



VCREA

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance



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About VCREA

VCREA is a Joint Powers Agency composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address good energy stewardship through integrated demand side management practices in the Ventura County region.

Ventura Partnership

The Ventura Partnership encompasses the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura to support energy efficiency improvements in public agencies and throughout the community.

Our Website and Newsletter

Energy Leader is a quarterly publication published to provide valuable resources and information regarding energy efficiency in the Ventura County region. To sign up to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please log on to www.vcenergy.org.

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Energy Efficiency Programs for Homeowners

Do you want to save on energy costs but need help financing energy efficiency upgrades for your home? Well now you have, not one but, TWO different programs that will assist you in different types of home energy efficiency upgrades!



CaliforniaFIRST PACE program is offered in 17 California counties and 142 cities. This allows homeowners to easily save more money by reducing their energy and water use through an innovative public-private financing partnership. The program has 5 simple steps to help get you financed, they repay you on your property tax bill, and they also finance indoor or outdoor water efficiency. To learn more, email info@CaliforniaFIRST.org.



emPower Central Coast is offering low cost financing for Ventura County residents to upgrade their single family homes. Home improvements eligible for financing include qualified upgrades that are eligible for utility rebates either as a single measure or as part of a package of energy improvements enrolled. These measures could provide up to \$6,500 in rebates from your utility provider. To learn more and check out the simple application process go to: www.emPowerSBC.org. emPower also hosts homeowner workshops around Ventura County, that will allow homeowners to learn more about energy efficiency and what they can do to make their homes more comfortable.

NEWBURY PARK HOMEOWNER WORKSHOP

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 5:30pm– 7:00pm
Newbury Park Public Library– Meeting Room
Dinner Provided! RSVP at www.emPowerSBC.org
2331 Borchard Road

Financing Terms

	emPower	CaliforniaFIRST
Types of Upgrades	Energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements	Energy and water improvements
Interest Rates	Starting rate of 5.9%	Starting rate of 6.75%
Payment Terms	Up to 15 years	Up to 20 years
Financing Amount	Up to \$25,000	\$5,000 up to 10% of property value
Type of Loans	Unsecured personal loan	Property Tax Lien

This is an exciting time for property owners, and we encourage all of you to save on energy costs while you pay for your green initiatives. If you need further assistance, please call VCREA at 805-654-3874.

Time-Of-Use Rates Are Here

In early 2015, all non-Time-of-Use (TOU) SCE business, agricultural and pumping accounts will move to a TOU rate plan as part of a statewide initiative. TOU rates are designed to keep the electric grid reliable and make sure everyone will have power when they need it. Unlike flat rates, TOU rates vary by the time of day the energy is used.

TOU helps keep the grid reliable.

TOU rates more accurately reflect the costs of energy at the time it is used. During On-Peak periods, there is the greatest demand on the grid. When customers shift energy use, if possible, to Off-Peak or Mid-Peak times, it helps reduce strain on the grid.

SCE is keeping customers informed during the transition.

SCE is making sure its customers have the information and tools they need to make this change go as smoothly as possible. In October, eligible business customers transitioning to TOU in 2015 will receive a personalized rate analysis that explains their TOU rate options.

Get the tools to manage this change.

To minimize the impact these rate changes may have on businesses, SCE has a full suite of services and online tools that can help you with the transition, such as **My Account** to view your energy usage, or **Budget Assistant**, where you can set monthly spending goals to help you stay on top of your energy spending.

Learn more about TOU rates.

Visit sce.com/tou to learn more and find free online tools that help manage the transition to TOU.



SoCalGas's Online Trade Professional Directory

If you are a trade professional who sells, services or installs energy-efficient natural gas equipment for commercial, industrial or agricultural customers, consider joining the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) Trade Professional (Trade Pro) program. Trade Pro makes it easier for business customers to find trade professionals, like you, to help with their energy projects.

Trade Pro allows you to:

- Expand your visibility among customers searching the SoCalGas Trade Pros online directory.
- Receive notices on the latest program updates for rebates, incentives, and other programs.

For more information: Please visit [SoCalGas Trade Pro](#).

How to join:

Trade Professionals must be active participants in SoCalGas' Energy Efficiency Programs. Please refer to the agreement and application for program requirements. To participate in the Trade Professional Directory, you must complete and sign the [Trade Professional Agreement and Application](#). It may be submitted in the following ways:

by email: TradePro@semprautilities.com

by mail: Southern California Gas Company, Attn: Trade Pros Program
P.O. Box 513249, M.L. GT19A8
Los Angeles, CA 90051

