

# South Bay Watch

## SBCCOG'S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS SAVING ENERGY, WATER AND MONEY!

Fall 2013

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

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[www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com)

**B**ecause of the SBCCOG's Environmental Services Center partnership, rebates for energy savings to our cities have exceeded \$600,000 since 2010 and the annual energy savings that our cities are realizing also exceeds \$700,000. How did we get here?

**History**— About 12 years ago, the state energy crisis was raging and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) solicited ideas for energy efficiency programs. The City of Redondo Beach applied for the funding and was awarded the contract to implement when the Redondo Beach City Manager suggested that the program might be better if promoted throughout the whole South Bay rather than just in Redondo Beach. The SBCCOG Board of Directors agreed to accept the program designed by and awarded to the City of Redondo Beach under the auspices of the CPUC known as the "South Bay Energy Rewards Program" (SBER). During 2001-2003, the Energy

Rewards Program worked to raise awareness of energy efficient appliances. A point of purchase coupon was developed so that the customer received an instant rebate for purchasing an energy efficient EnergyStar® rated appliance. The SBCCOG program staff of one reached out to 10 South Bay retailers to participate in the implementation phase. The SBCCOG's first energy efficiency education and outreach programs began with Energy Rewards. Early adopters may remember the spiral shaped light bulb called a CFL which was given to those who participated in the Residential Self Commitment Card Program at city halls and community events.

**Early Days**— Building on the success of the Energy Rewards Program, the SBCCOG was approached by Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company to form a Local Government

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### • MARK YOUR CALENDARS! •

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual SBCCOG General Assembly

Friday, February 28, 2014 • 8:45 am to 2:30 pm  
Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center • 801 East Carson Street, Carson CA

#### **Why Must We Care? The Cost of the Changing Environment to the South Bay**

Join the conversation as the "domino effect" of the cost of electricity, transportation, water, temperature rise, and health care is explored. This FREE event is for elected officials, city commissioners and staff, community and business leaders, and the public to hear and discuss issues of importance to the South Bay.

*Confirmed speakers*

- **Matthew Kahn, PhD**, Professor, UCLA Institute of the Environment, expert in environmental economics and author of CLIMATOPOLIS
- **Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.**, Director, Los Angeles County Public Health Department
- **Jonathan Parfrey**, Executive Director, Climate Resolve

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Watch for more notices and check our web site: [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org) for more info



## SBCCOG RECOGNIZES ENERGY SAVINGS BY SOUTH BAY CITIES

On September 26, 2013 the SBCCOG and its partner, Southern California Edison, hosted the Energy Leader Partnership Luncheon to recognize approximately 30 staff members from South Bay cities whose efforts through the Energy Leader Partnership program have resulted in 4,121,554 kWh in energy savings and annual reduction in cost savings of \$705,828 from 2010 to the present. Each city employee working in energy efficiency received a certificate of recognition from the SBCCOG.

For more information regarding this program contact: Marilyn Lyon 310-371-7222.



Find SBES at [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com)



Jacki Bacharach (left) SBCCOG Executive Director, presents certificate to Yvonne Mallory, City of Gardena, with SBCCOG Chair Dan Medina (center), Immediate Past Chair Ralph Franklin, and (far right) Gene Rodrigues, So. California Edison

## SBCCOG'S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

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Partnership program for the 2004-2008 portfolio cycle. This would be a marketing, education and outreach program for the entire SBCCOG geographic area serving cities/public agencies, residents and businesses. The SBCCOG quickly became aware that it could be more beneficial to South Bay cities if hard energy savings were also included in its program and pursued opportunities to make this a reality by implementing programs such as a joint energy efficiency lighting retrofit contract and discount purchasing of vending misers for our cities.

Outreach efforts continued to build and it became apparent that while the program staff was talking about energy efficiency to attendees of community events they had a great opportunity to speak about other resource saving measures such as water.

