

November/December 2010

Energy Leader

*A Publication of the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Home of the Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

A Whole House Approach to Energy Efficiency

VCREA invites you to visit our website @ www.vcenergy.org

Regional public agencies and organizations, businesses and individuals can find relevant information to increase energy efficiency.

Register to receive the Energy Leader newsletter and email notifications about upcoming technical workshops and events. If you have already registered remember to update your contact information as needed.

Energy Service Vendors are encouraged to register to inform the public of services and products available.

Look for regular updates and additional information significant to our region. Your comments and input would be greatly appreciated.

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When considering making home upgrades, most homeowners think of remodeling their kitchen or bathroom. Only a few will consider making upgrades that improve the energy efficiency of their home. Even fewer will take a "whole house" approach to implementing energy efficiency upgrades. This could change with the availability of a new statewide incentive program and a pending federal incentive program for installing energy efficiency measures in existing homes.

Most people are not familiar with the "whole house" approach. So what exactly is it? Instead of looking at individual measures, this approach takes into account all the energy related systems in a home such as windows, insulation, ducting, space heating and cooling and considers how they interact with each other. The idea is to approach the house as an integrated system rather than an assortment of individual systems so that all possible benefits are realized. For example, a homeowner might install an energy efficient air conditioning system but unless they address issues such as windows that don't close properly or lack of proper insulation they won't realize its full energy saving benefits.

This approach has many advantages, including significant energy savings. The national nonprofit organization, Efficiency First, www.encyfirst.org, reports that residential efficiency improvements can reduce energy waste in most homes by 20 to 40 percent. Because of its comprehensive nature, the whole house approach also ensures that there are no missed opportunities for energy savings.

In addition to energy savings, the whole house approach looks holistically at the relationship between energy savings, comfort and safety. Addressing issues such as proper insulation can increase occupant comfort and reduce noise. But it doesn't stop there; this methodology also looks at air quality and occupant safety. A major component of the approach is to ensure that

combustion appliances such as gas heaters and stoves are operating safely and are not leaking toxic fumes.

The "whole house" approach also looks at other safety and comfort issues including mold and mildew, which are the result of improper moisture control and can be identified during a whole house audit. Issues such as these can result in bad indoor air quality, discomfort and even cause damage to your home.

While implementing the "whole house" approach can be expensive, there are new and pending incentive programs that will help ease the financial burden. A new statewide incentive program, administered locally by Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, called Energy Upgrade California, www.energyupgradecalifornia.com, will offer incentives of up to \$4,000 for the installation of a variety of energy efficiency measures. The program is expected to roll out in October 2010.

And, if passed by Congress, pending federal legislation will establish the Home Star Retrofit Rebate program. Through this program homeowners would be eligible for incentives of up to \$3,000. Consumers could also receive additional incentives if they achieve energy savings higher than 20%.

The benefits of the whole house approach are many, but by implementing this approach homeowners won't just be helping themselves. They'll be creating green jobs, reducing green house gas emissions and helping California meet its energy savings reduction goals.

Seasonal Reminders for Residential Customers

With seasonal changes and holiday decorating plans underway, residential energy use may be expected to rise in the fall and winter months. To be sure lights are in use only when needed, consider adding timers to indoor and outdoor holiday lighting displays, porch lights and nightlights. And, remember to contact The Gas Company for safety tips and assistance with annual gas furnace cleaning and inspection.

VENTURA PARTNERSHIP NEWS**CALIFORNIA ADVANCED HOMES PROGRAM****We're here to help builders today for tomorrow's environment.**

Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company (along with Pacific Gas and Electric and San Diego Gas & Electric®) are working together to help the building industry design and develop more environmentally friendly communities. Our new California Advanced Homes Program (CAHP) highlights best practices in energy efficiency, green building and sustainability, and offers generous financial incentives and 'bonus' kickers to help builders and architects create environmentally friendly, energy-efficient communities for potential new home buyers. The program will be effective from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012.

The CAHP is offered through a diverse portfolio of programs by California's Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs). Participation is open to single-family, low- and high-rise multi-family residential new construction built in an IOU service area. The CAHP is a comprehensive residential new construction concept with a cross-cutting focus on sustainable design and construction, green building practices, energy efficiency, and emerging technologies. Through a combination of education, design assistance and financial support, the CAHP works with building and related industries to exceed compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6, 2008 Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (Standards), to prepare builders for changes to the standards and to create future pathways beyond compliance and traditional energy savings objectives.

The CAHP is designed for the performance-based approach for compliance. Compliance with the 2008 Title 24 Standards must be demonstrated through the performance method utilizing approved California Energy Commission (CEC) compliance software. The documents must be created and signed by a Certified Energy Plans Examiner (CEPE). Compliance must be demonstrated for the building as a whole and may not group unrelated or detached buildings together.

Let Us Help Turn Your Blueprints Into Greenprints.

Development of sustainable and livable communities combines environmental protection, green building design, energy efficiency, and land use planning integrated with the building design process. These innovative building practices also help you meet your bottom line. To take advantage of our new California Advanced Homes Program or to find out how to qualify, please contact your local utility today to receive additional information. Let us help you with all of your current and future residential new construction projects.

To learn more about these and other features of the California Advanced Homes Program please contact your local Account Representative or visit www.californiaadvancedhomes.com.

The California Advanced Homes website includes: Information for Builders; Featured Projects; Resources; News, Shows and Events; Certification and Training; and, CAHP Tools.



