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Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

Light Your Way To Energy Efficiency And Cost Savings

* Lighting can cost up to 25% of what you pay for energy in your home every year.

* Lighting can cost more than \$200 a year.

* CFL's can last up to 7 times longer than incandescent, and save you 70-80% in energy costs. That could be more than \$140 annually.

Tips for controlling your costs:

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's).

Turn off lights when not in use. Use timers and occupancy sensors.

For Information about VCREA and Energy Efficiency in Ventura County

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Why Focus On Energy Efficiency ?

We are often asked why focus on energy efficiency and not simply advance solar energy or more renewable energy efforts. Consider the reasoning that follows.

In light of rising energy consumption to grow our food, manage water delivery systems, run our offices and schools, and secure the comfort of our homes, there is a necessity to consider the consequences of energy consumption. Thus, energy efficiency, and getting the best use of the energy we purchase and consume, is essential to powering the economy without degrading the environment.

Since the 1970s, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has overseen the funding and design of energy efficiency programs in California. The five member commission is appointed by the Governor to regulate the utilities and oversee programs that promote cost-effective and environmentally beneficial investments in energy saving products and technologies. Additionally, the California Energy Commission (CEC) is funded to research and develop renewable energy efforts that can reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and support the overall utility grid.

Energy efficiency programs are funded by the Public Goods Charge (PGC) applied to each customer's bill. The CPUC oversees the allocation of these PGC funds for programs implemented through each of the four investor owned utilities in

California: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), Southern California Gas Company (SCG), and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). The combined result of all these programs has positioned California among the most progressive nation-states in the world in reducing the harmful emissions linked to carbon emissions.

The CPUC approves each utility's plan for efficiency programs, and more recently has directed the utilities to develop a unified approach to energy efficiency through a Statewide Strategic Plan. Energy efficiency programs provide numerous benefits to California and its residents by reducing energy bills, prolonging the life of the current transmission system, reducing greenhouse gas and pollution, and conserving valuable resources for future generations. A broad plan is useful in coordinating efforts that focus first on cost effective efficiencies while tightening up the marketplace for renewable energy resources that will make new generation a value asset to the grid distribution system.

California's energy efficiency programs have historically encompassed some of the largest and most effective programs in the United States, so that the per capita electric consumption in the State has remained nearly flat in 30 years. This is a remarkable feat, considering population growth and expanded use of electronics. As energy efficiencies are

advanced, the cost of installing "right-sized" renewable energy systems will help contain costs. Business and government are working together to advance new technologies that will lead to real transformation of the marketplace.

VCREA provides regular training seminars to bridge the connection of energy efficiency to carbon reduction and behavioral changes that will lead to advancing and integrating new technologies. For example, VCREA offers monthly plan review sessions free of charge and open to individuals and businesses as buildings are remodeled or newly constructed. Energy Efficiency is an easy "first step" that will pay dividends over the life of the building.

Contact VCREA to schedule a customized training seminar, or to attend one scheduled.

**Update Your Contact
Information Online @
www.vcenergy.org**

Please go online to register or update your contact information to receive Energy Leader newsletter and training seminar "Email Blasts"

Energy Professionals and Energy Service Providers are encouraged to register their company under the **Vendor** menu among the business service categories.

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, 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, May 28 8:30 a.m. to 12: 30 p.m. Southern California Edison Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Road. Ventura</p>	<p>Save Energy, Save Money: An Introduction to Energy Efficiency and Rebates (Seminar #19737) Business owners will learn easy ways to reduce their energy usage and how to use SCE programs, rebates and incentives to help reduce their costs. This workshop provides tips on how to save money on lighting, air conditioning, motors, controls, refrigeration, and other equipment. Additional topics include how to read your electric bill and complete your own energy audit. <i>These classes are jointly offered by California Energy Centers operated by CTAC & AGRAC (Southern California Edison Company), the Energy Resource Center (Southern California Gas Company®, a Sempra Energy Utility), the Pacific Energy Center & Stockton Training Center (Pacific Gas & Electric Company), and San Diego Gas & Electric, a Sempra Energy Utility.</i></p>
<p>Thursday, May 29 8:30 a.m. to Noon The Gas Company Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>Energy Modeling for LEED® (Seminar #19078) Understand the difference between California's Title 24 Time Dependent Valuation based energy usage concepts and the LEED® rating system's Energy Cost Budget Approach. Attendees will learn how to model projects using EnergyPro in order to conform to LEED's Energy and Atmosphere (EA) credits for energy efficiency; and, will walk through an example project. Education Credits: 4 AIA learning units.</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.

CFL Lighting and Recycling

CFL's should be recycled along with your Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). There are HHW events held throughout our region or you may schedule a time to drop-off these items with the recycling center in your area.

Don't throw CFL's directly into your trash -- CFL's contain trace amounts of mercury that help make them energy efficient – equivalent to the amount that would cover the tip of a ball-point pen. For this reason, the State of California does not permit the disposal of CFLs with regular trash service. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that you dispose of used bulbs in a sealed plastic bag and bring them to a local recycling center. Please contact your local recycling center, municipal solid waste agency, or visit epa.gov/bulbrecycling or earth911.org to identify recycling options in your area.

If you break a CFL – Sweep up (Don't Vacuum) the bulb/all of the glass fragments and fine particles. Then put everything into a plastic bag, and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up whatever you may have missed. Add the towel to the plastic bag, seal and take to the recycling center (as mentioned above). Also, keep in mind that you should not handle a broken CFL bulb with your bare hands; use rubber gloves.

