

November/December 2009

Energy Leader

A Publication of the *Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance*

Home of the *Ventura County Energy Resource Center*

Please visit us online @ www.vcenergy.org to register to receive the Energy Leader newsletter and training seminar "Email Blasts" and to update your contact information.

Contact us to discuss scheduling a workshop or briefing event to meet the specific need and interest of your organization.

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

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TWO "COOL" STORIES

An "Educated" Decision

One of the challenges for facilities owners is deciding when to replace equipment, particularly expensive items such as heating and cooling units. Many older pieces of equipment (25+ years old) were so stoutly built that they have continued to function with minimal maintenance for many years beyond what is considered the industry standard service life.

A case in point: Several years ago the **Ventura Unified School District (VUSD)** purchased what had been the Kinko's corporate headquarters in Ventura. Prior to Kinko's tenure, the 120,000 sq. ft. building was operated by a local oil company. Since the 1980's, air conditioning to the building was supplied by the original and very rugged chiller plant. When VUSD took over the building, they had the chillers and associated equipment checked out by a local air conditioning contractor. Even though some modifications were made, the existing equipment was deemed to have many years of service remaining.

Here's the rub: Those sturdily-built chillers were using *two times* the amount of energy compared to the minimum standards currently required by energy codes. In dollar terms, this meant the school district was spending an extra \$60,000 or more per year running the existing chillers. Also, the odds were that, given their age, the chillers would likely need cost repairs in the not too distant future.

Working with the VCREA, the VUSD decided to proactively replace the chiller plant now as a way to reap significant energy savings and avoid expensive future repairs. Maintenance staff, led by Dave Marshall, chose to go beyond a

mere replacement and instead decided to totally re-engineer the system. The new plant design uses the most efficient chillers available on the market, and also included all new pumps, motors, cooling tower, and a computerized control system that optimizes the performance of each individual component.

The final product is truly a "state-of-the-art" system that uses 60% less energy than the old plant, and should run trouble free for many years to come.

Through its Ventura Partnership Program with Southern California Edison, VCREA was able to provide a \$73,000 incentive to help fund the project cost.

Success Loves Company

The **County of Ventura's General Services Agency (GSA)** has a long track record of energy efficiency. GSA maintains most of the facilities and equipment used by the County. The chiller plant in the Hall of Administration at the County Government Center was about 20 years younger than the system at VUSD. Many of its components had been updated and were in many ways more efficient than most chiller plants.

Paul Young, the County's facilities manager, has continually added new technology to improve energy efficiency. He was able to leverage "lessons learned" and selected the same automation system used to control the VUSD chillers. This technology is known as the "Hartman Loop" and is a combination of software and hardware developed by the Optimum Energy Company. Variable frequency drives (VFD's) and new pumps were included as needed.

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VENTURA PARTNERSHIP NEWS



An EDISON INTERNATIONAL® Company

2009 Southern California Edison LED Holiday Light Exchange Program

To make the holidays brighter with new lighting technology provided by Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights, VCREA is pleased to coordinate with utility partner Southern California Edison and support from the cities of Camarillo, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ventura, as well as the Ojai Valley Green Coalition for this year's program.

Since 2004, this program has provided the region's SCE customers an opportunity to exchange old standard light strands for LED light strands. Light strands are available on a first-come first-served basis while supplies last!

For information on program locations you may contact VCREA at 805-289-3335 or VCREA.Admin@ventura.org.

Remember to look for new LED products at local retailers in the form of holiday lighting strands and specialty lighting. LED lights are energy efficient, consuming only a few kilowatts per strand as compared to traditional twinkle lights and strand lighting.

Southern California Edison Company Operation Lamp Exchange A Success

This exceptional event was held at the Pacific View Shopping Mall in Ventura on the weekend of September 26-27, 2009; and was made possible by the ratepayers fund to help SCE customers (All Ventura County is included in the SCE territory) replace old lamps and receive FREE replacements that include the highly efficient new lighting products.

There were 4,006 lamps exchanged to 1,134 SCE customers who directly participated; while many more individuals took advantage of both the e-waste recycling service and benefited from informational displays on LED lighting, window treatments and residential solar systems provided as a part of the event.

It is anticipated that the SCE Lamp Exchange Program will return to the region in 2011 to extend this opportunity once again to regional customers.



A Sempra Energy utility®

Southern California Gas Company Rebates

Residential Rebates

Natural Gas Storage Water Heaters

Get a \$30 rebate on natural gas storage water heaters.

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a new unit. Instant and mail-in rebates are available.

Tankless Water Heaters

Get a \$200 rebate on tankless water heaters.

Tankless water heaters can save your household up to \$200 per year.

Only mail-in rebates are available.

Attic or Wall Insulation

Get a \$0.15/sp.ft. rebate on attic or wall insulation.

Save up to 25% of your heating costs by installing or upgrading insulation in your attic and walls.

Only mail-in rebates are available.

Natural Gas Furnaces

Get a \$200 rebate on select ENERGY STAR furnaces.

Energy-efficient central forced air-furnaces could save you up to 20% on heating costs.

Only mail-in rebates are available.

Dishwashers

Get up to a \$30 rebate on select Energy Star dishwashers.

Save up to \$30 a year in energy costs by purchasing an Energy Star qualified model.

Instant and mail-in rebates are available.

