South Bay Cities Council of Governments

December 8, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director
Kim Fuentes, Deputy Executive Director

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – November 2025

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

Energy Efficiency & Sustainability

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) AGENCY SUPPORT
Contract period is January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Contract goal: Work Plan (including goals) underway for 2025

South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program (SBECRP)
The SBCCOG will be hosting the Third Annual South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program Award Ceremony at a luncheon on **Thursday, December 11, 11am-1pm**, at the Harold E. Hofmann Community Center in Lawndale. Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Officer for LA County, will attend as the keynote speaker. All elected officials as well as city staff who have been working with the SBCCOG on sustainability initiatives are invited. RSVP to Eleanor Murphy eleanor@southbaycities.org.

Energy Efficiency Project Status: SBCCOG and SoCalREN project managers are working with the following agencies to advance energy efficiency projects:

- City of Carson – The Heat Pump Water Heater project at Carson Park has been approved at 100% cost coverage ($10,398 in incentives). An Initial Measures List for Veteran's Sports Complex has been delivered to the city by the SoCalREN.and they are waiting for city confirmation to move forward. A meeting was held to vet facilities for Capture the Cold technology – SoCalREN is vetting the information.
- City of El Segundo – The Wiseburn Aquatic Stadium pool heater incentive application is moving through the approval process.
- City of Hawthorne – The Police Department lighting project and Memorial Center HVAC are in construction and reporting phases. The SBCCOG is working with the SoCalREN to develop a case study of these projects. The identified Heat Pump Water Heater project has been queued for 2026 by SoCalREN due to limited incentive funds at this time.

- City of Inglewood – The City Hall lighting and pump project is under construction.
- City of Lawndale – The Capture the Cold HVAC technology proposal developed by Stasis and SoCalREN was delivered to the city and is awaiting city confirmation.
- City of Lomita – The identified HVAC opportunities have been put on hold by the city.
- City of Manhattan Beach – The SoCalREN is working to rectify schematic drawings as requested by the city for the Heat Pump Water Heater project.
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes – Due to limited HVAC funds, the city is foregoing the Capture the Cold HVAC duct technology opportunities identified in last month's audit. SBCCOG, SoCalREN, and the city are considering other projects for incentives.
- City of Rolling Hills – Incentives have been identified for upgrading a Heat Pump Water Heater at City Hall. To move forward, the city must select a unit to upgrade and schedule a site visit.
- City of Torrance – Multiple eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN consultants, Statis Energy Group, developed a proposal for the city which was returned in late November. Next steps and funding are currently being evaluated.
- Lennox Elementary School District – Lighting upgrades at five schools are moving forward under the Metered Savings Program. The district is also installing more free Heat Pump Water Heaters.

Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) Program – The SBCCOG is working with the cities **of Gardena, Hawthorne, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach** to develop Energy Resilience Action Plans – which review city-specific near- to long-term community energy resilience strategies. This work also includes development of a retrofit plan to transform city owned facilities into community resilience centers and will provide a collection of resilience planning resources and references. The final ERAP plans will be delivered to participating cities by the end of the year.

Facility Equipment Inventory Program (FEI) – SBCCOG staff continue to work with cities to update FEI workbooks to help them better understand current energy-using equipment. To date, 58 facilities across 15 South Bay cities, 1 school district, and 1 special district have been completed and resulted in identification of over **940,000** potential kWh savings from lighting retrofits and **112** HVAC units that are overdue for replacement. From this work, staff were able to quickly facilitate installation of almost 60 Heat Pump Water Heater replacements since 2023 with no costs to the agency. In addition, SBCCOG staff are facilitating installation of the new Capture the Cold ductwork technology offering (as low as $6,000 before financing with as much as 40% energy savings). Currently, the workbooks are being updated to capture projects that have been completed by the cities and to add additional equipment replacement needs.

FDEEE & Commercial Direct Install

Through the SoCalREN's new commercial programs, administered by Willdan and San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization, the SBCCOG is implementing a pilot program for the Food Desert Energy Efficiency Equity (FDEEE) and Commercial Direct Install programs in the City of Gardena. These programs provide free energy efficiency measures and installation at hard-to-reach and low-income low-access businesses. SBCCOG staff continue to conduct door-to-door outreach to eligible businesses. The

team has audited **59** business facilities, and **28** projects have been signed on and are underway with 18 projects installed representing $326,000 in incentives to date.

Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG is working with AESC Inc., a technical consultant, to conduct a cool roof feasibility study. AESC-created and cities approved criteria ranked the 14 "most suitable" sites in Carson, Gardena, Inglewood, Lomita, Redondo Beach, and Torrance. The final report and site plans will be published in December.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Multifamily & Kits for Kids

Contract period is January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Contract goals: Contact, track progress, and outreach to local community organizations; track number of virtual events held and attendees; distribute program collateral to local community organizations.

SoCalREN Multifamily and Hard-to-Reach-Direct-Install Energy Efficiency

SBCCOG staff are working to identify multifamily property owner customers for the SoCalREN Multifamily program. Contacts are being identified through Chambers of Commerce and city business lists. SBCCOG and SoCalREN will work to enroll eligible properties in this energy- and cost-saving program. SBCCOG continues to share co-branded materials at community outreach events.

Kits for Kids

Schools in disadvantaged areas or those that receive Title 1 funding are eligible to participate in the LA County Kits for Kids program, which provides free energy efficiency kits (LEDs, faucet aerators, and games) to third- and fourth-grade students to implement at home and $1,000 to teachers who implement it in their classrooms. SBCCOG staff continue to facilitate South Bay school enrollments into the program. Inglewood USD and Hawthorne SD are participating now in the Fall 2025 semester. Wiseburn USD is interested in participating in 2026. Efforts are underway to conduct celebration events for the students and teachers in Hawthorne SD in January 2026.

Southern California Gas Company Energy Pathways

Contract period is May 19, 2024 – December 31, 2027

SBCCOG staff continue to work with SoCalGas to promote gas energy efficiency assistance program opportunities and financing support to cities, school districts, and residents. Current day-to-day activities continue with the support from SoCalGas staff. Program offerings and related marketing materials have been shared with agencies to support outreach to residents and businesses.

- Restaurant Energy Efficiency Starter Kit: Kit includes energy- and water-saving tools such as a pre-rinse spray valve, faucet aerators, gas valve handles, a Turbo Pot aluminum frying pan for efficient cooking, and a pocket thermometer for food service businesses.
- Commercial Building Energy Solutions and Technologies (C-BEST) Program: Provides technical assistance and incentives for businesses to implement natural gas-saving measures in commercial buildings.

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

The contract period is July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on November 13 to discuss the implementation of programs and lessons learned at recent rain barrel events. SBCCOG staff also continue to respond to phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line.

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 100 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.
Status of goal: 55 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars Educational Classes

Contract goal: Up to 17 physical classes or virtual webinars
Status of goal: 6

Canceled:

- Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - *Transforming Lawns: A Sustainable Approach,* Darby Park - Inglewood

Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 6 Rain barrel distribution events.
Status of goal: 6 Rain barrel program distributions:
Completed:

- Saturday, September 13, Rain Barrel Program City of El Segundo
- Saturday, September 27, Rain Barrel Program City of Carson
- Saturday, October 4, Rain Barrel Program City of Lawndale
- Saturday, October 11, Rain Barrel Program City of Culver City
- Saturday, November 1, Rain Barrel Program City of Inglewood
- Saturday, November 22, Rain Barrel Program City of Malibu

Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

The contract period is January 1-December 31, 2026
Contract goal: promote WRD programs and support in-person events
Status of goal: ongoing

Ongoing promotion of WRD programs continues through SBCCOG's e-newsletters and social media channels. SBCCOG also posts WRD events on its website and sends e-blasts to help boost attendance. Staff attend events and distribute marketing materials to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and other community locations. In addition, SBCCOG staff support WRD staff by promoting and attending the Eco-Gardening Classes.

