

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

November 20, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – October 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

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

- City of Carson – Initial Measures List for Veteran’s Sports Complex has been delivered by the SoCalREN. Waiting for city confirmation to move forward. Meeting completed to vet facilities for Capture the Cold technology – waiting on city for information on eligible units to then set up site audits. The identified Heat Pump Water Heater project has been queued for 2026 by SoCalREN due to limited incentive funds.
- City of El Segundo – City staff provided all necessary documents for the newly installed pool heater – the SoCalREN is moving through the incentive application. The City Hall lighting overhaul and Public Works Capture the Cold technology opportunities are still available. Next steps, city to work with the SBCCOG staff and SoCalREN team on the listed opportunities.
- City of Hawthorne – The Police Department lighting project and Memorial Center HVAC are in construction and reporting phases. The identified Heat Pump Water Heater project has been queued for 2026 by SoCalREN due to limited incentive funds.
- City of Hermosa Beach – One eligible HVAC unit for Capture the Cold technology was identified at the Community Center. The next step is for the city to contact the SBCCOG regarding their interest in moving forward.
- City of Inglewood – The City Hall lighting and pump project is under construction.

- City of Lawndale – Three eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN consultants completed an audit on 10/22/25 and will report on project opportunities within a month.
- 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 – Multiple eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN consultants completed an audit on 10/14/25 and will report on project opportunities within a month.
- City of Redondo Beach – Eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold have been identified. Next step, the city will contact the SBCCOG regarding their interest in moving forward. The Perry Park sports field lighting project and incentive application are still available if the city decides to move forward.
- 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 are developing a proposal for the city.
- 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 Efficiency Technology Showcase – The SBCCOG hosted its first ever Energy Efficiency Technology Showcase on October 29. This event connected facilities and purchasing staff from SoCalREN-enrolled agencies with SoCalREN’s Trade Ally Network. The Trade Ally Network consists of approved contractors specializing in areas such as electrical, HVAC, lighting, plumbing, pumping, water and windows/doors. 6 vendors attended as well as 8 city representatives and a LA Sanitation District representative.

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. The final ERAP plans will be delivered to participating cities in the coming months.

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 need.

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 56 business facilities, and 29 projects have been signed on and are underway.

Installation started the first week of October. The SBCCOG staff and SoCalREN, in coordination with city staff, are preparing marketing materials and planning a celebratory event.

Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG working with AESC Inc., a technical consultant, is conducting a cool roof feasibility study. At the end of the project, up to 15 site plans will be developed with recommendations on the technology, benefits and co-benefits. The initial literature review has been completed and is on the SBCCOG website. AESC-created and city-approved criteria ranked the 15 "most suitable" sites in Carson, Gardena, Inglewood, Lomita, Redondo Beach, and Torrance. SBCCOG staff coordinated site walks of AESC engineers in October. Site Plans should be received in November.

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 continues to share program information with eligible multifamily housing properties. The SBCCOG and the County team have developed co-branded materials to bring to community outreach events. SBCCOG and County Staff are working with South Bay cities and Chambers of Commerce to identify new customers for the program.

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 amounting to almost **60** classrooms!!! Wiseburn USD is interested in participating in 2026. Efforts are underway to conduct celebration events at each school district before the end of the year.

South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program (SBECRP) - Cities can earn points towards this program year until the third Monday of November. Contact Shawn Fujioka at shawn@southbaycities.org for more information.

The SBCCOG will be hosting the Third Annual South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program Award Ceremony 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.

Institute for Local Government's Beacon Awards Program - sponsored by the Institute for Local Government (ILG), honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and adopt policies that promote sustainability. The SBCCOG worked with cities to gather energy data and develop applications for the Beacon Awards Program. The following cities were recognized at the League of California Cities Annual Conference in Long Beach in October:

- City of Gardena:
 - o Platinum Spotlight Award for 15% Community GHG Reductions
 - o Gold Spotlight Award for 10% Agency Energy Savings
- City of Torrance – Gold Vanguard Award for the following achievements:
 - o 12% Agency Energy Savings (Gold)
 - o 11% Agency Natural Gas Savings (Gold)
 - o 22% Agency GHG Reductions (Platinum)
 - o 57% Community GHG Reductions (Platinum)
 - o (NEW) Platinum Level Sustainability Best Practices

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. SBCCOG staff attended the SoCalGas restaurant owner showcase to learn about equipment that reduces gas use.

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 October 13 and October 27 to discuss the implementation of programs and schedule of events for the new program year.

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 40 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: 5

Completed:

- Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - *CA Friendly & Native Plant Landscape Training*, Lomita Library - Lomita

Upcoming Classes:

- 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: 4 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

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, November 1, 2025, Rain Barrel Program City of Inglewood
- Saturday, November 22, 2025, Rain Barrel Program City of Malibu

SBCCOG staff continue to respond to phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line and set up the new registration system for upcoming events in October.

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.

Completed Classes:

- Saturday, October 18, 2025 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – Garden Design, Torrance

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: 43 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Ongoing promotion of LACSD programs continues through SBCCOG's e-newsletters and other social media channels. In addition, SBCCOG posts LACSD events on the website and sends out e-blasts to increase attendance at events.

Task - Speakers Bureau Contract goal: identify and coordinate up to 3 speaking opportunities.

Status of goal: 0

CivicSpark Fellows

Three CivicSpark Fellows started their service term with the SBCCOG in October and have begun working on their first projects. They are focusing on the following areas: 1) Energy, 2) Communications, and 3) Transportation. The service term will end in September 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 facilitate public education and outreach for their residents on organic waste recycling and food waste prevention. Funded by a CalRecycle SB1383 grant, the technical consultant, EcoNomics, Inc, is developing outreach content. The first workshop, on July 16, 2025, was a success with 13 attendees filling the City Chambers and the SBCCOG staff distributed the first round of composting equipment to the city's residents. One final compost workshop was held Wednesday, October 29, 2025. There will be another round of equipment purchasing and distribution in late November.

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.

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 October 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. SBCCOG is available to present findings to city committees and commissions. SBCCOG staff provided a presentation at Gardena's City Council Meeting on October 14 and met with Rolling Hills staff on October 27 to review their draft report.

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 for developing a biodiversity plan with demonstration projects within the South Bay. The SBCCOG submitted a concept proposal to Rivers and Mountains Conservancy in September and is awaiting their review.

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 September, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at nine events.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 30.5 hours for October 2025

Some of the volunteer projects for the month of October included supporting outreach events and SBCCOG meetings, updating databases, and conducting program research. The volunteer recognition event is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, just prior to the Board meeting. SBCCOG staff has analyzed volunteer hours and has a list of volunteers who are to be awarded for achieving certain milestones. Cities have been notified of their residents who are SBCCOG volunteers and have achieved milestones and have been conducting their own recognition during council meetings.

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In October 2025:

3 - Networking Event

14 - In Person Community Event

0 - Business Event

2 – Workshops Events