

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

January 12, 2026

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – December 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 2026

South Bay Cities Energy & Climate Recognition Program (SBECRP)

On December 11th, the SBCCOG held the third annual luncheon award ceremony for the South Bay Cities Energy and Climate Recognition Program. All 15 cities received awards for their achievements - with four cities at the first time ever platinum-level: Carson, Gardena, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance. Three cities earned gold, four earned silver, and four earned bronzes. A total of 65 elected officials, staff members, and partners attended the award ceremony event, with Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Officer for LA County, giving a keynote address. Thank you to those who attended and Congratulations to our cities!

Energy Efficiency Project Status: SBCCOG and SoCalREN project managers are working with the following agencies to advance energy efficiency projects:

- City of Carson – A Heat Pump Water Heater was installed in Carson Park in November at 100% cost coverage (\$10,398 in incentives) from the SoCalREN. An Initial Measures List for Veteran’s Sports Complex has been delivered to the city by the SoCalREN and they are waiting for city confirmation to move forward. A meeting was held to vet facilities for Capture the Cold technology – SoCalREN is vetting the information.
- City of El Segundo – The Wiseburn Aquatic Stadium pool heater incentive application was successfully installed and the city received **\$16,891.55** for the replacement!
- City of Hawthorne – The Police Department lighting project and Memorial Center HVAC are in construction and reporting phases. The SBCCOG is working with the SoCalREN to develop a case

study of these projects. The identified Heat Pump Water Heater project has been queued for 2026 by SoCalREN due to limited incentive funds at this time.

- City of Inglewood – The City Hall lighting and pump project is under construction.
- City of Lawndale – The Capture of the Cold HVAC technology proposal developed by Stasis and SoCalREN was delivered to the city and is awaiting city confirmation.
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes – Water heaters eligible for incentives for upgrades to Heat Pump Water Heaters have been identified at Ryan Park and the Interpretive Center. The next step is to schedule a SoCalREN job walk and for the city to choose a contractor. Costs and incentives will be determined after these activities are completed.
- City of Rolling Hills – Incentives have been identified for upgrading a Heat Pump Water Heater at City Hall. The SoCalREN will be working with the city to facilitate project completion.
- City of Torrance – Multiple eligible HVAC units for Capture the Cold technology were identified. The SoCalREN consultants, Stasis Energy Group, developed a proposal for the city which was returned in late November. Next steps and funding are currently being evaluated by 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.

Facility Equipment Inventory Program (FEI) – SBCCOG staff continue to work with agencies to update FEI workbooks to capture projects that have been completed by the cities and to add additional equipment replacement needs. To date, 59 facility audits 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 Capture the Cold ductwork technology offering (as low as \$6,000 before financing with as much as 40% energy savings).

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 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 support local businesses throughout the program. The team has audited **59** business facilities, and **27** projects are underway with **18** projects installed representing est. **\$444,000** in incentives to date.

The SBCCOG and SoCalREN are planning a ribbon-cutting event at one of the participating businesses. This special event will be on **Thursday, January 15th, 10am, at Yas Market** (14823 Vermont Ave). Please join us to congratulate the businesses that participated in this program. Notify eleanor@southbaycities.org of your planned attendance.

Cool Roof Pilot

Funded by the SoCalREN, the SBCCOG worked with technical consultant AESC Inc. to conduct a cool roof feasibility study. AESC-created and city-approved criteria ranked the 14 “most suitable” sites in **Carson, Gardena, Inglewood, Lomita, Redondo Beach, and Torrance**. The final report and site plans have been published on the SBCCOG website and shared with listed cities. Presentations on the final report findings will be shared at future Board and Energy Manager Working Group meetings.

Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) Program – The SBCCOG, working with the cities of **Gardena, Hawthorne, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach**, to develop Energy Resilience Action Plans is in the final stages. This SoCalREN program provides a report to the cities on city-specific near- to long-term community energy resilience building strategies. The final ERAP plans have been delivered to each city by the SoCalREN. The SBCCOG and SoCalREN will continue to support cities in the development of resilient 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

The SBCCOG continues to identify multifamily property owner customers for the SoCalREN Multifamily program. Contacts are being identified through Chambers of Commerce and city business lists. SBCCOG and SoCalREN will work to enroll eligible properties in this energy- and cost-saving program. SBCCOG continues to share co-branded materials at community outreach events and coordinate with other agencies, including chambers and the Niles Foundation, to help identify opportunities.