In the next CPUC cycle of funding, the SBCCOG successfully became a resource program for hard energy savings, taking on goals for assisting our municipalities with identifying and completing energy efficiency projects for kilowatt/hour and on-going energy cost savings. In 2006 the SBCCOG added West Basin Municipal Water District and City of Torrance Water to the Partnership of the SBCCOG, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company. It was at this time the SBCCOG Board changed the name from the South Bay Energy Savings Center to our current name - South Bay Environmental Services Center while keeping our acronym SBES.

As more opportunities became available the SBCCOG Board of Directors added other environmental partners and the partnership has grown and is able to leverage funding to create

the robust program that we enjoy today. Our partners now include Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, West Basin Municipal Water District, Torrance Water, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and LA Metro. The collaboration with our partners has allowed the center to serve residents and businesses with timely information and education.

South Bay cities and South Bay school districts can now receive no-cost SBCCOG technical assistance to identify and help with implementation of energy efficiency projects which lower the use of precious resources and reduce on-going expenses.

The South Bay Environmental Services Center is extremely proud of our Volunteer program initiated in 2008. With such dedicated and passionate volunteers and staff, the SBES is able to exhibit at over 150 community events and workshops a year including one of our more popular programs the November Holiday Light Exchange where SCE customers in the South Bay can exchange two strands of old incandescent lights for two boxes of new LED lights.

**Looking Forward-** Currently SBES staff is working with the South Bay cities to develop Climate Action Plans that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through local actions. The SBES website lists a variety of educational seminars and practical training sessions that are hosted by SBES for public agencies, residents and businesses. And, SBES Staff and volunteers are available to participate year-round in community events to assist consumers in making informed decisions about their personal use of natural resources.

# PACE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE TO SOUTH BAY CITIES

**P**ACE, which stands for “Property Assessed Clean Energy” is an innovative method for commercial and residential property owners to finance energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation upgrades to their buildings and property. Through a PACE program, and in accordance with State law, property owners on a voluntary basis, can receive 100% financing to implement clean energy or energy efficient improvements on their property. The benefits start right away and the property owner pays for the project as a property tax assessment over a period of up to 20 years. Should the property ownership transfer, the assessment stays with the property.

During the 2013 summer the SBCCOG Board of Directors entered into agreements with two separate PACE financing programs, HERO PACE and Figtree Financing. For residents and businesses to obtain PACE financing, SBCCOG member cities, on a voluntary basis, need to join either or both of these programs.

The types of improvements that are commonly PACE financed include: cool roofs, windows and glass doors, heating and air conditioning systems, insulation, solar thermal systems, photovoltaic systems, lighting control systems, home sealing, electric vehicle charging stations and landscaping irrigation.

The HERO and Figtree PACE financing programs are a “win-win” opportunity not only for an individual property owner, but also for the participating cities and the larger South Bay community. Property owners have the immediate benefit of reduced utility bills and increased property value. PACE programs also economically benefit owners by enabling the financing of energy and water efficiency improvements up front with no money down, with a fixed rate property assessment that can be amortized over time (up to 20 years). The individual participating cities benefit from increased sales tax and construction permit fee and improvement work that is involved. PACE also benefits cities by providing an additional tool or strategy that can be incorporated into a Climate Action Plan, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing environmental goals of AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006).

As of September 30, 2013 the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Lomita and Rancho Palos Verdes have approved participation in the HERO and Figtree Financing PACE programs and Rolling Hills Estates, in only the HERO program. Stay tuned as other South Bay cities sign up for the HERO and Figtree PACE programs in the upcoming months. You can check with your city to find out if they have done so or call the South Bay Environmental Services Center @ 310-371-7222 for the status.

## About HERO PACE:

The HERO Financing Program is a private public partnership, fully funded and requires no cost outlays by participating cities and counties. HERO is offered through a joint powers authority, Western Riverside Council of Governments, formed under State law. HERO has received a number of awards, including the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) President’s Award for Excellence, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Best of the Best, and the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) California Top 10 Green Building Policies for Municipalities.

HERO financing is available for both residential and commercial properties. The minimum amount that can be financed is \$5,000 and the maximum is 15% of the value of the property.

For more information visit the HERO website at [www.heroprogram.com](http://www.heroprogram.com) or call toll-free (855) 437-6411.

