

City of Chula Vista

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



"The valuable resources available through this partnership have enabled Chula Vista to institutionalize energy efficiency through City operations and community programs as well as drive collaboration on regional initiatives with neighboring local governments."

BRENDAN J. REED
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCE MANAGER,
CITY OF CHULA VISTA

Through their CLEAN Business Program, the City of Chula Vista provides energy-saving tools and resources to local businesses and encourages them to employ sustainable green business practices.

Annual Savings: 1,727,060 kWh; 41,022 therms
Partnership Incentives: \$319,094

Highlights

- Mentor for regional best practices
- Innovative Library Energy Lounges
- Climate Adaptation Strategies champion
- Thousands of free energy audits
- Trend-setting building policies and reach codes
- Green business recognition
- Home demonstrations and rebates

A model city of sustainability

Through its partnership with SDG&E®, the City of Chula Vista created innovative approaches to advance municipal and community energy efficiency. Underserved audiences like small businesses, elderly, youth and low-income residents are reached through a comprehensive outreach network that leverages libraries, recreation centers, affordable housing services, business licenses and permit application processes. Grassroots energy conservation education combined with facility improvements, energy codes and inspections, and energy-saving development has distinguished Chula Vista as a model municipal environmental champion. The City was recognized as the first Southern California local government to comprehensively embrace Climate Adaptation, a strategy to counter the inevitable impacts of climate change while complementing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Lending peer-to-peer support

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About the City of Chula Vista

The second largest city in the county, Chula Vista is at the center of one of the richest economic and culturally diverse zones in the country. Serving a population of 230,000 residents and 13,000 businesses, future-focused planning is the hallmark of the City's development. A special Conservation Section in the Public Works' Department works to coordinate energy efficiency and climate action planning across all departments and to reduce energy and water use at municipal facilities and throughout the community.

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to neighboring municipalities, Chula Vista also inspires a team approach to the pursuit of regional energy-related initiatives seen by its recent creation of the South Bay Energy Action Collaborative.

Setting the bar on energy efficiency

Chula Vista is the only local government in the region with mandatory reach codes, requiring new and renovated buildings to exceed California's Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards by 15 to 20%. Hundreds of new residential units and buildings have complied with this energy performance benchmark, as well as the City's "solar ready" ordinance. Trend-setting policy also includes a Cool Roof ordinance identifying solar reflectance standards and a Shade Tree Policy that calls for 50% shade tree cover for new parking lots to help address the urban heat island effect. A Cool Pavement Study investigating the energy-saving benefits of reflective materials is in progress. Other innovative initiatives include a collaboration with SDG&E's Emerging Technologies program to develop a "Sustainable Energy Showcase Home" to help test and highlight state-of-the-art energy systems and Energy Lounges at library branches offering educational resources and tools to community members.

Businesses have multiple green opportunities

As part of business licensing, energy "house calls" happen through the Free Resource & Energy Business Evaluations (FREBE) program, averaging over 1,000 visits annually. An impressive 82% of businesses implemented at least one energy improvement. The program also drove 668 businesses to SDG&E's Direct Install program for no-cost HVAC maintenance and lighting improvements that generated

immediate energy savings. For businesses interested in becoming even more sustainable, the City's CLEAN Business program provides additional technical support and community recognition.

Energy efficiency is in the house

Chula Vista homeowners extensively engage in energy efficiency. Residents request free evaluations for energy and water-saving opportunities. Hundreds of home energy and water savings kits and energy-efficiency lighting were distributed through weekly community events. Over 2,500 rebates were allocated through the City's Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade program, and nearly \$300,000 in energy retrofit incentives were matched with Energy Upgrade California incentives—a significant showing since Chula Vista comprises 7% of the county population but represented 40% of Energy Upgrade projects. At local recreation centers, Empower Hour reached 1,310 youth through entertaining energy-efficiency curriculum, such as a "5-Minute Shower Challenge" for aquatic center users.

The future's so bright it's got to be green

Chula Vista continues to invest in its future through comprehensive staff trainings and energy benchmarking of all its major buildings. Over 54 municipal facilities have had energy upgrade improvements in the last 5 years that reduce utility costs and improve operations. Around town, over 7,000 streetlights were converted to energy-saving LED technology. An Economic Development Initiative supports high-level integration of energy efficiency into large municipal projects like Los Vecinos—the first LEED Platinum, fully solar-powered affordable housing in San Diego.

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 City of Chula Vista 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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