

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

February 27, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – January 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.

The SoCalREN has not released their 2025 program offerings for the public and commercial sectors. It is anticipated that incentives will be announced late February 2025. In the meantime, SBCCOG staff will continue to identify project potential and help to facilitate projects underway. A meeting with city staff is planned for the end of February to provide updates.

School District Outreach

In addition, SBCCOG staff met with Inglewood Unified School District to discuss enrollment and is actively working on meeting with Wiseburn Unified School District and Lawndale Elementary School District. SBCCOG staff are working with enrolled districts to identify project opportunities.

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, Torrance Unified School District, and Redondo Beach Unified School District.

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 **56** 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 Redondo Beach – SBCCOG staff inventoried the Performing Arts Center, Perry Park, and Veterans Park and will be developing replacement recommendations and funding sources.

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

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

In addition, SBCCOG staff are training other SoCalREN partners to implement FEI in their region. The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) will be joining the SBCCOG team on a site visit in Gardena in February.

Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) Offering – The SBCCOG facilitated agency participation in the SoCalREN Heat Pump Water Heater Program – which allowed agencies to upgrade their inefficient gas-powered water heater for an all-electric heat pump water heater. SoCalREN **covered up to 100% of eligible project costs for facilities in underserved areas and up to 50% of eligible project costs** in other areas. The projects were required to be completed by December 31st, 2024. Heat Pump Water Heater replacements from program inception to date:

Agency	Year	# of units	Coverage of Total Costs	Incentive (equipment & services)
City of Carson	2023	7	100%	\$91,520.13
City of Torrance	2023	1	100%	\$10,015.28
City of Hawthorne	2023	5	100%	\$75,641.80
City of El Segundo	2023	8	100%	\$158,829.13
El Segundo Unified School District	2023	7	100%	\$114,112.46
City of Carson	2024	5	100%	\$102,889.60
City of Torrance	2024	2	100%	\$21,543.04
City of Inglewood	2024	5	100%	\$161,866.00
Centinela Valley Union High School District	2024	3	100%	\$100,979.90
Hawthorne School District	2024	3	100%	\$91,167.40
Lennox Elementary School District	2024	4	100%	\$137,081.00
Beach Cities Health District	2024	2	100%	\$43,872.76
10 agencies	2 years	52 units	100% coverage	\$1,109,518.50

Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) Program – The SBCCOG will be working with the cities of **Gardena, Hawthorne, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach** to develop energy resilience action plans. The SoCalREN is working to finalize the first phase deliverable – the Resilience Hub Opportunity Assessment. This plan will 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.

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.

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. Greg Stevens, Energy Engineer, is reviewing like-for-like replacements for gas-powered HVAC units identified in the Facility Equipment Inventory (FEI) program.

South Bay Cities Energy and Climate Recognition Program

The guidelines have been updated and sent out to city staff. A new level has been added for the top tier – Platinum! 2025 will be the third year of the South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition Program. The SBCCOG and city staff are excited to kick off the program year!

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on January 6 and January 21 to discuss implementation of programs.

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 58 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Speakers Bureau

Contract goal: identify and coordinate up to 14 speaking opportunities

Status of goal: waiting on West Basin staff for an update on the presentation topics

Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars Educational Classes

Contract goal: Up to 10 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 2 completed

Upcoming Classes:

- *West Basin Chat on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, Zoom*
- *Goodbye Grass, Hello Garden: Qualify for Rebates in Partnership with West Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Redondo Beach.*

Commercial Water Efficiency Program

Contract goal: Assist West Basin staff in promoting MWD's rebates for the Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) sectors.

Status of goal: On Hold

Water Bottle Filling Station Program (WBFS)

Contract goal: To assist with identifying locations for stations (Conduct outreach and marketing for program until grant dollars are fully expended or until West Basin reaches its maximum number of applicants). Public sites are eligible to install two (2) water bottle filling stations per Tax ID

SBCCOG staff continue promoting the WBFS program throughout South Bay. Promotional flyers were delivered to the following locations:

Redondo Beach City Hall	Manhattan Beach Joslyn Community Center
Redondo Beach Public Library	Lomita City Hall
Hermosa Beach City Hall	Lomita Library
Hermosa Beach Public Library	Carson Library
Hermosa Beach Chambers	Carson City Hall
Hermosa Beach Community Center	MLK Library
Manhattan Beach City Hall	Gardena City Hall
Manhattan Beach Library	Nakaoka Community Center
Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce	Gardena Mayme Dear Library

Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events.

Status of goal: 5 Rain barrel program distribution GOAL met

One rain barrel event was held in the month of January in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and 300 barrels were given away.

Events Completed:

- November 16 – City of Inglewood – Morningside High School
- November 23 – City of El Segundo – ECLWRF
- December 7 – City of Gardena – Junipero Serra High School
- December 14 – City of Lomita – Lomita City Hall
- January 25 -City of Rancho Palos Verdes - PV Peninsula High School

SBCCOG staff have been answering phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line, enrolling customers on the West Basin's Free Rain Barrel Program Interest List – 2025.

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.

Upcoming Classes:

03/11/2025, "Goodbye Grass, Hello Garden: Qualify for Rebates" class., IN PERSON, Redondo Beach Main Library, Redondo Beach. (NOTE: done in conjunction with West Basin)

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: 11 exhibit events completed

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.

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

Contract goal: Conduct 8 commercial water kitchen assessments in CD15

Status of goal: 3 water assessments completed, and materials and packages were distributed

SBCCOG staff conducted outreach walks in District 15 in January to set up appointments.

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: 67 exhibition events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

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

Status of goal: 2 presentations completed.

Presentations:

- LACSD Speaker Presentation to Hermosa Beach Public Works Commission – January 15, 2025

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

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 maintaining relationships and communication channels with business that have self-identified as environmentally conscience. Businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' programs, information posted on the SBCCOG website, and 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 (7) for a total of 405 businesses in the program as of January 2025.

Conversations continue with SoCalREN on their business offerings which will be promoted to businesses throughout the South Bay to jurisdictions within the Edison territory.

Climate Action

SBCCOG staff, the CivicSpark Fellow, and volunteers are currently finalizing the draft greenhouse gas inventory reports and will shortly be distributing them to cities for review. The City of Torrance will receive their report first, followed by Carson and the remaining 13 cities. The Fellow will be available to present findings to city committees and commissions in Q1 2025.

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 SBCCOG outreach calendar for events that provide opportunities to support the mission and goals of the Metro Express Lane program. For January the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at one event.

II. GRANTS

Monitoring – Award notifications will be released in spring

- Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant – Climate Adaptation Planning (SBCCOG South Bay Environmental Services Program Lead) - to update the vulnerability assessments and develop transportation adaptation strategies
- Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant – Sustainable Communities (SBCCOG Transportation Program Lead) - to analyze micromobility parking opportunities

III. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: **46** hours for January 2025

The Fellow has been updating program materials and hour tracking systems to streamline processes.

IV. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Event

In January 2025

3 - Networking Event

1- In Person Community Event

1 - Business Event

0 - Workshops Event

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

24 - Networking Event

46- In Person Community Event

6- Business Event

2 - Workshops Event