## About Figtree PACE:

Figtree Financing offers a streamlined non-exclusive full service PACE program. Its services include helping the property owner with detailed cash flow analysis, leading the effort to obtain Lender Acknowledgement from the mortgage lender, and all services needed to apply, obtain approval, and administer the financing.

The Figtree PACE Program covers projects as small as \$5,000 to over \$1M. Commercial and limited residential properties are eligible for financing, however, qualifying residential properties must have a non-FHFA mortgage. In contrast, all commercial property types are eligible. Figtree has received judicial validation from the California Superior Court affirming that Figtree PACE assessments have been properly implemented and are binding under the terms of California PACE law.

For more information, visit the Figtree website at: [www.Figtreefinancing.com](http://www.Figtreefinancing.com), or call toll-free (877) 577-7373. 

In 2010, Beach Cities Health District, the largest preventive health agency in the country, successfully competed against 55 cities nationwide to pilot Blue Zones Project™ in the cities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. Blue Zones Project is an innovative grassroots initiative focused on helping people live longer and better. The Project partners closely with school districts, employers, restaurants, and grocery stores in the Beach Cities to implement small, evidence-based changes that encourage residents to adopt healthier lifestyles.



*Cycle track on N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, to break ground January, 2014*

Three years into the initiative, Blue Zones Project and its partners have seen significant improvements in the well-being of residents in the Beach Cities. According to the Gallup-Healthways Well Being Index™, a survey used to measure the well-being of residents, obesity rates in the Beach Cities declined 14% and smoking rates declined 30% from 2010 to 2012. Together, the decline in obesity and smoking saved the Beach Cities \$9.32 million dollars in healthcare related costs over two years. Physical activity and healthy eating also improved with a 10% increase in exercise frequency and a 9% increase in healthy eating frequency among Beach Cities' residents. According to Dan Witters, Principal at Gallup, "The positive well-being trend in the Beach Cities is both authentic and impressive. The rate at which the community has improved since 2010 far surpasses what has been measured in the large majority of other communities nationwide. Given the timing of this progress, we believe the Blue Zones Project has been a strong driver of the Beach Cities success."

In the three years that Blue Zones Project has been in the Beach Cities:

- Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach all adopted the Beach Cities Livability Plan, the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan, and outdoor smoking restrictions.
- Thousands of residents pledged to complete at least one action to improve their well-being.
- Over 60 local restaurants took steps to promote a healthier experience for patrons.
- More than 150 local employers committed to implementing simple changes that increase employee well-being and create healthier work environments.
- More than 5,500 students participated in school-based strategies like the Walking School Bus program that encourages physical activity through chaperoned walks to school and the MindUP™ program that teaches social and emotional learning skills through mindfulness curriculum.

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A strong partnership with the Cities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach has been fundamental to the success of Blue Zones Project in the Beach Cities. When the Project began in October 2010, the City Councils in each of the Beach Cities agreed to adopt recommended policies and complete built environment projects that improve well-being and make their communities more livable, walkable, and bikeable. The policies recommended by Blue Zones Project are a compilation of evidence-based policies from national sources including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Institute of Medicine, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation among others. The recommended policies are grouped into three categories: Complete Streets Policy, Tobacco Policy, and Healthy Eating and Active Living Policy. Recognizing that every city has different values and priorities, Blue Zones Project worked with leadership in each of the cities to identify the policies and built environment projects that they were interested in pursuing. Over the course of three years, Blue Zones Project staff and a group of passionate residents partnered with city staff to draft policies and support their adoption by participating in the public input process.

In February 2013, the City of Hermosa Beach became the first city in the country to achieve Blue Zones Community Policy™ designation. To achieve this designation, Hermosa Beach adopted a number of policies to improve the health of its residents including a Living Streets Policy and a comprehensive

smoke-free policy banning smoking in all outdoor public places. Notably, Hermosa Beach was the first city in the country to adopt a Living Streets Policy. A Living Streets Policy is one step beyond a Complete Streets Policy and commits the city to designing streets that are safe, comfortable, and convenient for travel via foot, bicycle, transit, and automobile as well as creating vibrant, people-oriented public spaces that encourage active living. In April, the National Complete Streets Coalition ranked Hermosa Beach's Living Streets Policy No. 2 out of nearly 130 cities that adopted Complete Streets policies in the past year. Only two other California cities made the top 10 ranking: Huntington Beach (No. 3) and Rancho Cucamonga (No. 10).