Calendar of Events

<p>Wednesday, November 10 (#23896) 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>Benchmarking with Energy Star® Portfolio Manager Using a combination of classroom instruction and online demonstrations, this course will address the pros and strengths and weaknesses of various benchmarking techniques, 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. This seminar will be a hands-on workshop, please bring your laptop for full participation. For more information and to register online visit seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Tuesday, November 16 (#26566) 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Southern California Edison's - CTAC 6090 N. Irwindale Avenue Irwindale</p>	<p>Sustainable Building Envelopes Designers, architects, and others will learn about the integrated design process and explore passive building measures for high performance green buildings. Topics such as building orientation considerations, high performance glass, advanced wall systems, cool roofing, and building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems will be discussed. (4 AIA/HSW Sustainable Building Learning Units) To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/energycenters.</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 17 (#22943) 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>DOE: Electric Motor Assessment End-User Training This U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) one-day motor assessment management training includes: applications, inventory, tracking, maintenance, replacement decisions, repair and the impact of maintenance on power quality. The training is co-sponsored by Department of Energy, California Energy Commission and Southern California Gas Company. For more information and to register online visit seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 17 (#23391) 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>What's New in Clean and Efficient Combines Heat and Power for Industry The CHP (Combined Heat and Power) seminar will focus on natural gas-fired technologies that generate power while also providing heat and cooling needs. Get the latest next steps to take that will help you make the most informed decision for your application. The Pacific Region Clean Energy Application Center-operated by the Advanced Power & Energy Program at the University of California, Irvine-is offering this seminar in cooperation with Southern California Gas Company in an ongoing effort to provide customers with the best information on energy efficiency. For more information and to register online visit seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com.</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 17 (#23615) 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9420 Firestone Boulevard Downey</p>	<p>Are You Ready for CalGreen Are you prepared for mandatory measures for new residential and nonresidential buildings that go into effect January 2011. Representatives from the California Building Standards Commission and California Department of Housing and Community Development will provide an overview of the new mandatory standards, voluntary tier structure, compliance checklists and code publication dates. In addition, speakers will help answer your specific code questions. For more information and to register online visit seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com.</p>

All dates/topics are subject to change and provided to open discussion of regional interest and need.

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
City of Camarillo
City of Fillmore
Ojai Valley Sanitary 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.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 2 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Simi Valley City Hall 2929 Tapo Canyon Road Simi Valley	Energy Upgrade California Training & Rebate Program Contractor Orientation Session At this event you will learn the basics of the program, get an overview of the opportunity it presents, see how you will be supported, find out the next steps to learn more and participate, and how you can energize your business. Energy Upgrade California is a partnership of the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission. To enroll, and for more information visit www.cbpc.org.
Friday, December 3 (#A6891) 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Southern California Edison's Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Rd., Ventura	Motor Efficiency Come learn about and explore premium motor efficiency and how it can reduce energy costs for commercial and industrial facilities. Attendees will learn about rating standards, the principles of an efficient motor, better management of motors for maximum operation, motor life expectancy, and how to benefit from motor efficiency in facilities. For more information and to register online visit seminars.socalgas.com or e-mail: ERC@socalgas.com.
Wednesday, December 8 (#26646) 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Southern California Edison's - CTAC 6090 N. Irwindale Avenue Irwindale	Integrating Photovoltaics into the Building Design This seminar is for architects, designers, builders, and others who are interested in learning how to achieve a Zero Net Energy or LEED-certified building by integrating photovoltaics (solar cell panel arrays) into the building form. Discover how merging photovoltaic power systems into your building design can help you achieve aesthetically-pleasing construction while meeting Zero Net Energy and LEED specifications. Attendees will have a chance to review several case studies that illustrate how photovoltaic systems can optimize energy efficiency by reducing a building's energy demand. To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/energycenters.
Thursday, January 20 10:15 a.m. 1001 Partridge Dr., Suite 150, Ventura	VCREA Quarterly Board Meeting The VCREA Board meeting is open to the public. The agenda is posted on the website: www.vcenergy.org .

All dates/topics are subject to change and provided to open discussion of regional interest and need.

Ventura College Community Education presents cleanedison -- Energy Audit Training - BPI Certification 4/5 day course starts on November 15, 2010 – Tomorrow's Job Today! -- Tuition \$1,595.00

Train to become an energy efficiency auditor and earn your BPI Certification (Building Performance Institute) in only one week. A recent study by the California Community Colleges' Centers of Excellence indicates that the need for building auditors will increase by 54% over the next three years throughout South Central California. Individuals in the fields of construction, design, inspection, contracting, and utilities will want to take this new course to learn to identify the relationships among overall performance, efficiency and durability. Class participants will learn to target, diagnose, and recommend procedures to remedy inefficient building performance. Course fee includes classroom training (1 full day + 2 half-days), field training (2 half-days), course materials, study materials, BPI application fees, written exam fee and field exam fee. The written and field exams will be held on Day 4 and 5 of the course.

For information and to register online: www.communityed.venturacollege.edu or call 805-654-6459

Ventura College Community Education presents cleanedison -- LEED Green Associate One Day Course December 6, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. -- Tuition \$345.00

CleanEdison's live, one-day course covers everything you need to know to pass, and qualify you to take, the LEED Green Associate exam. The course will include: overview of LEED and the LEED Process; a review of all LEED ratings systems; review of green building concepts such as vegetated roofs, rapidly renewable materials, on site renewable energy, and low-emitting materials; U.S. Green Building Council core curriculum: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality; overview of Innovation in Design, Innovation in Operations and Regional Priority Credits; LEED Credit Synergies; test taking tips; and, formulating a study schedule.

For information and to register online: www.communityed.venturacollege.edu or call 805-654-6459