

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

A Joint Powers Authority to Develop and Implement Sustainable Energy

Annual Report December 2004

Member Agencies

- County of Ventura
- City of Oxnard
- City of San Buenaventura
- City of Thousand Oaks
- Ventura County Community College District
- City of Santa Paula

VCREA is Proud to Report Activities and Accomplishments for its Second Year

Meeting the Funding Challenge. . . .

The VCREA made a smooth transition through two California Public Utilities Commission funded contracts during 2004. The initial 2002-04 CPUC funded projects that included a Strategic Business Plan and first phase facility audits for member agencies; both were finalized on time and at mid-year. This effort laid the successful groundwork for a second round of CPUC funding, amounting to \$1.6 million to pursue energy efficiencies in the calendar years 2004-05 as part of a two-year innovative partnership with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas. These partnership funds and programs have been the focus of many VCREA endeavors this year.

Launching the Ventura County Energy Resource Center (VCERC). . . .

Building on accomplishments from the prior year's funding for an energy resource office, the VCREA/SCE/SCG partnership collaborated on the July 15th opening event for the Ventura County Energy Resource Center. The VCERC is home to an energy resource and tool lending library that is open to residential and commercial utility customers. The VCERC is also the site for various energy efficiency trainings that educate customers, contractors and building operators on energy trends and code compliance issues.

Finding a Home. . . .

Mid-year was also the time for opening the first VCREA office. Located at 1000 South Hill Road, Suite 105, the VCREA offices and VCERC training center operate from a shared office to serve the entire region and remain easily accessible to the public.

Getting to Work. . .

With funding available and a home base secured, the VCREA moved forward in its organizational efforts, by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Ventura to provide certain administrative support services at a minimal cost. With the assistance of several consultants, the VCREA Board initiated a process to hire staff for the position of executive director and project manager to implement the adopted business plan and partnership programs. Executive Director Cheryl Collart began work July 1 and was joined by David Inger, Energy Projects Manager in mid-August. They continue to work with a variety of contract consultants to develop the organization, serve the member agencies and implement partnership programs for energy efficiencies.

Implementing Energy Efficiencies. . . .

Based on the first year audits, and adding to that effort, the member agencies have identified specific facilities and retrofit projects that can be implemented with the \$750,000 customized incentives. The incentives will help achieve the ambitious goal of 6 million kilowatt hours of savings by December 2005. The incentive funds are focused on lighting projects, pumps and motor improvements, hardware installations, sensors, and timers to moderate energy consumption. VCREA staff and consultants have worked with member agency staff to develop contract and implementation processes that will reduce duplication of effort and achieve maximum energy savings for all agencies.

Expanding the Organization

Ventura County Community College District and the City of Santa Paula joined the VCREA this year, and will have opportunity to participate in the customized incentives and support energy savings accruing to the region. Additional public agency members are expected in 2005, as the Joint Powers Agency is more clearly understood and coalitions are formed. VCREA's Board is composed of elected officials from the region.

2004 VCREA Board of Directors

County of Ventura, Supervisor Kathy Long, Chair
City of Ventura, Mayor Brian Brennan, Vice-Chair
City of Oxnard, Dean Maulhardt
City of Thousand Oaks, Dennis Gillette
Ventura County Community College District, Cheryl Heitmann
City of Santa Paula, John Procter

Maintaining Private Sector Involvement. . . .

The VCREA Advisory Committee has further defined its course and continues to add new members as well as open meetings to interested community and business leaders that can help meet the goals of the business plan and achieve long-term sustainability.

2004 Advisory Committee Members

Bob Beinser, Shell Solar, Chair
Craig Brown, Gold Coast Innovation Center
Doug Tapking, Ventura County Area Housing Authority
Joe Chow, Southern California Gas
Mike Villegues, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
Nan Drake, Harrison Industries
Rudy Gonzales, Southern California Edison
Tom Nielsen, Energy Systems Inc.
Tom Umenhofer, Entrix

Meeting the Challenge

Working with elected leaders, energy consultants and business leaders, the VCREA will move forward in 2005 and the second year of the partnership program, to provide the community with energy information and complete the incentive projects identified in 2004. Small business customers will benefit from energy savings as a result of the partnership's ability to leverage funds and bring additional incentives and technical support to the region. In 2005, VCREA will seek expanded partnerships and new funding opportunities to support the long-term goal of reliable and sustainable power for the Ventura County region.