

South Bay Watch

Special Environmental Edition

Fall 2012

A quarterly bulletin to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues

Published by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Governing Board:

Chair
Ralph Franklin
Inglewood

1st Vice Chair
Dan Medina
Gardena

2nd Vice Chair
Jeff Duclos
Hermosa Beach

Immediate Past Chair
Ellen Perkins
Palos Verdes Estates

Members:
Carson
County of LA
El Segundo
Gardena
Hawthorne
Hermosa Beach
Inglewood
Lawndale
Lomita
Los Angeles
Manhattan Beach
Palos Verdes Estates
Rancho Palos Verdes
Redondo Beach
Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates
Torrance

SBCCOG Executive Director
Jacki Bacharach

Legal Counsel
Michael Jenkins
Jenkins & Hogin LLP

Website:
www.southbaycities.org
South Bay Environmental
Services Center:
www.sbesc.com

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RECEIVES FIRST BEACON CHAMPION AWARD

It is not news that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), along with its Environmental Services Center (SBESC) has been a leader in promoting and supporting energy efficiency in the South Bay, but now a new height in recognition has been reached as a Beacon Award Program Champion. The Institute for Local Government (ILG) and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) recently bestowed the honor of the award to the SBCCOG as part of the sustainability and climate change recognition program.

The SBCCOG received the first ever Beacon Champion Award which recognizes collaborative agencies who support cities to encourage them to become Beacon Award recipients. Cities and counties that save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adopt policies and programs that promote sustainability are eligible for the Beacon Award but there was no way to reward organizations like the SBCCOG who help them to get there. South Bay cities that have received a Beacon Award are the City of Manhattan Beach and Rolling Hills Estates.

The ILG and SEEC created this new award category to recognize groups that provide sustained assistance to current and future Beacon Award program participants.

For the SBCCOG, the Beacon Award Champion program is a way to continue to support and promote its member agencies and their partnerships with utility companies. The SBCCOG, through the SBESC, works with member cities to identify projects that increase energy efficiency in their municipal facilities. The SBESC provides the services of an environmental engineer who works with cities "on site" conducting energy audits and assisting with their utility applications until the rebate is issued.

As a result of these efforts, since January 2012, member cities have been able to save 32,070 therms (natural gas) and 1,490,628 kWh (electricity kilowatts) for municipal operations and 4,437,175 kWh for businesses and residences, which represents their "community" savings. For examples of city programs and benefits through this program, see the "City Showcases" in this issue of BayWatch. **Continued to Page 2**

• MARK YOUR CALENDARS! • 14th Annual SBCCOG General Assembly

Friday, February 22, 2013 • 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center • 801 East Carson Street, Carson CA.

At What Cost? Unintended Consequences of Declining Revenues

Confirmed speakers so far:

- Michael Coleman, expert on California local government revenues, spending and financing
- Bobbi Peckham one of the West Coast's leading local government recruiters
- Jane H. Adams, Executive Director of the California Park & Recreation Society

This **FREE** event is for elected officials, city staff, city commissioners, community and business leaders, and the public to hear and discuss issues of importance to the South Bay.

Registration is required - RSVP @ www.southbaycities.org

Add your name as a sponsor NOW & start receiving recognition immediately!!

Contact Kim Fuentes @ kim@southbaycities.org to sign-up for one of the following categories:

Golden Circle: \$10,000 Patron: \$7,500 Benefactor: \$5,000 Sponsor: \$2,500

Thank you to our Confirmed Sponsors

**Benefactors: California Center for Sustainable Energy • Chevron Products Company
Southern California Edison • Sponsors: Iteris Inc. • Water Replenishment District**

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN MANHATTAN BEACH

The City of Manhattan Beach is continually moving forward with its environmental sustainability initiatives. After recent national recognition for its water conservation efforts through the Wyland Foundation's conservation challenge, and honorable mention for its energy efficiency programs from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the City is striving to promote other sustainability initiatives to the community.



Water wise plantings at City Hall

Current programs center around sustainable landscaping, which can have significant impacts on reducing water and energy consumption in the region. The City's programs include a free sustainable landscape

checkup, rebates for those interested in removing turf to install CA-friendly gardens, and participation in irrigation audits from West Basin and the Seal of Approval for sustainable gardens from the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden. Each of these programs is designed to reduce water consumption through sustainable landscape principles.

Another initiative that is promoted through the City's Water Conservation Ordinance and Green Building Standards is the adoption of a pool cover standard. The City requires outdoor pools or outdoor spas that have a heat pump or gas heater to have a thermal cover or blanket to prevent evaporation and reduce energy and water consumption.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy:

Swimming pools lose energy in a variety of ways, but evaporation is by far the largest source of energy loss. Evaporating water requires tremendous amounts of energy. It only takes 1 Btu (British thermal unit) to raise 1 pound of water 1 degree, but each pound of 80°F water that evaporates takes a whopping 1,048 Btu of heat out of the pool.

