



2015 Annual Report

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance

Mission Statement

The Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (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.

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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.

2015 PROGRAM CYCLE IN REVIEW

Ventura County Partnership Program:
A Local Government Partnership – Public Utilities Commission 2015

Working in conjunction with Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) continued as the Local Government “implementing partner” for the Ventura County Partnership Program to coordinate efforts among local entities in the region to undertake energy efficiency projects, train public agency staff and consider opportunities for long-term strategic energy efficiency planning as part of the 2015 program cycle. The Partnership Program has been the cornerstone of the VCREA program, providing a strong connection to public agencies and the VCREA mission.

CLIMATE ON THE MOVE

VCREA prepared an inventory of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (2010 through 2012) for the region and for each of its local government member organizations with funding from Southern California Edison, under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. The purpose of the project was to assist the Cities and the County with planning in order to mitigate and address changes that result from climate change including: rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, increased wildfire risk, public health impacts, water supply changes, increased demand for summertime cooling, sea level rise, and less resilient agriculture.

The VCREA inventory (or carbon footprint) is divided into three broad areas: energy (electricity and natural gas combustion), mobile sources (on and off road burning of diesel and gasoline), and other emission sources (including landfill gas, emissions from wastewater treatment plants, and others). Climate on the Move also outlines a climate action template with GHG reduction measures for local governments to consider, under the following areas:

- Green Building and Energy
- Water
- Transportation
- Solid Waste and Recycling
- Non-Traditional Measures

Although individual VCREA members have developed GHG inventories and/or Climate Action Plans, the region as a whole lacked a comprehensive, community-based inventory of energy use and associated GHG emissions.

VCREA is committed to implementation of energy efficiency measures that result in GHG reductions. Development of GHG inventories for the region now provide important planning information since the inventories allow VCREA to analyze comparative GHG emissions and energy use and to identify trends over time. The availability of Climate Action Plan modules for consideration are designed to assist local government staff and elected officials regarding municipally owned and community-based energy efficiency measures as well as serve as a tool to obtain Cap and Trade funding. Additionally, the Climate on the Move will serve as a resource for local municipalities interested in the Beacon Award.

Beacon Award Program

The Beacon Award Program is a statewide program that provides support and recognition to California Cities and Counties that are working to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, save energy, and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability. The Beacon Program is funded through California utility ratepayers and sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC).

SEEC

SEEC is a collaboration between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor Owned Utilities.

The Beacon Program features two types of awards (Beacon Award and Spotlight Award) in five areas of accomplishments, including reducing municipal and community GHG emissions, electricity and gas savings in municipal facilities, and sustainability best practices. Within each area, a participant can earn a silver, gold, or platinum Beacon Spotlight Award based on level of achievement. To win a full Beacon Award, participants are required to demonstrate achievement in all five areas.

Beacon Program Participation

Currently, the Cities of Ventura and Simi Valley participate in the Beacon Program. The City of Ventura has a Gold Spotlight Award for Agency Energy Saving and the City of Simi Valley is the recipient of a Silver Spotlight Award for Agency Energy Savings and a Silver Spotlight Award for Best Practice Activities. Now that **Climate on the Move** is complete, VCREA has data and staff time available to help all partnership agencies participate in the Beacon Program. In the spring of 2016, VCREA staff will collaborate with partnership agencies to complete award applications and collect information about each agency's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, save energy, and report back on their progress in implementing activities in the ten best practice areas. The applications are due July 1, 2016, and award recipients will be notified in September 2016. Awards will be given out to Cities during the League of California Cities Conference in Long Beach on October 6th. Counties will receive their awards during the California State Association of Counties Conference in Palm Springs on November 30th.

2015 Municipal Projects

In 2015, six projects were completed by Partnership entities, which accounted for 37 percent of our kWh savings goal. Due to processing delays with the utilities, some projects were pushed into the first quarter of 2016.