The City of Redondo Beach recently achieved Blue Zones Community Policy™ designation after the City Council voted to adopt a Living Streets Policy on October 8<sup>th</sup>. While participating



*(Left to right) Steve Napolitano, Deputy to County Supervisor Knabe, Hermosa Beach Mayor Jeff Duclos and Mayor Pro Tem Kit Bobko celebrate Hermosa Beach as 1<sup>st</sup> city in U.S. to achieve "Blue Zones Community Policy" designation.*

## SBCCOG HOSTS FORUM: THE CHALLENGE OF SHORT TRIPS IN THE VEHICLE MARKETPLACE

On July 29 the SBCCOG invited a select group of auto industry representatives, transportation and air quality experts and other interested parties to join a conversation about how to satisfy consumer demand for personal mobility over short distances – too long to walk and too short for transit.

The discussion started with a presentation regarding the SBCCOG's 3 year demonstration project of zero emission neighborhood vehicles. This was followed by presentations and commentary by:

- Dr. Daniel Sperling, CARB Board Member, and Director ITS- UC Davis
- Dr. Matt Miyasato, Deputy Executive Officer Science and Technology Advancement, SCAQMD
- Representatives from General Motors, Honda, Nissan and Toyota

Everyone in the room more or less agreed that a market niche exists for low speed short range electric vehicles or Local Use Vehicles (LUV's) and the SBCCOG demonstration project showed that drivers liked these vehicles for their errands and short distance trips.

Many automakers have tested low speed and range limited vehicles in the past with great success. Unfortunately none have found a way to bring this type of technology to market in the United

States although there are new models in Europe. Moving forward automakers will continue to pursue new vehicle types that may fit this market, but it was acknowledged that we are unlikely to see them on the market any time soon, without some kind of incentives.

There was also discussion of what government can do to promote this low impact vehicle. Having local governments consider creating new low speed vehicle lanes instead of just bike lanes would be important. Additionally state financial incentives for these smaller battery powered vehicles commensurate with those for full speed battery electric vehicles would provide a stimulus.

A lively conversation was started with this event, and no doubt

will continue - stay tuned! For further information, you can read the SBCCOG's report on the South Bay Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Demonstration Project at: [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org)



## SOUTH BAY BEACH CITIES MARK PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING BLUE ZONES PROJECT GOALS

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in Blue Zones Project, Redondo Beach has improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, planted over 200 trees along major boulevards, and made a number of enhancements to the Redondo Beach Pier including lighting, benches, landscaping and bicycle stands to make it safer and more inviting. Inspired by the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan, the City pursued and won over \$2 million in competitive Metro funding that will be used to break ground on Los Angeles' first two-way cycle track on N. Harbor Drive in January 2014.



*Manhattan Beach using Safe Routes to School grants for Walking School Buses.*

The City of Manhattan Beach is expected to complete their Blue Zones Community Policy™ designation in January 2014 after they adopt a Living Streets Policy and updated Mobility Plan. In its pursuit of designation, Manhattan Beach has established a healthy food and beverage policy for city-sponsored youth sporting events and installed drought-tolerant gardens at City Hall, the Pier, the post office, and Chamber of Commerce among other actions. Outstandingly, the city won \$1 million in federal and state Safe Routes to School funding and is making improvements to enhance the safety of students walking and biking to seven local schools.

“Through Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Redondo Beach's pursuit of Blue Zones Project Community Policy designation, the Beach Cities are breaking ground as innovators dedicated to providing a safer city street environment for residents,” said Susan Burden, Chief Executive Officer of Beach Cities Health District. “We're thrilled to evolve beyond a car-based culture in Los Angeles and emerge as cities providing residents with improved public areas, parks, bicycle lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets.”