by fax: 323-518-2346



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Upcoming Events

October–December 2014

<p>Thursday 10/23/2014</p>	<p>BOC Webinar: Strategies to Help Reduce Peak Use 11:00AM-12:00PM Demand management and energy efficiency are two approaches to help cut costs for building energy use. In many areas of the country, demand constraints are becoming increasingly acute for electric utilities. This webinar will discuss strategies to cut energy use during high demand periods. These strategies can be permanent approaches to controlling peak energy use in the facility, but can also be episodic in response to a utility's call for time specific reductions in demand (demand response). Learn about these various approaches to demand management and possible ways to work with the serving utility for financial incentives. SPEAKER: Dennis Thurman</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Gas Company Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey, CA 90243 To enroll and for more information visit www.socalgas.com/erc</p>
<p>Wednesday 10/29/2014</p>	<p>Residential and Light Commercial HVAC 8:30AM-4:00PM HVAC professionals, service technicians, maintenance, and operation managers will learn about the fundamentals of HVAC systems found in residential and light commercial facilities. The focus is on HVAC system components, applications, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Attendees will explore service, repair, and replacement economics with energy efficient operation, using exercises to help with decision making in replacing existing equipment.</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Edison Irwindale Education Center 6090 N. Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91702 To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac</p>
<p>Monday 11/03/2014</p>	<p>Save Energy, Save Money: An Introduction to Energy Efficiency and Rebates 8:30AM-12:30PM Come learn tips on how to save money on lighting, air conditioning, motors, controls, refrigeration, and other equipment. Topics include how to read your electric bill and complete your own energy audit. Attendees will learn easy ways to reduce energy and how to use SCE's programs, rebates, and incentives to help reduce costs.</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Edison Irwindale Education Center 6090 N. Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91702 To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac</p>
<p>Wednesday 11/12/2014</p>	<p>Benchmarking with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager 9:00AM-12:00PM NOTE: This class will be a hands on class, please bring a laptop for full participation. California law (AB 1103) now requires the disclosure of an energy performance benchmarking score prior to selling, refinancing, or leasing certain whole buildings. Southern California Gas Company is here to help by offering no-cost training for commercial customers. Using a combination of classroom instruction and online demonstrations, you will learn how to benchmark your building's energy performance with the help of SCG's Web Services - a free, easy-to-use service that automatically sends your commercial building's energy use information to the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager every month, tips for optimizing your ENERGY STAR score, and best practices for improving the score over time. Discussions will include AB1103 and changes that need to be implemented by non-residential building owners.</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Gas Company Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey, CA 90243 To enroll and for more information visit www.socalgas.com/erc</p>
<p>Wednesday 11/12/2014</p>	<p>You Benchmarked your Building, What's Next? 1:00PM-4:00PM Getting your building's benchmarking score is not the end, it's the beginning! This course explores how to set targets for improvement and estimate the amount of energy savings necessary to reach a higher score; which low-/no-cost or capital upgrades might produce various magnitudes of savings; which utility incentive programs could help identify or finance those improvements; and more. It's not about what your building's score is today-it's about what you want that score to be and how to get it there!</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Gas Company Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd. Downey, CA 90243 To enroll and for more information visit www.socalgas.com/erc</p>
<p>Thursday 12/04/2014</p>	<p>LEED® Green Associate: Taking the First Step in Green Building Using LEED 8:30AM-4:00PM This workshop will provide valuable information for those looking to become LEED Green Associates. Topics will include the LEED rating system, principles of Sustainable design and construction, LEED specific strategies, and useful tools for project teams such as the Savings by Design incentive program, which provides funding for project teams pursuing energy efficiency in new construction.</p>	<p>Where: Southern California Edison Irwindale Education Center 6090 N. Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91702 To enroll and for more information visit www.sce.com/ctac</p>

The event listing in this publication is just a sampling of events offered in Southern California. All dates/topics are subject to change and provided to open discussion of regional interest and need. To see a complete list of events, please visit the following websites:

sce.com/ctac

socalgas.com/erc

vcenergy.org

October is National Energy Awareness Month

In Honor of Energy Awareness Month, challenge yourself to think of ways to take control of your energy use!

Aim for short, medium and long term goals to accomplish efforts in energy efficiency.

For instance, today you can survey your light bulbs and replace incandescent bulbs to CFLs or LED bulbs. These bulbs can save three-quarters of the electricity use by incandescent bulbs. A medium term goal could be collecting your past and current utility bills. Separate electricity from fuel bills and target the largest energy consumer or the largest bill. A long term goal can consist of replacing aging/inefficient appliances. Top-efficiency appliances are generally a good investment. Make a simple checklist that will allow you to keep track of these energy efficiency goals

Study Shows Energy Efficiency Works!

“Data show conclusively why energy efficiency should be universally regarded as the ‘first fuel’ in making energy decisions. It is cheaper, cleaner, faster, and more easily realized than any other resource out there.”

[Learn more.](#)

Fall and Winter Energy Saving Tips

- Take advantage of the sun, open curtains to naturally heat your home or office during the day.
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours.
- Plug leaks and drafts. Your home loses most of its heat due to drafts and air leaks.
- Clean/change your furnace filters regularly. Dirty furnace filters slow down air flow, making the system work harder to keep you warm and costing you more money.
- Use LED holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays.



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Our Partners



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