Project	Incentive	Entity
City Of Camarillo Water Div. Ref 5762	\$ 20,324.50	Camarillo
Wastewater Treatment	\$ 2,518.30	Thousand Oaks
City of San Buenaventura	\$ 3,000.00	Ventura
Ventura Wastewater Treatment	\$ 16,738.19	Ventura
County Of Ventura - Soule Park	\$ 3,893.98	County
County Of Ventura	\$ 5,421.54	County
Total	\$ 51,896.51	

Outlined below are those 2015 projects that were pushed into 2016. *NOTE: Had these projects been reported in 2015, VCREA would have achieved 185 percent of our 2015 energy savings goal.*

Project	Incentive	Entity
Plant Well #2	\$ 125,286.30	County
Plant Bradley Bst #2	\$ 14,016.48	County
Williams Drive	\$ 25,088.76	County
East County Courthouse	\$ 8,736.30	County
Ventura Wastewater Treatment	\$ 36,993.60	Ventura
Total	\$ 210,121.44	

Community Outreach Efforts

VCREA has been very active in supporting outreach with partners from local Cities and other local organizations. Below is a list of outreach events for 2015 hosted by VCREA and other partner organizations that further the mission of VCREA.

January – June

Event	City	Attendees
Oxnard Homeowner Workshop	Oxnard	19
Ventura County Coastal Association Realtors Presentation	Ventura	34
Thousand Oaks City Workshop Series Presentation	Thousand Oaks	34
VC Climate Hub - Solar and Energy Panel Workshop - Ventura	Ventura	51
State Board of Equalization Resource Fair - Oxnard	Oxnard	12
Lunch & Learn for Community College & Unified School District Employees	Ventura	13
Ventura Spring Home Show	Ventura	97
Ventura County Lunch & Learn	Ventura	10
Coastal Housing Partnership Seminar - Ventura	Ventura	16
Oxnard Earth Day	Oxnard	58
Tabling at Ventura County Credit Union - Ventura	Ventura	18
Ojai Valley Earth Day	Ojai	35
Thousand Oaks Arbor Earth Day	Thousand Oaks	53
Tabling at Ventura County Credit Union - Oxnard	Oxnard	27
Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest	Ventura	32
emPower Presentation at Community Associations Institute CI Luncheon	Ventura	176
Ventura Homeowner Workshop with Solarize	Ventura	28
Thousand Oaks Workshop	Oxnard	3

July- December

Event	City	Attendees
Homeowner Workshop - Oxnard	Oxnard	4
Defeat The Drought Expo - Thousand Oaks	Thousand Oaks	46
Port Hueneme Beach Festival – Day 1	Port Hueneme	68
Port Hueneme Beach Festival – Day 2	Port Hueneme	72
City of Ventura Homeowner Training Workshop	Ventura	11
Golden Lawn Water Conservation Event	Ventura	65
Ventura Home and Garden Show	Ventura	246
Simi Valley Living Green Expo	Simi Valley	55
Resource Collaboration Workshop – Health Care Agency Employees	Ventura	10
Moorpark Country Days	Moorpark	74
Conejo Home and Garden Show – Day 1	Westlake	68
Conejo Home and Garden Show – Day 2	Westlake	54
Thousand Oaks Street Fair	Thousand Oaks	171
LED Holiday Light Exchange - VC Pollution Prevention Center	Ventura	36
CAPS TV Interview	Ventura	n/a
LED Holiday Light Exchange - Eagle Scout Project and Casa Pacifica	Camarillo	93
Dilbeck Realty Group Workshop	Westlake	21
LED Holiday Light Exchange – Thousand Oaks	Thousand Oaks	119
LED Holiday Light Exchange – Simi Valley	Simi Valley	97
Conejo, Moorpark, Simi Valley Realtors Association Workshop	Westlake	12
LED Holiday Light Exchange –		
VTA Government Center & CSUCI Environmental Science Club	Ventura	60
Contractor Training: Progressive Sales Team Workshop	Canoga Park	24

VCREA 2015 Holiday LED Light Exchange

The Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance teamed up with participating local household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste (e-waste) events to provide County residents with free energy saving LED light strands this holiday season. The goal of the holiday light exchange was to educate Ventura County residents on the benefits of switching to LED holiday lights, which help the environment as well as lower energy use during the high demand holiday season. County residents had the opportunity at five different events to recycle several strands of their old incandescent holiday lights – whether or not they still work – in exchange for two free strands of LED holiday lights.



