customers (93%) were in the residential sector, with the average residential customer saving about 100 kilowatt-hours annually. DR is an easy way for residents and businesses to make an impact, for the environment and for their pocket books. By reducing your energy consumption during hours of peak demand, you relieve stress on the grid, the environment and your bottom line (continued on Page 2).

Save Water and Save Energy

A University of California Davis Study released in June revealed energy savings from 2014 urban water use curtailment efforts with 922, 543 megawatt hours saved, enough to power 135,000 homes for one year. California water and energy savings also avoided 219,653 metric tons of GHG emissions. The results have many seeking ways to go for deeper water and energy savings.

It is simple to get more savings by signing up and installing a **Free Energy and Water Saving Kit** available through SoCalGas®. The kit includes three faucet aerators, a low-flow showerhead and a water heater safety whistle.



Request your free kit at www.socalgas.com/for-your-home/energy-savings/starter-kit or contact VCREA for more assistance at vcenergy.org or call 805-654-3874.

Another great way to save energy is to complete an energy efficiency survey to help you identify energy-saving opportunities, receive customized gas, electric and water saving tips on appliances, as well as offer recommendations to better manage and reduce your energy use. Mail-in and online surveys are available.

Complete your home energy surveys by visiting www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/energy-saving-tips-tools/ways-to-save and at sce.energysavvy.com. To access and complete your business energy survey, visit www.socalgas.com/for-your-business/energy-savings and at sce.energysavvy.com/business.



Energy & Climate Solution: (cont'd.)

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides event details for businesses and residents when customers download and set up the SCE Demand Response Alerts mobile app. Receive customized alerts about upcoming DR events delivered straight to your smartphone, available for the following programs:

Residential Summer Discount Plan (SDP), Residential Summer Advantage Incentive (SAI, also known as Critical Peak Pricing), Residential Save Power Day (SPD), Commercial Agricultural Pumping Interruptible (API), Commercial Capacity Bidding Program (CBP), Commercial Demand Bidding Program (DBP), Commercial Summer Advantage Incentive (SAI, as known as Critical Peak Pricing), Commercial Summer

Discount Plan (SDP), Commercial Base Interruptible Program (BIP), and Commercial Real Time Pricing (RTP).



Utility customers investing in smart home automation, such as smart thermostats, lights, solar water heaters and rooftop solar, as well as more energy efficient HVAC systems and windows, can benefit from more efficient energy use and more effective demand response. The added optimization benefits both the grid and utility customers.

Learn more about Demand Response Programs from SCE at www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/business/savings-incentives/demand-response.

2016 Equipment Expo



Save The Date: Oct 18 & 19 2016

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) is hosting its 6th annual 2-day Foodservice Equipment Expo at the Energy Resource Center in Downey, CA on October 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is now open.

The Expo is designed for restaurateurs, foodservice operators, consultants, and dealers to see the most innovating and exciting in back of the house equipment. There will be over one hundred foodservice equipment representatives showcasing the most advanced energy saving equipment; plus exciting special events and educational programs.

Hands-on equipment demonstrations with everything from combi ovens, conveyor ovens, gas fryers, rapid cook ovens, refrigerators and freezers, ice machines, to the latest gadgets and utensils.

Learn how to enhance your operations with energy efficiency, current health codes and taste food samples while getting the opportunity to explore the best supplies and equipment. Register today at www.socalgas.com/for-your-business/education-and-training.

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.

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.

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 (click on Notices & Workshops).

ILG, LGC and SEEC

As a member of the Local Government Commission (LGC), VCREA attended the LGC hosted 7th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) Forum in Riverside this June. The event provided updates from key state agencies and highlighted innovative local energy and climate change programs and resources. VCREA presented County highlighted projects. View the VCREA's posters at vcenergy.org.

LGC members have access to resources to support energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction efforts at the local level through:

- Local Government Energy Efficiency Stories
- Energy Information and Resources
- Climate Change information and Resources
- Ahwahnee Principles for Resource-Efficiency and Livable Communities.

Learn more and view LGC's resources, by visiting www.lgc.org/resources.

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) offers assistance to local leaders toward effective, ethical and collaborative work to foster healthy and sustainable communities. The ILF and SEEC work together to sponsor the Beacon Program which awards government agencies for their holistic approach to addressing climate change.

As a Beacon Program Champion, VCREA is taking steps to recognize our regional achievements towards greater energy and natural gas savings, and greenhouse gas reductions.

Keep watch for 2016 awardees by visiting www.ca-ilg.org/award-winners.



VCREA'S CLIMATE ON THE MOVE

During the first two quarters of 2016, VCREA met with City staff and Councils to review the Climate on the Move inventory results, projected emissions and efforts to reduce our regional carbon footprint. More information on next steps to come. See the [full report at www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org).

UPCOMING VCREA OUTREACH EVENTS

- JUL 12 HVAC Training Workshop (Ventura)
- JUL 7-10 Camarillo Fiesta (Camarillo)
- JUL 19 Residential Solar Workshop (Camarillo Library)
- SEP 9-11 Ventura Fall Home & Garden Show (Ventura)
- SEP 15 Title 24 Training Workshop (Ventura)
- SEP 24 Simi Valley Living Green Expo (Simi Valley)
- SEP 24 Port Hueneme Banana Festival (Port Hueneme)



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Our Partners



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