



DATE: January 27, 2021
TO: Energy Council
FROM: Karen Kho, Principal Program Manager
SUBJECT: BayREN Partnership Update

SUMMARY

At the January 27, 2021 Energy Council meeting, staff and representatives from ABAG/MTC will provide an update on the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) regional partnership.

DISCUSSION

In 2012 the California Public Utilities Commission invited local governments to form Regional Energy Networks (RENs) for the purpose of administering energy efficiency programs. StopWaste joined nine other public agencies in forming BayREN, and ABAG was elected as the program administrator. RENs are authorized to offer programs that target harder-to-serve markets, do not duplicate the efforts of others and that test innovative approaches with the potential to scale. In 2018 the California Public Utilities Commission approved ten years of funding for BayREN's portfolio of six programs: Single-Family, Green Labeling, Multifamily, Codes and Standards, Commercial, and Water Bill Savings.

StopWaste's role within BayREN is to represent Alameda County jurisdictions, to lead the regional Multifamily and Green Labeling programs, and to conduct local outreach for the other energy efficiency programs. StopWaste also leads BayREN's Heat Pump Water Heater market development program, which is funded by a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The Energy Council Technical Advisory Group (TAG) receives monthly updates on the implementation of BayREN programs, provides input on priorities for regional programs and services, and assists staff in targeting local outreach activities throughout the county.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

Attachment: BayREN Program Brochure

BayREN Regional Programs



Single Family Homeowners

Get a Home Energy Boost

Single family homeowners can save energy, increase the comfort and safety of their

home, and receive cash rebates with BayREN's Home+ program. A Home Energy Advisor can help homeowners prioritize cost-effective improvements and receive rebates for installing energy efficient upgrades in their home. Customers can also complete a quick BayREN Home+ Online Evaluation to learn what changes can bring out the best in their home and receive an energy efficiency kit for participating. Participants may also be eligible for a Home Energy Score!



Water Bill Savings

No Up-front Cost, Immediate Savings

Select municipal water utility customers can install water conservation improvements

with no up-front cost — using an on-bill charge that is significantly lower than the estimated savings. Participants start saving right away. Local governments provide residents and businesses an enhanced and inclusive pathway to meet code requirements and reduce their utility bills. BayREN is adding new water utilities over the coming year. Check the website for participating utilities.



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

www.bayren.org



Businesses

Energy Savings and Financing for Small and Medium Businesses

BayREN has two new programs designed to work with the schedule,

budget, and needs of small and medium businesses. First, the BayREN Pay-for-Performance Program offers rebates, technical assistance, and other financial resources to find the best approach to reduce utility costs and improve the quality of buildings and businesses. Second, the BayREN Microloan Program offers interest-free loans to help make energy efficiency upgrades more affordable. Together, these BayREN programs are improving small and medium businesses in the region.

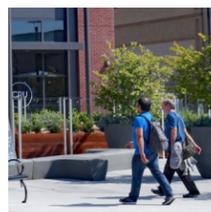


Multifamily

Improve Property with Energy and Water Upgrades

Multifamily property owners can receive a free energy audit and are

eligible for cash rebates for energy upgrades to their buildings. The program provides technical assistance with planning and financing energy and water saving improvements. Projects that result in at least 15% energy savings are eligible for rebates in the amount of \$750 per unit.



Codes & Standards

Reduce Building Energy Use Through Improved Design and Construction

BayREN assists local governments to evaluate and improve compliance with

the Energy Code and to develop options for accelerating energy efficiency. This includes providing no-cost training to building departments, funding demonstration projects, hosting quarterly regional innovation forums, and assisting Bay Area communities in developing reach codes.



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

Implementing Energy Saving Programs on a Regional Level in the Bay Area



www.bayren.org

Photo: Courtesy of Ophir Bruck

About BayREN

BayREN is a highly effective and trusted group of local governments that deliver targeted, integrated, and regional-scale climate solutions, focused on energy, water, and resilience. As illustrated in the adjacent graphic, BayREN provides three main areas of expertise and services:

1. **Promoting Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings** for single family and multifamily residents and for small-medium commercial property owners;
2. **Building Capacity** for local governments to increase their impacts with training, mentoring, and a range of resources throughout the nine Bay Area counties;
3. **Reducing Carbon Emissions** by catalyzing regional activities and connecting them to existing initiatives.

Filling Gaps

A critical reason for the formation of the BayREN is to fill the gaps by providing energy efficiency services to communities that are historically underserved by utility programs. This includes moderate income households, minority populations, small businesses, multifamily housing, and non-profit and government agencies.

Climate Change and Resiliency as Drivers

Another essential focal point of BayREN activities is the creation of a pathway to achieve climate and resiliency goals aligned with state and local government policy including helping jurisdictions meet their climate action plan goals. Better coordination of these activities with deep efficiency and distributed energy resources will improve community resilience.

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is a collaboration of the nine counties that make up the San Francisco Bay Area. BayREN provides regional-scale energy efficiency programs, services, and resources. BayREN is funded by utility ratepayer funds through the CPUC, as well as other sources, drawing on the expertise, knowledge, and proven track record of Bay Area local governments.



BayREN Results!

BayREN **fills existing utility program gaps** and develops **flexible and innovative programs** that build on local government values and **serve constituents needs**. The impact over the last five years has been tangible, offering **substantial results...**

3.7 Trillion BTUs **Energy Saved**

126.6 Million Tons of **Carbon Avoided**



\$85.6 Million Lifetime **Utility Bill Savings**

1,227 new **Jobs Created**

12,180 Program Referrals by **Energy Advisors**