

South Bay Environmental Services Center Celebrates 5th Anniversary with New Partner

The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), located in Torrance, will celebrated its fifth year of Saving Water, Energy, Money and the Environment with an Open House on Tuesday, September 23. The Center is operated by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, a joint powers authority of the 16 cities which comprise the South Bay area.

Partnered with The Gas CompanySM, Southern California Edison, West Basin Municipal Water District, and the City of Torrance, the SBESC welcomed Steve Maguin, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County as the SBESC's newest partner. Speakers at the Open House included State Senator Jenny Oropeza, State Assembly Member Ted Lieu, State Assembly Member Curren Price, and California Energy Commission representative, Charles Mizutani who spoke on AB118 funding for local governments. South Bay city Mayors, Council Members and key staff were in attendance.

Additionally, the SBESC has expanded its services through the Energy Efficiency Plus (EE+) program which delivers significant and measurable energy savings by working directly with public agencies on joint procurement of energy and water efficient equipment, and providing information on more energy and water efficient practices. Becoming more efficient can greatly reduce use of fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). During the five years of the SBESC working together with its partners more than 400 million kWh (kilowatt hours) have been saved in the South Bay region, as well as more than 23 million gallons of water.

Working toward a greener South Bay, the SBESC provides a local clearinghouse for environmental information, water conservation, and energy efficiency programs; sponsors free training workshops and distributes materials through community outreach to both residents and business, as well as cities, schools and special districts regarding methods and technologies available for saving water, energy, money and the environment. "SBESC is the best example in the state of how local government can respond to AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. We call our program – 'AB 32 In Action,'" stated Steve Diels, SBCCOG Chair and Redondo Beach City Councilman.

Since the passage of AB32, many communities in the South Bay have formed active, involved groups that advocate for their cities to begin the process of creating Climate Action Plans. A number of South Bay cities have signed the "Cool Cities" pledge, and are setting up teams to begin the process of assessing their GHG emissions. In response, the SBCCOG has a Climate Action Plan Coordinator working at SBESC to assist cities in completing baseline inventories of their own GHG emissions and to assist cities with the process of completing a Climate Action Plan.

SBESC also has a volunteer program open to anyone interested.

Visit www.sbesc.com for the latest activities, schedules and opportunities to participate in a greener South Bay. The SBESC is located at 3868 Carson St., Suite 110, Torrance, CA 90503.

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