

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

February 23, 2023

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Activities Report – January 2023

I. PROGRAMS - TECHNOLOGY, PLANNING, & RESEARCH

Energy Efficiency

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN); CITY SUPPORT

Contract period is January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Contract goal: Work Plan (including goals) are underway for 2023

Facility Equipment Inventory pilot project – SBCCOG staff and the Civic Spark Fellow continue to schedule and conduct on-site visits to collect equipment information. To date, site visits have been conducted at the following cities: Carson, El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Hermosa Beach. SBCCOG staff aim to complete site visits for all city halls by June 30, 2023 and will coordinate with additional cities to arrange for site visits in the coming months. Information obtained will be used to identify projects, joint purchases, and recommendations to the CPUC for incentives.

➤ **11 – Site Visits Completed for Facility Equipment Inventories**

- City of Carson (1)
- City of El Segundo (4)
- City of Hawthorne (3)
- City of Hermosa Beach (3)



ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) - SBCCOG Staff have contacted all South Bay cities to confirm buildings that require Building Energy Benchmarking (AB802) reporting. As part of AB802, owners of buildings greater than 50,000 square feet are required to submit annual energy use reports to the California Energy Commission by June 1. Staff will draft energy use reports in the coming months for cities' approval prior to submitting them to the California Energy Commission.

City Energy Efficiency Projects

Currently, the following projects are being pursued by SoCalREN enrolled agencies:

- City of Carson: Pursuing boiler retrofit, HVAC and chiller installation at City Hall and Community Centers. **New boilers and boiler pumps at the Community Center are complete and operational.**
- City of El Segundo: Energy audit has been completed at City Hall and SoCalREN is currently developing an initial measures list. City also participated in SoCal Ren's Resilience

Hub Opportunity Assessment, in which the Club House and Library were identified as potential resilience hub sites.

- City of Rancho Palos Verdes: Participated in SoCal Ren's Resilience Hub Opportunity Assessment, in which the Point Vicente Interpretive Center and Hesse Park Community Center were identified as potential resilience hub sites.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): MULTIFAMILY

Contract period is January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Contract goals: Contact, track progress, and outreach to local community organizations; track number of virtual events held, and number of attendees; distribute program collateral to local community organizations.

SBCCOG is assisting a 21-unit condominium property in Rancho Palos Verdes which is interested in adding energy efficiency elements as they upgrade this 50-year-old complex. The HOA is reviewing eligible contractors to consider for the multifamily energy efficiency rebates and is now working on completing the required Property Owner Agreement and providing their most recent copies of the complex SGC and SCE bills.

SBCCOG continues to seek outreach opportunities to promote the multifamily program. SBCCOG staff are following up with cities to identify opportunities and next steps.

Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN): Kits for Kids

SBCCOG staff continue to promote the Kits for Kids SoCalREN program focused on providing energy efficiency education to third and fourth grade students. The SBCCOG and ICF provided updated marketing materials that include testimonials from the Towne Elementary grant award ceremony. The SBCCOG sent updated flyers to South Bay School Superintendents. To date, the Hawthorne and Torrance offices have responded showing interest in sharing the program with their elementary schools.

Towne Elementary School in Carson has again applied to participate in Kits for Kids. ICF is shipping the kits the last week of January and is also providing updated postcards to the school.

ICF arranged for the SBCCOG to participate in a Podcast featuring the Kits for Kids program. Episode #14 of [ReEnergizing Communities](#) was officially posted in the first week of January. This episode is titled “Introducing Kids to Energy Efficiency with “Kits for Kids” and it can be listened to on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).

PACE

SBCCOG continues to promote PACE financing for homeowners through Ygrene. Residential PACE offerings are still suspended. The company continues to support existing projects and complete projects that are in the approval process. For Q2 (Apr-Jun 2022) and Q3 (Jul-Sep 2022), Ygrene has been billed \$114.02 and \$92.89 respectively. Billing for Q4 (Oct-Dec 2022) is pending due to staffing changes at Ygrene.

Water Conservation

West Basin Municipal Water District Programs (West Basin)

Contract period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

SBCCOG and West Basin staff met on January 9 to discuss implementation of programs.