Ventura County Staff and CSUCI Students at a Co-Hosted LED Holiday Light Exchange

Decorating with LED holiday lights has numerous benefits over decorating with incandescent lights. LEDs are 80 percent more energy efficient than incandescent lights and last seven times longer. Additionally, utilizing LED holiday lights saves money as well as provides a safer option for holiday decorating.

Event Participation

VCREA Holiday Light Exchange events took place at three municipal organized HHW events and two co-hosted community e-waste events. The first light exchange at an HHW event took place at the County of Ventura Pollution Prevention Center on October 24th, followed by an HHW event in the City of Thousand Oaks on November 20th, and the final HHW event was held on November 21st in the City of Simi Valley.

The first co-hosted e-waste event took place in the City of Camarillo and was part of an Eagle Scout project. The project involved the Eagle Scout coordinating operations with local Boy Scout troops. This was a great opportunity for the VCREA team to teach energy conservation and responsible materials recycling across generations. All participants enjoyed the event and voiced their willingness to host future events. The credits for this event, collected through PC Recycle, were attributed to Casa Pacifica. The second co-hosted e-waste event was held at the Ventura County Government Center and manned by students in the Environmental Science and Resources Management Department at California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI). This event provided an opportunity for VCREA staff to mentor 22 students in the viability of green studies and their future role in the workforce. The advisor and students were also interested in working with VCREA again. The credits for this event, collected through PC Recycle, were attributed to the CSUCI Environmental Sciences Club.



**Pollution Control Center HHW Event and
Light Exchange**



**Ventura County Government Center
Light Exchange**



**CSUCI Students Exchanging Old Incandescent
Lights for Efficient New LED Lights**

Event News

The VCREA Holiday Light Exchange event was well advertised, using many different outlets, including: social media, newspapers, and television. Articles on the event appeared in the Ventura County Star, VC Reporter, and the Hueneme Pilot. Event announcements were posted on websites for the Cities of Port Hueneme and Ventura, through Sustainable Ventura TV, as well as on many Twitter feeds and Facebook accounts.

Energy Results

The VCREA Holiday Light Exchange was extremely successful. VCREA recovered 995 incandescent holiday light strands and handed out 560 new LED holiday light strands, for a total of 40,596 Watts recovered. More than 400 households received VCREA program information and 294 households received new LED lights. For additional information on the results for the LED Holiday Light Exchange, please refer to Table 1 below.



Holiday Light Exchange Flyer

Table 1: LED Holiday Light Exchange Results

Event	Recovered Incandescent Strands	Watts Recovered	Households Receiving Program Information	Households Receiving Lights	LED Strands Handed Out	Watts Handed Out	Watts Saved
Pollution Control Center	88	3,590	36	19	38	133	3,457
Camarillo- Eagle Scout Event- Casa Pacifica	208	8,486	93	47	94	329	8,157
Thousand Oaks	174	7,099	119	62	124	434	6,665
Simi Valley	74	3,019	97	16	32	112	2,907
Ventura Government Center - CSUCI	451	18,401	60	150	272	952	17,449
Event Totals	995	40,596	405	294	560	1,960	38,636

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CITY OF CAMARILLO:

Gold Tier

Activity: Achieved 20.25 percent energy savings for municipal facilities over a 2006 baseline. Making progress to move to platinum.

CITY OF FILLMORE:

Platinum

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events.

CITY OF OXNARD:

Gold Tier

Activity: Utility Management System finished implementation phase. Improved permitting process for energy efficiency projects for single family homes.

CITY OF SANTA PAULA:

Silver Tier

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events.

CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS:

Silver Tier

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events

CITY OF VENTURA:

Silver Tier

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events

COUNTY OF VENTURA:

Gold Tier

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events

CITY OF MOORPARK:

Silver Tier

Activity: Continued to work with VCREA to identify future projects and hosting community events.