

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

October 23, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – September 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

Facility Equipment Inventory Program (FEI) – SBCCOG staff continue to work with cities to update FEI workbooks to help better understand current energy-using equipment. To date, 57 facilities were inventoried 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. 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).

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

- City of Carson – SoCalREN is vetting Heat Pump Water Heaters through the SoCalREN incentive program. Waiting for city confirmation to move forward with Veteran’s HVAC and lighting upgrade project. Meeting completed to vet facilities for Capture the Cold technology – waiting on city for information on eligible units to then set up site audits. Finally, the SoCalREN presented information on EV charging IRA tax credits to the city staff in September.
- City of El Segundo – Installation of the aquatic Stadium pool heater project is wrapping up in September with the assistance of SBCCOG staff support on the incentive application. For the City Hall campus, the SoCalREN has finalized its review of a significant lighting overhaul. Considerable energy and financial bill savings have been identified, and the SBCCOG team is working with the

city to encourage them to move forward on this project. Multiple facilities are eligible for Capture the Cold technology as well.

- City of Hawthorne – The Police Department lighting project is about to start construction and Memorial Center HVAC project just completed.
- City of Hermosa Beach – One eligible HVAC unit for Capture the Cold technology was identified at the Community Center. The city may get back to SBCCOG on interest and meeting potential.
- City of Lawndale – Three eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN is coordinating meeting times with the city.
- City of Lomita – The SoCalREN is vetting HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology.
- City of Manhattan Beach – Heat Pump Water Heater vetted through SoCalREN program is moving through planning and permitting.
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes – Multiple eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The city has promptly returned energy data and the SoCalREN is scheduling site audits.
- City of Redondo Beach – Perry Park sports field lighting incentive application continues to not move forward due to missing information on existing equipment. The city is having difficulty obtaining required information from their records.
- City of Rolling Hills – Vetting Heat Pump Water Heater in SoCalREN incentive program.
- City of Torrance – Multiple eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN is scheduling site audits.
- 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. 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. Part of the project included surveying residents on what they would like to see at a potential resilience center and 302 surveys were received across all cities. SBCCOG staff presented the findings from this community outreach to city staff in September. The final ERAP plans will be delivered to participating cities in the coming months.

South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program (SBECR) - The SBCCOG recently shared the Q3 Progress Reports with city staff and at the September Board Meeting, summarized below:

- **Platinum Recognition Level:** Manhattan Beach, Torrance
- **Gold Recognition Level:** Gardena
- **Silver Recognition Level:** Carson, El Segundo, and Lomita
- **Bronze Recognition Level:** Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, and Rolling Hills Estates
- **In Progress:** Inglewood, Lawndale, Palos Verdes Estates, and Rancho Palos Verdes

Cities can earn points towards this program year until the third Monday of November. Reach out to 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, 2025**, at the Lawndale Community Center. Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Officer for LA County, will attend as the keynote speaker. All elected officials and city staff who have been working with the SBCCOG on sustainability initiatives are invited. SBCCOG staff will distribute event information in the coming weeks.

Institute for Local Government's (ILG) Beacon Program - 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 cities to gather energy data and develop applications. Awardees will be recognized at the League of California Cities Annual Conference in Long Beach in October.

FDEEE & Commercial Direct Install

Through the SoCalREN's new commercial programs, administered by Willdan, 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 26 projects have been signed off and are underway. Installations have started. The SBCCOG staff, in coordination with city staff, is also working with the Willdan team to create recognition communication items such as videos.

Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG working with AESC Inc., 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, funding sources, and site identification. The initial literature review has been completed and is on the SBCCOG website. AESC presented to city staff draft site selection criteria and ranked sites. Feedback from city staff was positive and 15 "most suitable" sites have been selected in Carson, Gardena, Inglewood, Lomita, Redondo Beach, and Torrance. SBCCOG staff are coordinating site walks with AESC engineers and city staff between October 2nd and October 10th.

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 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 continues to facilitate South Bay school enrollments into the program. Inglewood USD and Hawthorne SD have confirmed participation for Fall 2025 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.

Southern California Gas Company Energy Pathways

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

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 from SoCalGas staff.

Program offerings and related marketing materials have been shared 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 September 15 and September 29 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: 31 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: 4

Completed: Wednesday, September 24, Veterans Memorial Park Garden Room – Culver City Garden Design Class

Upcoming Classes:

- Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - *CA Friendly & Native Plant Landscape Training*, Lomita Library - Lomita
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 11:00 am - 12:30 pm - *Transforming Lawns: A Sustainable Approach*, Darby Park - Inglewood

Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 4 Rain barrel distribution events.

Status of goal: 2 Rain barrel program distributions: 1) Saturday, September 13, Rain Barrel Program City of El Segundo and 2) Saturday, September 27, Rain Barrel Program City of Carson

SBCCOG staff have responded 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.

CivicSpark Fellows

The 2025-26 program-year will start on October 9, with three new Fellows working in the following areas: 1) Energy, 2) Communications, and 3) Transportation. The Energy fellow will support and manage various SoCalREN initiatives such as residential direct installation of energy-efficient appliances. The Communications fellow will support and manage various community engagement and communication initiatives to better inform the community of sustainability opportunities, homeless services, and other SBCCOG programs. The Transportation fellow will assist SBCCOG staff with design and implementation of the South Bay Local Travel Network and promotion of micromobility.

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. SBCCOG staff distributed the first round of composting equipment to the City of Rolling Hills residents. One final compost workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2025, as well as another round of equipment purchasing and distribution.

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 September 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. A few drafts are under review by city staff. SBCCOG staff have completed 12 final reports which have been sent to cities and are posted on the SBCCOG website. SBCCOG is available to present findings to city committees and commissions. SBCCOG staff will be providing a presentation at Gardena's City Council Meeting on October 14, 2025.

Biodiversity grant opportunity: In support of the SBCCOG subregional adaptation plan, SBCCOG staff has 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 six events.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 79.5 hours for September 2025

Some of the volunteer projects for the month of August included supporting outreach events and SBCCOG meetings, updating databases, and conducting program research. Volunteers also attended a West Basin training and toured the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, where they got firsthand insight into West Basin's programs and technical procedures. The volunteer recognition event is being planned for Thursday, November 20, 2025, just prior to the Board meeting.

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In September 2025:

5 - Networking Event

10 - In Person Community Event

0 - Business Event

1 - Workshops Event