The evaporation rate from an outdoor pool varies depending on the pool's temperature, air temperature and humidity, and the wind speed at the pool surface. The higher the pool temperature and wind speed and the lower the humidity, the greater the evaporation rate. In windy areas, you can add a windbreak—trees, shrubs, or a fence—to reduce evaporation. The windbreak needs to be high enough and close enough to the pool that it doesn't create turbulence over the pool, which will increase evaporation. You also don't want the windbreak to shade the pool from the sun, which helps heat it.

An excellent example of how pool covers can have economic, as well as environmental benefits is the recent covering of the swimming pool at Mira Costa High School. The High School has realized significant savings in heating costs by keeping the pool covered when not in use, estimating a reduction in School District utility costs of approximately \$50,000. This is an impressive step to take as a way to save much needed funds in tough economic times.

For further information regarding the City's energy efficiency initiatives, contact Sona Kalapura, Environmental Programs Manager, at (310) 802-5341



Mira Costa pool with thermal cover

SBCCOG RECEIVES FIRST BEACON CHAMPION AWARD

Continued from Page 1

Other Community energy savings for individual households have also been achieved with the assistance of the SBESC. Residents throughout the South Bay are learning about sustainability efforts and taking action to reduce their personal energy usage.

The SBESC works in partnership with cities and the utilities to raise awareness of energy efficiency residential programs through public events ~ where all can see examples of practical applications at farmers markets, environmental fairs, and city town hall meetings. Contractors with expertise in energy efficiency upgrades are also available to answer related questions or concerns of South Bay residents and our booths are staffed by dedicated volunteers.

Over the next few months, the SBESC will be working closely with member cities that have not received Beacon Awards to help them document their accomplishments and apply for this prestigious recognition. The SBESC will also be working with the ILG and SEEC to recognize the leadership efforts of the South Bay cities.

For more information on this and other energy programs see www.southbaycities.org or www.sbesc.com.

Find the South Bay Environmental Services Center
at www.sbesc.com



ENERGY LEADER PROGRAM IN ACTION: LAWNDALE GETS REBATES FOR CIVIC BUILDING UPGRADES

The City of Lawndale recently completed two energy efficiency projects, through the South Bay Cities Council of Governments “Energy Leader Participation Program” sponsored by Southern California Edison. The projects included upgrade of the HVAC (Heating/Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system of its Community Center North building, located near Lawndale City Hall, as well as interior lighting upgrades in all of the City’s older civic buildings.

With these upgrades to the Community Center HVAC and office lighting, the interior environments of the civic buildings were greatly improved. The direct financial benefit to the City for both projects, is an annual energy savings of 97,125 kWh, with an associated energy saving annually of approximately \$19,000. An air quality environmental benefit will occur due to the annual removal of 100 tonnes of greenhouse gas (CO₂e).

By participating in the SBCCOG partnership program, Lawndale was able to maximize energy efficiency rebates available from utility companies. Upon completion of both projects, on October 15, Edison presented the Lawndale City Council with a check for approximately \$16,200. When added to a prior check for approximately \$6,600 received from The Gas Company due to 6,614 therms saved, the total rebate to the City amounts to approximately \$22,800.

These energy efficiency projects involved the combined efforts of the City of Lawndale, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments for preparation of construction documents; Southern California Edison which applied energy savings incentives through its Energy Efficiency Program (EEP); and the Gas Company which also applied energy reduction incentives.

A key step involved performing energy efficiency audits of all City facilities in order to identify savings that could be achieved. Potential efficiency improvements that were identified included Heating/Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrades and lighting replacements. FCI Consulting performed audits to identify lighting energy efficiencies, Edison and SBCCOG/SBESC technical staff performed energy efficiency audits for the HVAC systems and The Gas Company audited for potential reductions in gas consumption.

The HVAC project involved the modification of the Community Center’s existing multi-zone air handling unit to enable it to operate with greater energy efficiency and improved performance. Specific improvements included replacement of the air handlers and zone dampers, and installment of operators for each damper to reduce air flow when no cooling or heating is required. New supply and return fans were provided with variable frequency drives and new direct digital controls provided an opportunity for additional energy efficiency measures.

The work area lighting systems throughout various civic buildings included installing the latest generation “T-8” lamps, as well as installing high-performance ballasts in fluorescent fixtures, and dual-technology sensors throughout office areas.

The HVAC upgrades were funded by an EECBG (Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant) grant of \$175,818, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In being awarded the grant the city was able to demonstrate that the project met a Presidential priority to deploy the cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable energy technologies that are available.