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD)

The contract period is January 1-December 31, 2026

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events
Contract goal: 100 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.
Status of goal: 57 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Ongoing promotion of LACSD programs continues through SBCCOG's e-newsletters and social media channels as well as website postings of LACSD events and sending e-blasts to help boost attendance. Staff attend events and distribute marketing materials to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and other community locations.
Task - Speakers Bureau
Contract goal: identify and coordinate up to 3 speaking opportunities.
Status of goal: 2/3 Identified and Scheduled

- *Carson Gardena Dominguez Rotary Club* – Scheduled December 10, 2025
- *City of Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission* – Scheduled February 5, 2026

Waste Reduction

Rolling Hills Organic Waste

Contract period is April 8, 2024 – April 1, 2026

The SBCCOG continues to work with the City of Rolling Hills to provide public education and outreach to residents on organic waste recycling and food waste prevention. Funded by a CalRecycle SB 1383 grant, the technical consultant, EcoNomics, Inc., has developed outreach materials and conducted two workshops. Purchasing and distribution of organic waste equipment will continue throughout the remainder of this year and into the new year. In addition, EcoNomics is developing educational videos to be shared with residents. Videos are expected to be completed by Dec. 23.

Green Business

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP): *Ongoing*

The SBCCOG continues to provide information to local businesses on opportunities to implement sustainability programs while maintaining relationships and communication channels. Businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' programs and information posted on the SBCCOG website through a quarterly e-newsletter.

GBAP by city: Carson (18), El Segundo (55), Gardena (55), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (83), Inglewood, (20), Lawndale (30), Lennox (10), Lomita (9), Manhattan Beach (10), Palos Verdes Estates

(9), Rancho Palos Verdes (11), Redondo Beach (6), Rolling Hills Estates (6) Torrance (92), Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) and District 15 (8) for a total of **435** businesses participating as of November 2025.

Climate Action

SBCCOG staff, with support from volunteers and prior CivicSpark Fellows, continue to work with cities to finalize the draft 2019-2020 greenhouse gas inventory (GHG) emissions reports. SBCCOG staff have completed **13 final reports** which have been sent to cities and are posted on the SBCCOG website, and two more are currently under review by city staff. The SBCCOG's ICLEI membership enabled Carson to access GHG data to inform future GHG emissions inventories and climate action planning efforts.

Biodiversity grant opportunity: In support of the SBCCOG subregional adaptation plan, SBCCOG staff have been working with the LA County's Chief Sustainability Office and Jacobs consulting firm to submit an application to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for developing a biodiversity plan with demonstration projects within South Bay. The SBCCOG submitted a concept proposal to RMC and received approval to submit a full Proposition 68 grant application by mid-January.

CivicSpark Fellows

Three CivicSpark Fellows service term will end in September 2026. Below are descriptions of each of their current work.

Addie, CivicSpark Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Fellow is strategizing potential partnerships, supporting Commercial Direct Install programs and energy benchmarking, helping to plan Kits for Kids and the recognition program event, and developing SBESC and GBAP Newsletter content.

Meghan, CivicSpark Communications Fellow is developing and circulating SBCCOG materials, helping to create and facilitate a communications working group with cities and partners, generating content and tracking analytics for SBCCOG social media platforms, and covering various SBCCOG events.

Aaron, CivicSpark Transportation Fellow is supporting the SBCCOG's Local Travel Network (LTN): conducting research on micromobility and NEV programs, analyzing mode-shift strategies, supporting outreach, assisting with data collection for behavioral studies, tracking legislation related to micromobility, and helping to develop communication materials that promote safe, sustainable, and accessible travel options throughout the region.

Transportation

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) *(Contract period November 18, 2022 – November 17, 2025)*
South Bay events are being held both virtually and in person. SBCCOG staff continue to prepare, update, and share the outreach calendar events to provide opportunities for Metro to share their Express Lane

program. In November, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at two events. SBCCOG staff is working to execute a new contract for November 18, 2025 – November 17, 2026 that was approved by the SBCCOG Board in October.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 52.5 hours for November 2025

Some of the volunteer projects for November included supporting outreach events and SBCCOG meetings, updating databases, and conducting program research. The Volunteer Recognition Event was held on **Thursday, November 20, 2025**, just prior to the Board meeting. SBCCOG staff reviewed volunteer hours and recognized all volunteers as well as some who reached specific milestone levels. Cities were also notified when their residents, who volunteer with the SBCCOG, achieved these milestones so they could provide their own recognition.

Additionally, seven new volunteers were interviewed and joined the program.

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In November 2025:

3 - Networking Event
3 - In Person Community Event
0 - Business Event
0 – Workshops Events