BAY AREA Regional Energy Network

Bay Area communities working together for a sustainable energy future

Bay Area Regional Energy Network - **Executive Summary**

October 2014

What is the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)?

BayREN is a collaboration of the 9 counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area. Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), BayREN implements effective energy saving programs on a regional level and draws on the expertise, experience, and proven track record of Bay Area local governments to develop and administer successful climate, resource, and sustainability programs.

BayREN is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. One of only two Regional Energy Networks in the state, BayREN represents 20 percent of the state's population.

History of BayREN

This coalition of governments originally aligned in 2010 under the launch of Energy Upgrade California™ and was funded through March of 2012 by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, or ARRA. A proposal by the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition seeking funding for local governments to design and implement energy efficiency programs was accepted by the California Public Utilities Commission ("the Commission") in May of 2012. This led the 9 Bay Area Governments to formally apply for establishment of BayREN. RENs uniquely address key sector regionally-scaled programs, and are able to offer and market them to residential and commercial customers uniformly, consistently, and equitably, across large geographic areas.

The BayREN application was approved by the Commission on November 8, 2012 and the BayREN continues to work with the Commission and Energy Division to improve upon and potentially expand the program. The current BayREN 2013-2014 Energy Efficiency Portfolio includes: Single Family, Multifamily, and Commercial PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Subprograms, the Pay As You Save (PAYS®) water-energy nexus element, and a Codes & Standards initiative. The approved budget for all BayREN programs for 2013-2014 is $22,742,750 with nearly $7 million earmarked for incentives. The program will be granted an extension year throughout 2015, however a budget has not yet been finalized by the Commission.

BayREN Purpose

Bay Area county and city governments have aggressive climate, energy, and resource savings goals that can only be met through scalable regional initiatives that deliver results. BayREN provides an effective platform for local government energy programs to benefit from regional consistency and scale. BayREN builds energy efficiency expertise and experience of local governments against local, county, and regional boundaries. As a result, BayREN achieves greater energy savings by leveraging local governments' knowledge of their communities and the existing relationships with their constituents and key stakeholders.

BayREN Programs:

- Access untapped markets by harnessing the collective power of local government action.
- Provide a channel for local governments to implement large scale, cross-sector programs, and foster neutral-energy management strategies.
- Develop and expand local government expertise and energy management capabilities for sustained long term success.
- Provide for local government access to data (currently constrained or unavailable) necessary for greater expansion of high performance, cost-effective programs.
- Build on programs launched through ARRA funds and leverage ratepayer funds with outside grant funds.
- Encourage leveraging of elements across subprograms to increase the uptake of upgrades.

Single Family:

- A Home Upgrade Advisor unit provides free step-by-step technical assistance to consumers and contractors. Advisors may refer rate payers to additional Bay Area energy and water efficiency programs. Contact an advisor at www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org or call 1-866-878-6008.
- BayREN is the exclusive administrator of the Energy Upgrade California® Home Upgrade program. Home Upgrade offers a menu of upgrade options with deemed savings to earn homeowners rebates up to $3,000 and an additional rebate of $150 for combustion safety testing.
- Provides an additional $300 rebate for whole-home energy audits for homeowners who have participated in the Advanced Home Upgrade Program.
- Recruits, trains and qualifies Specialty Contractors for program participation.
- Provides regional and local marketing, education and outreach activities for customers and contractors.

Multifamily:

- Offers rebates of $750 per unit for multifamily building upgrades.
- Targets outreach to multifamily property owners to promote Energy Upgrades.
- Offers comprehensive technical assistance to multifamily property owners to identify and prioritize energy upgrades, qualify for rebates, and access appropriate programs.

Codes and Standards:

- Promotes an integrated, measurement-driven management process for enhancing energy code compliance.
- Establishes code compliance baselines for select jurisdictions in the nine-county Bay Area. The Permit Resource Opportunity Program (PROP) establishes energy code compliance baselines, and identifies best practices and areas for improvement relevant to the specific needs of local building departments.
- Offers targeted training based upon identified baselines to institutionalize regular, actionable feedback to local officials.
- Organizes bi-monthly regional forums addressing high level program policy and program design issues on energy efficiency and energy code compliance.

Financing Portfolio Subprogram:

- Develops and launches regional public agency–led financing portfolio.
- Offers multiple financing options to assist diverse consumers undertake energy projects.
    - Funds the Multifamily Capital Advance Program.
    - Funds the Pay-as-You-Save® On-Bill Energy/Water Efficiency Pilots.
    - Supports Commercial PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Projects.

Program Governance

The Association of Bay Area Governments, acting as fiscal agent and contractor, convenes a governance committee of representatives from the counties served by the BayREN (the Coordinating Committee). In order to enhance the flexibility and responsiveness of the BayREN to its members and constituents, the Committee has elected four of its members to serve on a Technical Executive Committee for programmatic, regulatory, and reporting support. Both Committees also serve as program and information sharing conduits among the BayREN counties, cities, and regional Energy Watch Programs.

Who will be served?

Cities, counties and other selected public agencies and Districts in the PG&E service territory. The BayREN serves 101 California cities in the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.

What are the projected 2013-2014 outcomes*?

Projected Savings by Subprogram	kWh	kW	Therms
Single Family	**2,128,378**	**3,438**	**293,803**
Multifamily	**1,365,019**	**1,111**	**152,850**
Codes and Standards	**7,627,455**	**953**	**190,686**
Financing	**2,128,378**	**3,438**	**293,803**
Total	**11,120,853**	**5,502**	**637,340**

**2015 Outcomes have not been finalized.*

In addition:

- Approximately 3,000 single-family units will undergo multi-measure energy upgrades.
- 5,000 multifamily units will undergo multi-measure energy upgrades.
- 300 building professionals will be trained.
- 1,650 local government building department employees will be trained.
- $23,000,000 will be facilitated through a series of programs and mechanisms to support energy upgrades.
- More than $8,000,000 in incentives are available to regional single family and multifamily residential customers.
- More than $150,000 has been set aside for free contractor training and enrollment.