For further information, please contact Glen W. C. Kau at the City of Lawndale at (310) 973-3260.



Community Center North Building, Lawndale

SBCCOG RECEIVES CLEAN AIR AWARD

Another progressive program of the SBCCOG has received an award...

The SBCCOG Local Use Vehicle (LUV) Demonstration Program has received a South Coast Air Quality Management District “Innovative Transportation Project” Clean Air Award.

The LUV program advances the use of electric neighborhood vehicles and demonstrates that a majority of trips taken are under 5 miles. For more information about this unique program see www.southbaycities.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRANEA RESORT

The 102-acre Terranea Resort, located in Rancho Palos Verdes, has won a 2012 SoCal Environmental Excellence Development (SEED) Award in the category of Pollution Protection.

The award recognizes Terranea’s deployment of a long and comprehensive list of “green” initiatives in the areas of energy efficiency, conservation, recycling, transportation, and landscaping. For more information: www.terranea.com

Food for Thought

LOS ANGELES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

From: *Adapt LA – Preparing for Climate Change Fact Sheet*
City of Los Angeles, Office of the Mayor, June 2012

The world's climate is changing at an unprecedented pace. This is the clear consensus of the United Nations' leading climate scientists. Indeed, many parts of the world are already experiencing the impact of rising temperatures. Climate change is a global phenomenon, and its effects do not stop at national, state or local borders. Cities must be on the frontlines of confronting and adapting to our changing environment.

In responding to climate change, cities face a twofold challenge. First, they must mitigate their impact on the global environment by lowering emissions, conserving energy and enhancing sustainability. At the same time, cities must also prepare to adapt to changes in the climate that are already underway and cannot be reversed.

To meet the challenge of climate change, the Villaraigosa administration began developing and implementing comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies in 2005. These strategies are guided by a rigorous, science based approach to ensure that elected officials, government agencies, and the public have the best available data to guide their decisions and inform appropriate policies and programs.

Climate change is real, and the time to prepare is now. With good data driving good policies, we can craft innovative solutions that will preserve our environment and ensure our quality of life in Los Angeles for the next generation.

Building on our Success

Since the release of the 2007 GreenLA Plan, Los Angeles has made significant progress toward mitigating climate change with bold and innovative actions.

Los Angeles reached its goal of deriving 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2010, has reduced water consumption and increased energy efficiency to record levels, cut pollution at the Port of Los Angeles, expanded public transportation, increased the City's tree canopy, set sweeping green building standards, launched the largest LED street light replacement program in the world, and switched to alternative

fuels for the City's fleet. We've seen the conversion of all MTA buses to compressed natural gas, created more than 650 acres of new open space, and reduced auto emissions through improved congestion management by synchronizing the signals of all of the city's major intersections.

Preparing Los Angeles for a Different Climate

Addressing the impacts of rising temperatures can seem daunting. Fortunately, Los Angeles has a head start.

Much of the work we have been doing to mitigate climate change will also help us to adapt to it.

Our green building standards ensure that all new buildings will be well protected from increasing temperatures. The City's energy efficiency programs are already helping existing buildings – including homes, businesses, and industrial centers – to lower their carbon footprint.

Trees and parks also have a role to play in preparing our city for climate change. Trees provide shade and can absorb greenhouse gases. Parks can provide much-needed refuge on hot days. Thanks to our tree planting program, we are planting trees at six times the rate of previous efforts and prioritizing areas of the city known for their lack of canopy. During the last seven years, we have added 50 new parks with a total of 650 acres, significantly increasing the availability of green public space throughout the city.

In addition to these measures, the City of Los Angeles is developing a comprehensive adaptation strategy. This strategy addresses and reduces the risks that climate change poses to public health, private and public property, and our community's quality of life. The City's adaptation strategy has four major components: evaluation; assessment; partnership; and public engagement.

For More Information Contact Romel Pascual,
Deputy Mayor for Environment & Sustainability
romel.pascual@lacity.org

CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

October

- 24 Infrastructure Working Group
- 25 **Board of Directors**

November

- 7 Livable Communities Working Group & Climate Action Planning Task Force
- 13 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
- 14 GIS Working Group
- 15 **Board of Directors**

December

- 10 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
 - 12 GIS Working Group
- HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

January 2013

- 9 GIS Working Group
- 14 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
- 16 Livable Communities Working Group
- 23 Infrastructure Working Group
- 24 **Board of Directors**

Contact jacki@southbaycities.org for further information.

The quarterly
South Bay Watch
is available electronically
by email or at
www.southbaycities.org.

To receive by email, please
send your email address to
sbccog@southbaycities.org