

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

July 14, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – June 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.

2025 SoCalREN Energy Efficiency Offerings

The SoCalREN continues to offer the following incentives for equipment **through December 2025** (eligibility and amounts vary based on each incentive):

- Tankless Water Heater
- Faucet Aerator
- Laminar Flow Restrictor
- Low-flow Showerhead
- Gas dryer Modulating Valve
- Hot Water Pipe Insulation

Contact Eleanor Murphy at Eleanor@southbaycities.org if your city is interested in any of the above. Quantities are limited to first come first served.

Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG hired AESC Inc., a consultant, to complete the cool roof feasibility study. Cities will receive final site plans with information and recommendations on the technology, benefits and co-benefits, funding sources, and site identification. The consultant is currently developing a literature review on technology options. Next steps, AESC and SBCCOG will develop criteria to select the best facilities with city input. City staff at the Energy Manager Working Group were briefed on the pilot and potential involvement, including data sharing and site visit coordination.

Facility Equipment Inventory Program (FEI) – SBCCOG staff continue to conduct on-site visits summarized below and work with SoCalREN to implement programs. To date, SBCCOG has inventoried **57** facilities across 15 South Bay cities, 1 school district, and 1 special district. Staff have identified over **940,000** potential kWh savings from lighting retrofits and **112** HVAC units that are overdue for replacement.

Project Status: SBCCOG and SoCalREN project managers are working with the following to help move energy efficiency projects forward:

- City of Carson – The city is moving Heat Pump Water Heater vetting through the SoCalREN incentive program.
- City of El Segundo – The Aquatic Stadium pool heater project is wrapping up this month with the SoCalREN. The SoCalREN also has finalized its review of a significant lighting overhaul at City Hall. While considerable energy and financial bill savings have been identified, the city is currently understaffed and having difficulty moving forward on the projects.
- City of Hawthorne – The Police Department lighting project is moving forward with American Wholesale lighting. The city is also exploring Heat Pump Water Heater opportunities.
- City of Redondo Beach – Perry Park sports field lighting incentive application is underway. Other identified projects (new chillers, PAC overhaul) are not moving forward due to limited city funds.
- City of Rolling Hills – The city is moving Heat Pump Water Heater vetting through the SoCalREN incentive program.
- LA County Sanitation Districts – Lincus, SoCalREN technical consult, has identified 33 projects throughout their district. SBCCOG staff are supporting the projects with potential located inside the South Bay territory.
- Lennox Elementary School District – Lighting upgrades at multiple school sites are moving forward under the Metered Savings Program. The district is also installing more free Heat Pump Water Heaters. Finally, the district is enrolling in the Strategic Energy Management Cohort, which will provide energy and facility upgrade support on a specialized level.

57 – Site Visits Completed for Facility Equipment Inventories in the following agencies:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • CARSON (2) | • LOMITA (4) | • TORRANCE (3) |
| • EL SEGUNDO (7) | • MANHATTAN BEACH (3) | • BEACH CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT (1) |
| • GARDENA (4) | • PALOS VERDES ESTATES (1) | • HERMOSA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT (2) |
| • HAWTHORNE (3) | • RANCHO PALOS VERDES (3) | |
| • HERMOSA BEACH (3) | • REDONDO BEACH (5) | |
| • INGLEWOOD (8) | • ROLLING HILLS (3) | |
| • LAWDALE (3) | • ROLLING HILLS ESTATES (2) | |

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. The city-specific plans look at near to long-term strategies to support community energy resilience, develop a retrofit plan to transform city owned facilities into community resilience centers, and provide a collection of resilience planning resources and references. SoCalREN is conducting site audits for up to four facilities per city. SBCCOG Staff in coordination with city staff have been implementing community outreach with finalized flyers and surveys which are being distributed to residents at summer events. So far, over 100 survey responses have been received from residents across all four cities.

School District Outreach

SoCalREN Enrollments to Date: Centinela Valley Union High School District, El Segundo Unified School District, Hawthorne School District, Hermosa Beach City School District, Lennox Elementary

School District, Manhattan Beach Unified School District, Palos Verdes Peninsula School District, Redondo Beach Unified School District and Torrance Unified School District.

FDEEE & Commercial Direct Install

Through the SoCalREN's new commercial programs, administered by Wildan, SBCCOG is implementing the 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 to hard to reach and low-income low-access businesses. Gardena is the first full implementation of the program which will be rolled out to the rest of the SoCalREN territory for specific selected sites that meet program criteria. SBCCOG staff continue to conduct door-to-door outreach to eligible businesses. The team has audited 41 business facilities and proposals with recommendations are being delivered to owners. Contractor visits are beginning on a rolling basis.

Residential Direct Install Program

Through the SoCalREN's residential program, administered by ICF, SBCCOG is supporting implementation of a direct install program this fall in Wilmington, one of the first "rapid start" communities in the City of Los Angeles. The program hopes to complete installs in over 1,200 homes in the Southern California Region in the first year. The program will expand to other eligible cities and neighborhoods in 2026.

Institute for Local Government Beacon Awards

SBCCOG supports cities in applying for the Institute for Local Government's annual Beacon Awards. This program honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and adopt policies that promote sustainability. The SBCCOG worked with the cities of Gardena and Torrance on their applications which are due by July 15. If your city is interested in the SBCCOG staff helping, reach out to Shawn at Shawn@southbaycities.org.

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 Energy Efficiency

SBCCOG continues to share program information with eligible multifamily housing properties. The SBCCOG is working with the County's team to develop case studies highlighting the successful projects in the South Bay region as well as co-branded marketing materials.

