

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

August 28, 2025

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – July 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](mailto:Eleanor@southbaycities.org) if your city is interested in any of the above. Quantities are limited to first come first served.**

Facility Equipment Inventory Program (FEI) – SBCCOG staff continue to conduct on-site visits summarized below and work with SoCalREN to implement programs (see list below). 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.

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

- City of Carson – moving Heat Pump Water Heater vetting through the SoCalREN incentive program.
- City of El Segundo – Aquatic Stadium pool heater project is wrapping up this month. For the city hall building, 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.

- City of Hawthorne –finished installing new units in the Heat Pump Water Heater program. The Police Department lighting project is moving forward with American Wholesale lighting.
- City of Manhattan Beach – **NEW Project** - Heat Pump Water Heater and an HVAC pump block heater project, identified through Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) Program site walks, are being vetted by the city.
- City of Redondo Beach – Perry Park sports field lighting incentive application is not moving forward due to missing information on existing equipment. SoCalREN is following up with the contractor. The city is having difficulty obtaining the information from their records. Other identified projects (new chillers, PAC overhaul) are not moving forward due to limited city funds.
- City of Rolling Hills –scheduling site walks for the Heat Pump Water Heater SoCalREN incentive program.
- LA County Sanitation Districts – Lincus, SoCalREN technical consult, identified 33 projects throughout their district with most 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.

At the upcoming Energy Manager Working Group meeting in August, city staff will hear from SoCalREN implementers and partners on HVAC replacement or upgrade opportunities as well as funding pathways.

#### 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)         |                                     |
| • LAWNDAL (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 in the process of conducting site audits for up to four facilities per city. SBCCOG Staff in coordination with city staff have been implementing community outreach with over 100 survey responses received so far.

#### FDEEE & Commercial Direct Install

Through the SoCalREN's new commercial programs, administered by Wildan, the 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 at 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 13 projects have been signed off and are underway. Contractor visits are underway.

### Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG consultant AESC Inc., is completing a cool roof feasibility study. At the end of the project, 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 present in August to city staff potential criteria to select the best facilities.

### 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 County team have developed co-branded materials to bring to community outreach events. New customers are working to be identified by SBCCOG and County staff.

### 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 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 is working to enroll South Bay schools. Inglewood USD, Hawthorne SD, Lennox ESD have confirmed participation for Fall 2025 amounting to approximately 60 classrooms!!! Wiseburn USD is interested in participating in 2026.

### 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. New program offerings are being shared with city staff.

## **CivicSpark Fellows**

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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 been approved for three new fellows to work on: 1) energy, 2) communications, and 3) transportation. The SBCCOG is currently interviewing candidates for the transportation position and 2 dynamic fellows have accepted offers for the other two positions.

## **Water Conservation**

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## 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 July 7 and July 21 to discuss the implementation of programs.

### Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

*Status of goal: 5 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: 0

Upcoming Class/Workshop:

Thursday, August 14, 2025, Transforming Lawns: A Sustainable Approach Gardena

### Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events.

Status of goal: 0 Rain barrel program distribution

SBCCOG staff have responded to phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line and set up the new registration system for upcoming events in August.

## 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.

## **Waste Reduction**

### 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 occurred on July 16, 2025. The workshop was a success, drawing in 13 attendees and filling the City Chambers. SBCCOG staff are now finalizing equipment registrations and preparing to order

and drop off free compost bins and kitchen pails to the residents. One final compost workshop is scheduled to be in October 2025.

## 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 July 2025.

## 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) emissions reports. Multiple drafts are under review by city staff, and SBCCOG has been working to incorporate city feedback into final drafts. Three cities' final reports have been sent out and are available on the SBCCOG website. SBCCOG 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 July, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at 5 events.

## II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: **19** hours for July 2025

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

Note that volunteers were not able to work in the office during the move resulting in low volunteer engagement.

## III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

## Outreach Events

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In July 2025:

3 - Networking Event

2- In Person Community Event

0- Business Event

0 - Workshops Event