

Port of San Diego

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



"The Port's Green Business Network gave us the opportunity to look inside our own organization and to look to our partners on the waterfront to share ideas, opportunities, and the implementation of cost-saving projects."

BOB MONTREUIL
FACILITIES MANAGER
CONTINENTAL MARITIME

The Port of San Diego is home to two cruise ship terminals, two cargo terminals, more than 600 waterfront businesses, and 18 waterfront parks.

Highlights

- Green Business Challenge & Network
- Energy audits
- Facilities efficiency retrofits
- Energy-efficiency education and outreach
- Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (Climate Plan)

San Diego's working Port

Recognizing the need to transition its operations from a model anchored in tradition to one built to thrive in the 21st century, the Port of San Diego's Green Port Program, in partnership with SDGE®, has set the Port full steam ahead as an exemplary green port and true environmental steward.

Focused on achieving long-term environmental, social and economic benefits through resource conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention, SDGE and the Port identified five key programs to target through their partnership: Energy Efficiency Education and Outreach, Port Facility Retrofit Program, Land Use and Development Opportunities, Program Management, and a waterfront businesses Outreach Program. The Port received access to \$1.79 million in funding from SDGE to help develop these programs that led to energy and cost savings. "The partnership has served as an important resource to leverage and expand Green Port efforts," said Jenny Lybeck, Environmental Specialist at the Port. "Energy efficiency is the leading initiative to reduce our impact on the environment and realize cost savings."

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About The Port of San Diego

The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest of the 11 Ports in California. It was created by the state legislature in 1962. Since then, it has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in public improvements along the waterfront in its five member cities. The Port oversees two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, 18 public parks, the Harbor Police Department and the leases of hundreds of tenant and sub-tenant businesses around San Diego Bay.

« *The Port installed energy-efficient LED lights at their administration building.*

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Improving energy use on-shore

The Port Facility Retrofit Program focused on maximizing energy efficiency and “demand response,” which calls for reducing energy use during peak times when demand is highest. SDG&E audited Port-operated facilities to identify and prioritize key energy improvement opportunities to reduce the kilowatts and therms used, and to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emitted by Port operations. The audits identified opportunities to reduce the Port’s energy costs by approximately \$90,000 and save 500,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually. Many of the upgrades, including more efficient lighting and HVAC systems, are being paid for through SDG&E’s On-Bill Financing Program, which allows the Port to finance new energy-efficient equipment through its utility bills. Coming soon is a retrofit of over 1,300 lights on Port tidelands that’s expected to save approximately 500,000 kWh annually.

Competing for energy efficiency

Launched in 2011, the Green Business Challenge, the first of its kind on the West Coast, was a voluntary program that challenged 49 Port tenant businesses to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their air pollution, water consumption and physical waste production. The Challenge proved so successful, the Port and SDG&E transferred it into the Green Business Network in 2012 to champion ongoing energy-efficiency efforts through Port businesses.

To help boost the members energy savings and reduce their carbon footprint, SDG&E and the Port provided participating businesses with online resources, training opportunities and access to SDG&E’s energy-efficiency programs to make retrofitting their operations economically feasible, fostering long-term savings on their utility bills.

On-Bill Financing eliminated the sizeable upfront investment for qualified large equipment upgrades. Direct Install facilitated the no-cost installation of energy-efficient products, such as high intensity discharge (HID) fixtures and LED “open” and “exit” signs.

Members of the Green Business Network have received \$307,214 in incentives from SDG&E from 2010 - 2012, reducing consumption by 1.76 million kWh and 73,000 therms. The largest energy users on Port tidelands are part of the Network and share a commitment to sustainability. Network businesses represent 76% of total electricity consumption and 49% of total gas consumption on Port tidelands. “The partnership has fostered the development of invaluable collaborations, tools and programs for the Port and its tenants,” said Lou Smith, 2012 Chairman, Board of Port Commissioners.

Preparing for the future

With matching financial support from SDG&E, the Port began to plan for long-term regional sustainability through the development of its Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (Climate Plan). The plan will identify opportunities to reach goals for reducing GHG emissions and address local vulnerabilities to a changing climate, including sea level rise.

There is currently no template to develop a Climate Plan for a port, so the process developed for the Port of San Diego can serve as a model for other ports developing their own strategies for reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change.

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 Port 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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