Kits for Kids

Schools in disadvantaged areas or which receive Title 1 funding are eligible to participate in the LA County Kits for Kids program, which provides energy efficiency kits (LEDs, faucet aerators, and games) to third- and fourth-grade students to implement at home and \$1000 to teachers who implement it in their classrooms. This program is completely free to the school. SBCCOG staff is working to encourage South Bay schools to take advantage of it. Hawthorne SD and Lennox ESD have confirmed

participation. Staff recently presented to the Inglewood USD Board and hope to bring them on board as well.

Southern California Gas Company Energy Pathways

Contract period is May 19, 2024 – May 22, 2025

SBCCOG staff continues 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 of Alma Briseno, LA Regional representative.

CivicSpark Fellows

CivicSpark Fellows, a program operated through AmeriCorps, supports the SBESC programs. The program has been able to obtain funding for the 2025-26 program year and therefore the SBCCOG has submitted for a request for three new fellows to work on: 1) energy, 2) communications, and 3) transportation. Resumes for potential candidates will be sent to the SBCCOG at the end of July or beginning of August.

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

The contract period is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on June 9 and June 23 to discuss the implementation of programs. A new contract was approved and is expected to be received in June. SBCCOG Chair Rodney Tanaka, along with Martha Segovia, attended the West Basin Board meeting to thank them for our continued partnership.

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 100 exhibition events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

*Status of goal: 120 event exhibits, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. **GOAL***

EXCEEDED

Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars Educational Classes

Contract goal: Up to 10 physical classes or virtual webinars

*Status of goal: 8 completed **GOAL MET***

June Events:

Thursday, June 19, 2025, Juneteenth DJ Showcase -Gardena

Saturday, June 28, 2025, City of Lomita Founders Day -Lomita

Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events.

Status of goal: 5 Rain barrel program distribution **GOAL MET**

SBCCOG staff have responded to phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line

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 other social media channels. In addition, SBCCOG posts WRD events on the website and sends out e-blasts to increase attendance at events. SBCCOG and WRD staff meet to coordinate communication efforts and upcoming informational campaigns.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) under SoCalGas

The contract period is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

Contract goal: Exhibit or present at 10 targeted special events

*Status of goal: 16 exhibit events completed **GOAL EXCEEDED***

In addition to these events, SBCCOG staff continued to research new community event opportunities in District 15 and to communicate with event planners to secure in-person participation as well as provide information virtually. SBCCOG staff is working with LADWP and SoCalGas on contract renewal which will likely happen in mid-summer or early fall.

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

Contract goal: Conduct 8 commercial water kitchen assessments in CD15

*Status of goal: 9 water assessments completed; materials and packages were distributed **GOAL MET***

SBCCOG staff conducted outreach walks in District 15 in June and completed one water assessment.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025- Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

Contract goal: 100 exhibition events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

*Status of goal: 116 Exhibition events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc. **GOAL EXCEEDED***

Contract goal: Schedule up to 3 Sanitation Districts-related presentations.

*Status of goal: 3 presentations scheduled – COMPLETED **GOAL MET***

SBCCOG is working with the Sanitation Districts on contract renewal which will likely happen in August.

Presentations Scheduled:

- LACSD Speaker Presentation to Redondo Beach's Public Works and Sustainability Commission – June 23, 2025
- LACSD Speaker Presentation to Torrance Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation Commission – **POSTPONED** to August 2025

The SBCCOG staff conducted research, updated the speaker's bureau master list, and reached out to organizations to schedule presentations on behalf of the Sanitation Districts.

Rolling Hills Organic Waste

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

The SBCCOG is working with the City of Rolling Hills to facilitate public education and outreach for their residents on organic waste recycling and food waste prevention. Funded by a CalRecycle SB1383 grant, staff are working with EcoNomics, Inc, technical consultant, to provide outreach content. The first workshop is scheduled for July 16, 2025. EcoNomics, Inc, has prepared all materials for the workshop, and worked with SBCCOG staff to get it approved by CalRecycle. SBCCOG staff will now focus on promoting the workshop to the residents through July.

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 with businesses that have self-identified as environmentally conscience. Businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' programs and information posted on the SBCCOG website through a quarterly e-newsletter. Conversations with LA County and the California Green Business Network were conducted this month to help identify more resources for businesses.

GBAP by city: Carson (18), El Segundo (55), Gardena (26), 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 (11) for a total of **409** businesses in the program as of June 2025.

California Green Business Network

SBCCOG staff have been advocating for the California Green Business Network to be open to all cities and, recently, the SoCalREN announced that they will be paying membership fees for all cities. SBCCOG Staff is discussing roll-out of program promotion and support and also met with the City of Rolling Hills Estates to discuss program opportunities.

Climate Action

SBCCOG staff and the CivicSpark Fellow, with support from volunteers, continue to work with cities to finalize the draft 2019-2020 greenhouse gas inventory (GHG) reports. Several drafts are under review by city staff. The Fellow is available to present findings to city committees and commissions.

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 June, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at 5 events.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: **28** hours for June 2025

Some of the volunteer projects for the month of June included supporting outreach events and SBCCOG meetings, updating databases, and conducting program research.

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In June 2025:

3 - Networking Event

0 - Workshops Event

5 - In Person Community Event

1 - Business Event

Total for the period July 1, 2024, to date:

40 - Networking Event

85 - In Person Community Event

11 - Business Event

12 - Workshops Event