

March/April
2008

Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

Spotlight on Success: Energy Efficiencies Achieved in Computer Systems, Water Delivery and Hospitals

Every Day is Earth Day

VCREA will lend its support to these community earth day celebrations:

March 22 City of Santa Paula
Glen City School

April 12 City of Oxnard
Downtown Plaza Park

April 13 Greater Ojai Valley
Ojai Valley Green Coalition &
Oak Grove School host at
Oak Grove School

April 19 City of Thousand Oaks
Conejo Creek Park North

April 19 City of Ventura
Surfers' Knoll Beach Clean-up
Midtown Home /Garden Tour
starts at Sanjon Maintenance
Yard.

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Computer Network Energy Management

The **County of Ventura's Information Technology Department (ITD)** is in the process of capturing one of the most elusive sources of wasted energy: personal computers, workstations and computer peripherals left on after the end of the business day. Many users are under the impression that PC's should be left on, or use little energy because they are in a "sleep" mode. Software is available that is installed on the organization's network which insures that equipment is turned off after hours. The ITD still has full control over the computers to schedule software downloads, and each individual user still has full control over their PC during normal working hours.

In a recent test conducted by the County's ITD, it was determined that there was a 46% reduction of energy use once the energy management software was installed. In a network as large as the County's, these savings amount to over 1 million kWh per year, or about \$120,000. The County is in the process of installing the software provided by the developer, Verdiem. Energy savings,

plus a \$15 rebate per PC from Southern California Edison, will result in a payback of less than one year.

Several other public agencies within the region are considering installing this innovation solution to energy use.

Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) Makes the Water/Energy Connection

In most organizations, employee costs are the biggest expense; for water agencies, it's the electricity bill. Recognizing this, CMWD recently upgraded the reclaimed water system by installing a premium efficiency motor controlled by a variable frequency drive (VFD). VFD's are "smart" devices that adjust the horsepower needed by a pump as the load changes.

Electrical Supervisor Jim Weber led the crew installing the new 75-HP motor and VFD. The fruits of their labors will reduce power consumption by almost 80,000 kWh per year. Annual savings from the project, along with an \$11,189 VCREA incentive, will result in a 2½ year payback. Jim is also pleased that the upgraded system is now much more trouble and maintenance free.

Ventura Inpatient Clinic and Santa Paula Hospital Lighting Improvements

Ventura County Health Care Agency (HCA) has been provided incentives totaling \$39,427 for completion of new lighting projects in two facilities. HCA will save \$35,000 annually in reduced electricity costs. Improved lighting quality and reductions in lighting maintenance costs are additional benefits of these lighting retrofit projects.

The installation was done by Sylvania Lighting Services who provided super-efficient "program start" ballasts and high-output T8 fluorescent lamps as part of their work.

According to Tom Underwood, HCA Facility Manager the work went smoothly and the cost savings will help fund new projects.

The final inspection walk included VCREA Board Chairman, Santa Paula Councilmember John Procter; and, a staff representative from VCREA Board Member, Supervisor Kathy Long's Office; both of whom have been supportive of this project.

VCREA Member Agencies:

- County of Ventura
- City of Ventura
- City of Oxnard
- City of Santa Paula
- City of Thousand Oaks
- Ventura Regional Sanitation District
- Ventura County Community College District
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Ventura Unified School District

VCREA Mission

To establish Ventura County, its communities and neighboring regions as the leader in developing and implementing durable, sustainable energy initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, enhanced quality of life and greater self-reliance for the region by:

1. Reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency and
2. Advancing the use of clean, efficient and renewable local resources

www.vcenergy.org



2008 Calendar of Events

<p>Wednesday, April 9 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. VCREA Conference Room</p>	<p>Plan Review Workshop (Greening Your Project Through Energy Efficiency) Participants may bring their building plans for review with a Certified Energy Manager to help achieve greater efficiency than Title 24 building code standards.</p>
<p>Thursday, April 17 10:15 a.m. 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 150 Ventura</p>	<p>VCREA Board Meeting The VCREA Board meeting is open to the public. The agenda is posted on the website: www.vcenergy.org</p>
<p>Thursday, May 8 9 – 11 a.m. VCREA Conference Room</p>	<p>Award Programs for Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency Seminar directed to policy makers, planners and business leaders interested in understanding the range of programs that position green buildings for awards—and the value it brings.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 14 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. VCREA Conference Room</p>	<p>Plan Review Workshop (Greening Your Project Through Energy Efficiency) Participants may bring their building plans for review with a Certified Energy Manager to help achieve greater efficiency than Title 24 building code standards.</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 11 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. VCREA Conference Room</p>	<p>Plan Review Workshop (Greening Your Project Through Energy Efficiency) Participants may bring their building plans for review with a Certified Energy Manager to help achieve greater efficiency than Title 24 building code standards.</p>

Contact the VCREA Office to learn more about these free seminars---registration is required.

BUILDING OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM RETURNS TO THE REGION

The Building Operator Certification (BOC) Program is coming to the region beginning March 25, 2008.

Directed to building engineers, service managers, maintenance supervisors, electricians and facilities specialists, this is an important training program that allows individuals to achieve expanded certification that is necessary to perform to higher standards and keep buildings running on budget.

The training is conducted at two levels, and this round will be of interest to Level II candidates who have successfully completed Level I and want more advanced training.

Training will cover preventive maintenance & trouble shooting, advanced electrical diagnostics, HVAC systems, enhanced automation and demand reduction, as well as an introduction to building commissioning.

To achieve Level II certification, participants must attend six classes (49 hours) and successfully complete open book exams and facility on-site projects. The classes will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Trainings are scheduled one day a month over a six-month period. Training cost is \$1,095 per first/only registrant, and \$795 for each additional registrant from the same facility or organization attending the same seminar.

Graduates of the program are vital to the development of the regional job market for energy professionals. The training supports LEED-EB credits with staff as well.

To get more details on the BOC, and to register go directly to: www.theBOC.info