For more information visit: [www.bluezonesproject.com](http://www.bluezonesproject.com)

# Food for Thought

## VIEWPOINTS Q&A: HOW CLIMATE CHANGE MAY AFFECT CALIFORNIANS

From the Sacramento Bee, June 23, 2013

**R**ep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, the ranking member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, asked the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at UC Merced a series of questions about the effects of climate change on California as background for policy development. The following are some of the responses from Sierra Nevada Research Institute director Roger Bales and senior researcher Norm Miller.

### What are the most serious threats facing Southern California because of climate change?

While Southern California is also expected to receive intense precipitation events during the winter, it is very likely to have an overall reduction in precipitation. The most serious threat due to climate change is a decrease in fresh water and an increase in intense wildfires.

Sea level rise will impact port infrastructure, as adjustments to docks, jetties, and other fixed platforms will need to be altered. The Central Valley Project and the State Water Project pumping plants are at risk of failure if flooded.

### How will climate change affect precipitation and water availability in California?

Precipitation modeling has large uncertainties; however, a fairly robust signal across models indicates that Northern California will receive an increase in intense precipitation events during the winter and Southern California very likely will have a decrease. The annual cumulative amount of precipitation is likely to be about the same, but very likely a redistribution with intense precipitation periods alternated with very dry years.

Overall, California is likely to experience 50 percent to 150 percent more critically dry years. Water availability is certain to be more variable, as observations indicate California precipitation is becoming more and more variable. It is likely that a multiyear drought will occur, as has occurred numerous times in the past; however, future droughts maybe longer lasting.

The shift from snow to rain in the Sierra Nevada, decreased snow cover area, coupled with longer growing seasons, are certain to result in more winter stream flow and less summer stream flow, impacting water deliveries during the growing season. This loss of snowpack storage will reduce water security for California.

### How will rising sea levels affect coastal communities?

Coastal communities will be impacted with higher storm surge events resulting in flooding. Major cities, including San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles are at risk of flooding. ... The San Francisco Bay and Delta are at high risk for flooding during combine intense precipitation, sea level rise and storm surge.

### To what extent will climate change increase the frequency and severity of heat waves in California?

Analysis of climate observations and models indicate that present-day heat waves, multiple days with temperatures in the top 5 percent of historic warmest days, will increase by two to four times the current level. By midcentury, California temperature increases are very likely to range between 2 degrees and 5 degrees, with end-of-century increases of 3 degrees to 10 degrees.

Heat waves may occur anywhere in the state, but it is important to note that high population density regions, people who lack sufficient cooling, elderly people and children are most at risk.

### To what extent will climate change increase the frequency and severity of wildfires in California?

Naturally occurring wildfires are very likely to be larger in extent due to increased drying of fuel load during the summer season.

### What impact will climate change have on agriculture in California?

Crops that are not water-efficient (e.g. rice, cotton) are very likely to be replaced with more water-efficient crops. Crops that are sensitive to extreme heat periods will have low productivity years, impacting the state's overall economics. Many Central Valley specialty crops, which are the foundation of the agricultural economy, are especially vulnerable to higher nighttime temperatures.

### Is it reasonable to expect that climate change could harm California's economic competitiveness?

Tourism may be affected due to impacts in the Sierra ski industry. Agriculture may require a shift away from water-inefficient crops, causing price changes. How we manage our water in a warmer climate will depend on having appropriate institutions, infrastructure and information; water is central to maintaining economic output and competitiveness.

## CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

### November

- 6 Measure R Oversight Committee
- 12 Steering Committee
- 13 GIS Working Group
- 20 Infrastructure Working Group  
Livable Communities  
Working Group
- 21 **Board of Directors**

### December

- 4 Measure R Oversight Committee
- 9 Steering Committee
- 11 GIS Working Group

### January

- TBD Measure R Oversight Committee
- 8 GIS Working Group
- 13 Steering Committee
- 15 Infrastructure Working Group  
Livable Communities  
Working Group
- 23 **Board of Directors**

Contact [jacki@southbaycities.org](mailto:jacki@southbaycities.org) for further information.

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