Task – Educational Outreach Support - Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 51 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

Task - Speakers Bureau

Contract goal: identify and coordinate 14 speaking opportunities

Status of goal: 6 completed

Task – Water Bottle Filling Station Program

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)

Status: Public sites are eligible to install two (2) water bottle filling stations per Tax ID

SBCCOG staff continues to conduct outreach to market the program and reach the goal. Information is included in discussions with public agencies when meetings on other topics such as energy efficiency and information was also presented at Parks and Recreation Directors meeting. Applications were approved for the City of Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

Task - Support for Workshops, Events, & Webinars Educational Classes

Contract goal: 13 physical classes or virtual webinars

Status of goal: 6 completed (virtual classes) 2 classes in person

Staff continue to work with West Basin to hold virtual and in person classes to execute the 2022-23 program year goals.

Upcoming Virtual Event: February 1, 2023 - West Basin Chat: How Do I Get My Grass Replacement Rebate?

Task - Commercial Water Efficiency Program

Contract goal: Assist the program consultant in identifying up to 12 commercial sites

Status of goal: The SBCCOG staff provided GIS maps of locations that are participants of the green business program. The information will be used to help identify opportunities for this new program.

Task - Rain Barrel Giveaway

Contract goal: 5 Rain barrel distribution events

*Status of goal: 5/5 **GOAL MET**- All Rain Barrel distribution events for 2022 are complete.*

Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD)

The contract period is January 1-December 31, 2023

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.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Contract period is July 1, 2021, through July 30, 2023

Task – Community Outreach and Promotional Events

Contract goal: Exhibit or present at 9-12 targeted special events.

*Status of goal: 12 exhibit events completed **GOAL MET***

Task - Commercial Kitchen Water Assessments

Contract goal: Conduct 6-8 commercial kitchens in CD15 for water assessment.

Status of goal: 8 water assessments completed, and materials and packages were distributed

SBCCOG staff is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the LADWP to discuss the next 12 months of activity and set new goals.

Waste Reduction

Sanitation Districts of LA County (LACSD)

Contract period is July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

Educational Outreach Support Exhibit Events

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

Status of goal: 71 exhibit events, presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, etc.

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

*Status of goal: SBCCOG staff scheduled a total of 3 presentations, 1 presentations have been completed. **GOAL MET***

SBCCOG is currently working with LACSD to identify topics the organization would like to promote through community presentations.

Upcoming Sanitation Presentations:

February 6, 2023 – City Council Chamber of Lawndale

April 12, 2023 – Rotary Club Redondo Beach

Green Business

California Green Business Network (CAGBN):

*Contract period February 28, 2022 – January 31, 2023 – **GOAL MET***

Contract goals: 20 certified businesses for the City of Torrance and Hawthorne

And 15 certified businesses for the City of El Segundo (total 55)

*Status of goal: **El Segundo**: 15 certified (completed sustainable actions); **Hawthorne**: 20 certified; **Torrance**: 20 certified;*

CAGBN – The SBCCOG is continuing to work with the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, and Torrance to “green” certify local businesses. SBCCOG staff conducted onsite audits in each of these cities to help identify opportunities for sustainable improvements and connect business owners with utility incentives and programs. The team is also working with city staff to promote businesses that have received certification and is reaching out to elected officials for potential business walks.

South Bay Green Business Assist Program (GBAP):

Ongoing

GBAP - SBCCOG continues to provide information to local businesses on opportunities to implement sustainability programs. SBCCOG staff reached out to CalWater to provide information for potential sponsorship. In addition, businesses receive information on the status of SBCCOG utility partners' operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. GBAP by city: Carson (18), El Segundo (35), Gardena (26), Hermosa Beach (12), Hawthorne (65), 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 (75) and Los Angeles County – Community of Westmont (1) for a total of **346** businesses in the program as of January 2023.

Climate Action

SBCCOG staff and Lauren Estrella, the new CivicSpark Fellow, are making progress on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory update, which is one component of the Climate Action Plan updates for each city. The Fellow introduced herself and the scope of the work to city staff via email, which was received with enthusiasm. The Fellow gathered documents relating to transportation emissions and is preparing the data request to send to SCAG.

Transportation

Metro Express Lanes (MEL) (Contract period November 18, 2022 – November 17, 2023)

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. In total, the SBCCOG/SBESC distributed MEL materials at 5 events.

II. MARKETING, OUTREACH, & IMPLEMENTATION

Outreach Events

In January 2023

- 4 – Virtual Networking
- 0 – In Person Event
- 0 - Workshops
- 1 – Presentation

For the period July 1, 2022, through January 2023

- 17 - Virtual Networking
- 35 - In-person Community Event
- 19 - Workshop
- 0 - Business Event
- 9 - Presentation