

Minutes

Renewable South Bay Working Group Meeting

SBESC office

6/21/17

3:00 – 4:30pm

Attendees

Cities: El Segundo (Paul Samaras), Hermosa Beach (Kristy Morris), Rolling Hills Estates (Susan Seamans, former RHE City Council Member), Torrance (Nina Lang)

SBCCOG: Grace Farwell, Kim Fuentes, Amanda Maki

Renovate America: Rex Richardson

1. Information Sharing related to renewable activity in each city

SBCCOG:

SBCCOG has been able to provide energy efficiency programs to the member cities through its partnership with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, but has not been able to offer renewable energy programs. SBCCOG has recently received funding from Renovate America to provide outreach to member cities regarding renewable energy.

Renovate America prepared city-specific reports with data about the HERO program within each city, along with sub-regional data.

Hermosa Beach:

Currently working on a solar project for municipal facility – roof replacement to solar on the community center; approved May 23; city has until June 30 to complete because on July 1 there will be a change in the net metering charges; new *net metering 2.0* will penalize customers if unneeded, excess solar is put back on to the grid; the project is a 101kW system and will offset 60% of facility's demand.

City has had an incentive program for solar since 2010 – rebated permit fee; enhanced plan review allows solar permits receive priority for review; city has sent SBCCOG the solar data for 2016.

City started developing an implementation plan for a city CCA, but has been put on hold while working on General Plan; the city will be meeting with LA County to discuss County CCA.

Torrance:

Currently no renewable projects for municipal facilities.

City has seen an increase in solar permits; NL will send solar permit data to AM.

City has a team working on CCA; currently looking at the feasibility.

El Segundo:

Processing solar over the counter is a quick process; number of solar permits have been increasing.

Currently no renewable projects at municipal facilities; city has done feasibility studies for solar on some municipal facilities in the past, but results did not show projects to be financially beneficial. AM will follow up with PS to get permit data.

2. Overview of Renewable South Bay program

LA County put out a bid for PACE programs, and Renovate America won the bid to provide PACE program in the region. The PACE program is a financial tool to provide a way to ensure home improvement projects are streamlined and guaranteed.

South Bay report shows: total 207 million kWh saved; 148 million gallons of water saved; 51,700 tons of emissions reduced; 1,799 homes have been improved; 438 local jobs created; market gains have been seen since program adoption; 97% of funded projects are completed without dispute. HERO contractors are held accountable; contractor can be kicked out of program.

Renovate America consumer safeguards:

Contractors must agree to guidelines – every contractor registered with program must follow all guidelines

Qualify every project – projects must be energy efficiency, solar, or water conservation

Underwriting criteria – first PACE program to include income in criteria

Clear disclosure – mortgage level disclosure

Senior safeguard – 65+ must have another family member to approve project

Satisfaction guaranteed – Contractors are not paid until customer is satisfied and has signed off on completion of project

Renovate America can speak with local contractors and homeowners to get success stories in specific cities if city is interested.

KF: has brought up PACE concerns at City Managers meeting, but cities did not have any concerns; SBCCOG has met with Realtors Association to discuss concerns about truth in lending disclosures, contractors seeing total value of properties, and contractors not doing good work.

PACE background:

SBCCOG worked with HERO, Ygrene, and Figtree and brought providers to cities; drafted resolutions for cities; most cities adopted these three providers.

LA County vetted providers and selected HERO and California First; the two programs must follow specific requirements from the County; all cities participate in LA County PACE program.

Any other program can be approved by individual cities, but will not have to follow LA County requirements. LA County may be opening up RFP to approve more PACE programs in near future.

LA County is requiring PACE programs to make calls to customers to confirm projects. Unsure if the PACE provider is making the calls, or if LA County staff is making these calls.

Renovate America has to make calls to all customers about projects; these calls are recorded and can be requested by LA County.

GF will send articles about PACE to group.

If there are homeowners with complaints, cities can forward calls to SBCCOG and Renovate America.

GF will send link to LA County PACE website to group.

KF: SBCCOG reports out on HERO and Ygrene projects in monthly Steering Committee agendas that can be found on the SBCCOG website.

North part of Carson and part of Inglewood has a great number of projects; this may be due to dense population and the demographics found in the area; more residents in these areas are unlikely to complete these projects without PACE as a financial tool.

Renovate America has a portal for city staff to receive city-specific data at: HEROGov.com

What is PACE? PACE is a regular structured loan with low interest rates; the rates are higher than mortgage, but lower than credit card rates; HERO will be offering promotional interest rates that are close to mortgage rates.

3. Future topics and meeting dates

Group will meet every other month

Potential topics:

Grid Alternatives is currently working on EV stations for free at homes with solar

Speaker from SCE about change in net metering

Public outreach

Education about best practices regarding public/private partnerships

Planning Research is developing a new Civic Spark program focused on solar looking at rooftop solar on warehouses; group can look at Civic Spark program potential

Group can set goals, rather than having very broad topics

SCE renewable programs

Hermosa Beach: UCLA MBA program has looked at ways to incentivize decarbonization of Hermosa Beach; report looks at increasing adoption of EVs potentially causing an increase in energy usage and solar installations; KM can forward report to SBCCOG

Next Renewable South Bay Working Group Meeting: August TBD (El Segundo has standing meetings 3rd Wed)