Clothes Washers

Get a \$35 rebate on select Energy Star clothes washers.

Energy Star models use up to 50% less energy per load.

Instant and mail-in rebates are available.

Business Rebates

Offering business customers ways to save energy and money is just one way SCG strives to provide exceptional service. If you have questions about SCG rebate or incentive programs, please contact your account representative, or call **1-800-GAS-2000**.

Calendar of Events

<p>By Appointment VCREA Conference Room To schedule an appointment email: vcra.admin@ventura.org or call: 805.289.3335</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency Design Review With Energy Projects Manager This design review will provide technical assistance, information and support to individuals who are in the early stages of remodeling or new construction of their homes and businesses. The focus will be on all aspects of energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings. Attendees should bring their plans and may invite their architects or building contractors.</p>
<p>Thursday, November 19 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Technology Development Center 5200 Valentine Road Ventura</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential HVAC Workshop A survey of the latest requirements in the energy standards which go into effect January 1, 2010. Compliance methods and issues will be discussed.</p>
<p>Friday, November 20 (#23124) 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Southern California Edison's Ventura Service Center 10060 Telegraph Rd., Ventura</p>	<p>Basics of LED Technology This seminar provides a basic understanding of light-emitting diode (LED) technology, with an emphasis on benefits and limitations for real world applications. Attendees will learn about the history, current status, and the future of LED Technology which will help them make better decisions resulting in energy savings. 4 AIA/HSW learning units available. To enroll, and for more information visit the SCE website @ www.sce.com/energycenters.</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 8 (#21963) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>LEED for Existing Buildings: Introduction, Overview and the Business Case This seminar helps building owners, operators and facility managers improve the energy efficiency, occupant health and environmental impact of their building operations. This session will walk attendees through the organization of the LEED-EB system, the assessment process and the business case for pursuing certification. Participants will also learn about implementation and documentation processes and the roles and responsibilities of team members working within a typical project time line. Register online at: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html.</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 9 & Thursday, December 10 (#20129) 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Gas Company's Energy Resource Center 9240 Firestone Blvd., Downey</p>	<p>Combustion Seminar: Downey This two-day training session is designed to give business owners, facility managers, plant and maintenance engineers and other engineering personnel a basic knowledge of natural gas equipment, combustion and air quality guidelines. Topics will include efficient and cost-effective ways to maintain and operate gas-burning equipment, energy conservation, incentive programs and compliance with air quality regulations. Register online at: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html.</p>

Visit our website at www.vcenergy.org and go to the calendar of events for more detailed information on these and other free seminars---registration is required.

For more information and a complete listing of The Gas Company's Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.socalgas.com/business/resourceCenter/ercHome.html.

For more information and a complete listing of SCE Energy Efficiency training opportunities visit: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm

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

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.



Preview 2010 Calendar of Events

Save the Date for the following

<p>Thursday, January 21 10:15 a.m. 1001 Partridge Dr., Suite 150, Ventura</p>	<p>VCREA Quarterly Board Meeting The VCREA Board meeting is open to the public. The agenda is posted on the website: www.vcenergy.org</p>
<p>By Appointment VCREA Conference Room To schedule an appointment email: vcrea.admin@ventura.org or call: 805.289.3335</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency Design Review With Energy Projects Manager This design review will provide technical assistance, information and support to individuals who are in the early stages of remodeling or new construction of their homes and businesses. The focus will be on all aspects of energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings. Attendees should bring their plans and may invite their architects or building contractors.</p>
<p>February 2010</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Non-Residential Lighting & Building Envelope Workshop</p>
<p>March 2010</p>	<p>2008 Title 24 Mechanical Workshop</p>
<p>To Be Determined</p>	<p>Components of LEED Buildings Certification Building Operators Certification – Level 2 2008 Title 24 Residential Energy Code Update Water/Energy Efficiency Relationship California Solar Initiative Technical Seminar Energy Efficiency for Non-Profit Organizations Energy Efficiency for Small Business Owners & Managers Energy Efficiency for Building Maintenance & Operations</p>

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

TRAININGS AND BRIEFINGS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION

VENTURA COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE REGULARLY PROVIDES TRAININGS AND TAILORED BRIEFINGS TO ENGAGE AND INFORM THE COMMUNITY OF THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

CONTACT US BY PHONE AT 805-289-3335 OR BY EMAIL @ VCREA.ADMIN@VENTURA.ORG TO DISCUSS SCHEDULING AN EVENT TO MEET THE SPECIFIC NEED AND INTEREST OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.



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The project has recently been completed, and monitoring is underway to determine the actual energy savings. Based on projections, the County could reduce its energy use by as much as 400,000 kilowatt-hours per year from this single project. To put this in perspective, the savings from this one project are equal to the annual electricity used by eighty (80) Ventura households, and could save the County as much \$60,000 per year. The final monitoring numbers will determine the amount of the VCREA incentive for this project; it is expected to be in the \$50,000-60,000 range.

These two chiller plant upgrades represent the high end of technology available for complex heating and cooling systems in large buildings. Most of us operate or work in much smaller surroundings, but technology continues to offer new opportunities no matter the size or complexity of our facilities. If you want to know what can be done to improve your 1000 sq. ft. office or your 100,000 sq. ft. building, VCREA can lead you to the "latest and greatest" technology for your particular situation.