



2012 Annual Report

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Mission Statement

The VCREA mission is 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.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CITY OF CAMARILLO

Charlotte Craven, Chair
Michael Morgan, Alternate

CITY OF SANTA PAULA

Fred Robinson, Vice-Chair
Ralph Fernandez, Alternate

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Kathy Long, Member
Steve Bennett, Alternate

CITY OF VENTURA

Brian Brennan, Member

CITY OF OXNARD

Tim Flynn, Member
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Alternate

CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS

Joel Price, Member

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Larry Miller, Member

VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT

Jonathan Sharkey, Member

VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mary Haffner, Member
Barbara Fitzgerald, Alternate

CITY OF FILLMORE

Brian Sipes, Member

VCREA is a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address the availability, reliability, conservation and innovative use of energy resources in the Ventura County region. Each agency appoints a representative Board Member and Alternate to serve on the VCREA Board. Quarterly Board meetings are held in January, April, July and October on the third Thursday of the month; meetings are open to the public. Membership may be expanded at any time to include new public agency members with shared interests and powers in common. Public agencies may also end their participation at any time; Ojai Valley Sanitary District and Casitas Municipal Water District chose to end their VCREA Board participation in the first quarter of 2012.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) provides a valuable public/private partnership connection to VCREA and lends essential technical and business support to the Board and staff. TAC Member appointments are based on their skills and background with public agencies; utility and business partners; research or education; and general energy interest and willingness to serve. TAC members served "on-call" to assist in individual projects and strategic planning over the year.

Nan Drake
Rudy Gonzales
Poul Hanson
Dan Hardy
Doug Nelson
Tom Nielsen
Michelle Pettes
Wayne Tanaka
Tom Umenhofer
Mike Villegas
Nancy Williams

Harrison Industries
Southern California Edison
Ventura County Office of Education
Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation
MainStreet Architects
Energy Systems, Inc.
Southern California Gas Company
Verified Inc/Tanaka Associates
NRG, LLC
Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
Southern California Edison

YEAR IN REVIEW

This year VCREA fulfilled its mission through two service agreements with public agencies and by a performance contract with the utilities.

Ventura Unified School District and VCREA jointly developed a service menu approach to lend support to the District's "Green Initiative" in identifying energy efficiency opportunities and implementing programs in facilities and operations. The goal of the one year contract was to position the District for greater long term sustainability in the midst of current severe budget cuts. The District now has capability to track and report energy use, has a priority list to implement efficiency projects, gained additional training for District staff involved in energy efficiency maintenance and is positioned to undertake energy education for students, faculty and staff.

City of Ventura and VCREA completed a two year contract that provided technical support for the City's Non-Profit Energy Efficiency Improvement Program benefitting 19 non-profits with operations within the city. Using a portion of federal stimulus funds to install various lighting improvements, the city was able to provide non-profits an estimated savings of \$44,804 in annual utility costs and did not require any shared investment from the participating non-profits.

2012 Public Agency Service Agreements Highlights

- As a result of VCREA's service agreements with the Ventura Unified School District and the City of Ventura a joint effort was facilitated to leverage City stimulus funds to implement lighting upgrades at six VUSD gymnasiums.

2012 California Public Utilities Commission – Local Government Partnership Working in conjunction with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, VCREA continued as the Local Government "implementing partner" to coordinate efforts among the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks and Ventura, and the County of Ventura to undertake energy efficiency projects, train public agency staff and consider opportunities for long term strategic energy efficiency planning as part of the 2010-2012 program cycle.

The Partnership Program has been the cornerstone of the VCREA program, providing a strong connection to public agencies and the VCREA mission. The current program cycle has focused on cities and counties to undertake facility and operational energy efficiency retrofit projects, including participation in SCE's Energy Leader Model Program that provided enhanced incentives for projects. Additionally, funds have been available to support training for building code compliance, as well as building maintenance. Participating agencies have been provided workshops and training on strategic planning for energy efficiency and long term energy sustainability, as well as understanding options for energy finance. The Partnership Program also provides marketing support to residential and small business utility customers with a direct link to dozens of energy rebates, training workshops and utility customer programs.

The Ventura County Partnership Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Southern California Gas Company (SCG) and Southern California Edison (SCE), in partnership with Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the purpose of advancing energy efficiencies in public agencies.

2012 Partnership Contract Highlights

- Identification and coordination of 111 projects (2010-2012 program cycle) funded with ARRA Stimulus funds and leveraged with utility incentives to seven public agencies and benefitting 17 non-profit agencies and one school district.
- Ten codes and standards workshops benefitting approximately 263 individuals; includes support of County of Ventura PEPMA contract staff training goals
- Six Community Events and six Program, Marketing/Outreach Presentations reaching approximately 19,000 individuals.
- Coordination of a BOC Level I & Level II Course for our region benefitting nine local agencies and 11 staff/individuals.
- Six Bi-monthly Newsletters in print and electronic formats; operation of informational website with approximately 500 subscribers; and additional marketing information distribution through ten partnership agencies.
- Support of the City of Oxnard and County of Ventura to accomplish goals pertaining to each agency's SCE Strategic Planning Contract.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Cheryl Collart, VCREA Executive Director

Beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2012, VCREA has met its goals by leveraging service and performance contracts with local resources to benefit public agencies in the implementation of energy efficiency programs. Working as a regional energy office to provide an information clearinghouse, technical support, training and outreach, VCREA has helped lead the way to identify and implement numerous energy saving projects. These projects have been funded with ratepayer incentives, federal stimulus funds, local maintenance budgets and capital funds. The return on investment is being exercised in advancing renewable energy projects in public facilities and deploying a well-trained workforce in energy planning, new technology and building standards.

The annual report provides a great opportunity to assess accomplishments and prepare for new endeavors. It is a pleasure to lead the VCREA team that includes many individuals, businesses, public agencies and community leaders who have engaged in the organization and contributed to the following estimated **BIG** numbers:

- ✓ ***38 public officials from 12 public agencies have served on the VCREA Board of Directors; and 12 dedicated community professionals serving as the Technical Advisory Council***
- ✓ ***nearly \$10.5 million of CPUC funds was available to the region***
- ✓ ***246 projects were identified and installed by 40 public and non-profit agencies that received over \$2.3 million in incentives and benefitting a reduction of over 16 million kilowatt-hours which would provide annual power to approximately 2,400 households***
- ✓ ***an additional 19 public and non-profit agencies received the benefit of VCREA's Initiative Program for Vending Machine Controllers and Exit Signs that resulted in a reduction of over 1.5 million kilowatt-hours***
- ✓ ***saved more than 61,500 therms through boiler replacements, super efficient water heating, youth educational programs and low-flow spray rinse measures***
- ✓ ***linked energy efficiency to the emerging green economy through case studies, green building practices, educational programs for students and technical support for county-wide green building initiatives***
- ✓ ***published 48 newsletters that provided technical information and highlighted accomplishments of participating public agencies; wrote numerous articles for local publications; and maintained a website and lending library***
- ✓ ***provided 157 training workshops covering a variety of technical subjects including building codes and standards, planning and energy finance that benefitted an estimated 3,000 public and private sector energy professionals building local green job capacity***
- ✓ ***supported/participated in 100 community events such as earth days and residential energy awareness programs as well as community based organization meetings reaching 153,000 individuals***