

# The County of San Diego

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



*“This partnership is a critical component of our sustainability program. SDG&E’s support has allowed us to train staff, develop best practices and advance programs that have gained recognition and expanded our influence.”*

**PETER LIVINGSTON**  
ENERGY AND  
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER,  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**Cutting-edge technology tested during the Smart Building Project is projected to provide an annual energy savings of nearly \$74,000.**

**Annual Savings: 7,148,230 kWh; 48,163 therms**  
**SDG&E® Incentives: \$1,305,725**

## Highlights

- Climate action planning
- Green Business resource kiosks
- Cool Planet Program
- Teens as energy champions
- Beacon Award
- Smart building technology
- Multi-family unit energy upgrades

## Award-winning, innovative leadership in energy management

San Diego County champions energy management through a Strategic Energy Plan to reduce energy use and minimize its environmental impact. Climate action planning, energy-efficient buildings, renewable and alternative energy supplies, improved vehicle efficiency, staff training and community education work in concert to help the County reach greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in compliance with AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, California’s landmark clean energy law that sets 2020 GHG emission reduction goals. Empowering the County’s success is SDG&E’s Energy Initiative Partnership Program. Distinguished as a leader in sustainability, the County relies on this partnership with SDG&E® to provide resources and foster collaboration to grow its award-winning programs. The following are just some of the partnership programs that supported their Strategic Energy Plan goals.

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## About the County of San Diego

The second most populous county in California and fifth largest in the country with over 3 million people across 4,000 square miles, San Diego County impacts virtually every resident, visitor and business. As a top 10 regional employer, 57 departments manage policies and operations that affect the region's air, water, food, roads, construction, health, safety and recreation. The County's vast services command \$21 million worth of annual utility service to operate over 6.5 million square feet of facilities.

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### Taking action on climate change

Central to the County's GHG reduction strategy is a long-term Climate Action Plan. The plan includes energy-focused initiatives, such as energy-efficient new development and building retrofits. The County also took action on climate change through membership in The Climate Registry and participation in SDG&E's Cool Planet Program, which is anticipated to foster an estimated annual energy savings of one million kWh and 25,000 therms. Its environmental leadership was further established as the first county in Southern California to participate in the Institute for Local Government/Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative Beacon Award program. The County aims to earn Platinum-level recognition as a result of working with SDG&E on initiatives like the Green Business Program and utility monitoring and reporting in County buildings.

### Achieving sky-high energy efficiency

The Energy Upgrade California® Multi-Family Building Program has brought the County and City of San Diego together with SDG&E to provide cash incentives and technical assistance which encourages building managers to implement building energy upgrades. "We attribute the success of Sorrento Tower's annual energy reduction to this program," said Colin Rice of the RAHD Group, developer of the program's first project, an independent-living apartment community for low-income seniors, which achieved an estimated 15% energy reduction and \$32,000 annual savings.

### Serving up energy efficiency

San Diego County's Department of Environmental Health (DEH) leveraged its permitting services to promote green practices in retail food facilities. Green Business resource kiosks in the DEH lobby entice monthly visitors to explore a menu of resources and SDG&E rebates to improve efficiency and reduce energy use at their businesses.

### Energy efficiency can be fun

The Department of Parks and Recreation participated in a total of 235 community events and implemented over 1,300 program hours at local teen centers. As a result, nearly 11,500 youth and 86,000 residents were inspired to become environmental stewards. From interactive afterschool programs to an Energy Skate Expo and a Disneyland Scavenger Hunt, the successful education and outreach model has been extended through 2014 and is being prepped for distribution to other local government agencies.

### Smart energy in the house

Dedicated to reducing energy use at the hundreds of buildings it operates, the County used Partnership funding to launch the Smart Building Pilot Project at the South Bay Regional Center, which paved the way for a state-of-the-art system that remotely monitors and controls energy and water use. This technology will be incorporated into existing County facilities and designed into new construction. Meanwhile, participation in SDG&E's energy-efficiency programs generated more than 773,000 kWh and nearly 48,000 therms in energy savings. Participation in the PECL Retrocommissioning Program also resulted in improvements at some of the County's largest sites.

California's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan is a roadmap to integrate cost-effective, energy-efficiency practices through 2020 and beyond. The Local Government Partnership Program (LGP) is a collaboration between regulated utilities and numerous organizations to help our local governments become leaders in reducing energy use and emissions. The County of San Diego is part of this energy solution through its partnership with SDG&E. Working together we lead by example by fostering an environment of sustainability through new initiatives.

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