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. Inglewood USD and Hawthorne SD participated in the Fall 2025 semester. Wiseburn USD is interested in participating in 2026. Congratulatory events are being planned for Hawthorne School District at participating schools in January. The students will receive a certificate of completion and pizza party.

Southern California Gas Company Energy Pathways

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

The SBCCOG 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 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 met on December 18 to discuss the implementation of ongoing and new programs for 2026-27. SBCCOG staff also continue to respond to phone inquiries on the dedicated West Basin line.

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 59 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: 7

- Friday, December 5, 2025 - 5:30pm – 8:00pm - Lomita's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, City Hall, Lomita - completed

Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 6 Rain barrel distribution events.

Status of goal: 6 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
- Saturday, November 1, Rain Barrel Program City of Inglewood
- Saturday, November 22, Rain Barrel Program City of Malibu

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 social media channels. SBCCOG also posts WRD events on its website and sends e-blasts to help boost attendance. The SBCCOG staff attend events and distribute marketing materials to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and other community locations. In addition, WRD Eco-Gardening classes and workshops were promoted.

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD)

The contract period is January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026

Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 62 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Ongoing promotion of LACSD programs continues through SBCCOG's e-newsletters and social media channels as well as website postings and coordinating LACSD upcoming 2026 events and sending e-blasts to help boost attendance. SBCCOG staff attended events and distributed marketing materials to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and other community locations.

Task - Speakers Bureau

Contract goal: identify and coordinate up to 3 speaking opportunities.

Status of goal: 3/3 Identified and Scheduled

- *Carson Gardena Dominguez Rotary Club – Rescheduled January 14, 2026*
- *City of Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission – Scheduled February 5, 2026*
- *City of Gardena's Planning and Environmental Quality Commission – Scheduled February 17, 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 provide public education and outreach to residents on organic waste recycling and food waste prevention. Funded by a CalRecycle SB 1383 grant, the technical consultant, EcoNomics, Inc., developed educational videos and conducted two workshops for Rolling Hills residents. As part of this program, the SBCCOG is purchasing and distributing organic waste equipment – which will continue through January 2026.

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. Businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' programs and information posted on the SBCCOG website and through a quarterly e-newsletter. In December, six SBCCOG staff received certifications for completing an energy audited course. This information will help them provide the most recent audit practices when working with South Bay businesses.

GBAP by city: Carson (18), El Segundo (55), Gardena (55), 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 (8) for a total of **435** businesses participating as of December 2025.

Climate Action

SBCCOG, with support from volunteers and prior CivicSpark Fellows, continues 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. The **City of Carson** is working with a consultant to develop a climate action plan and the SBCCOG's ICLEI membership enabled Carson to access GHG data to inform future GHG emissions inventories in support of this effort.

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 (RMC) for developing a biodiversity plan with demonstration projects within South Bay. The SBCCOG submitted a concept proposal to RMC and received approval to submit a full Proposition 68 grant application by mid-January. The grant application is currently under development.

CivicSpark Fellows

Two CivicSpark Fellows are currently supporting the SBCCOG. Previously we had a third fellow, Meghan Hirsch, who had to leave the program. We are pleased to fill that position with a new fellow, Moana Franco, who will join the team in January, and continue supporting communications, social media, and outreach efforts.

Transportation

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 18, 2022 – November 17, 2025)

The SBCCOG continues to prepare, update, and share the outreach calendar events to provide opportunities for Metro to share their Express Lane program. In November, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at one event.

II. VOLUNTEERS

Status of Program: 11 hours for December 2025

Typically, there is lower event activity and volunteer engagement in December due to the holidays. Despite this, several volunteer projects were completed, including office support, school district research, and outreach for the LACSD Speaker's Bureau. New volunteer applicants were received, and four volunteer interviews were conducted. All new volunteers are excited to join the SBCCOG team!

III. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In December 2025:

- 3 - Networking Event
- 1 - In Person Community Event
- 1 - Business Event
- 1 – Workshops Events