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## Also this month

### [Low Water-Use Landscaping Workshop](#)

April 15, 2014 6:00-8:00 pm

35 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa  
Ca

### [Santa Rosa Earth Day Festival](#)

April 19, 2014 12:00-4:00 pm

Old Courthouse Square, Santa  
Rosa Ca

### [Low Water-Use Landscaping Workshop](#)

April 22, 2014 6:00-8:00 pm

35 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa  
Ca

### [Graywater Workshop](#)

MONDAY 14, APRIL 2014

## SCEIP Celebrates 5th Anniversary

The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) is celebrating its fifth anniversary amidst a nationwide resurgence in support for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. SCEIP has funded more than 2,040 projects to date, totaling over \$66 million in retrofits to Sonoma County homes and businesses with items such as energy-efficient windows, heating and cooling equipment, insulation and solar panels leading the list of over 90 pre-approved eligible improvements. These projects have prevented the emission of over 8,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases and have created over 720 jobs.



Despite significant challenges from the Federal Housing Finance Agency based on concerns about the senior priority of PACE obligations, PACE programs have proliferated across the country and over 31 states have passed PACE-enabling legislation. Recent renewed support and interest prompted California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and State Treasurer Bill Lockyer to develop and enact a PACE mortgage loss reserve program to allay the concerns of mortgage entities. Administered by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA), the program will protect mortgage holders from losses associated with any defaults from properties that have PACE liens. Although no SCEIP assessment-bearing properties have defaulted on their mortgages over the past five years, SCEIP officials welcome the new reserve program as a means of further strengthening the Energy Independence Program.

In addition, new PACE legislation was introduced to Congress with bipartisan support on March 24, 2014. The PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Assessment Protection Act of 2014 or H.R. 4285 is designed to stop the

**(SPANISH)**

April 25, 2014 4:30-8:30 pm

35 Stony Point Rd, Santa Rosa  
Ca

**Local Energy Action  
Forum**

April 17, 2014

**Santa Rosa Earth Day**

April 19, 2014

**Day on the Green at  
Montgomery Village**

April 26, 2014

**Sonoma Solar Day**

April 26, 2014

**Windsor Earth Day**

April 27, 2014

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misguided overreach of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and further promote efforts by cities, counties and states across the country to offer innovative PACE programs.

Program Administrator and County Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector, David Sundstrom said, "I am grateful for the actions taken by the governor, the treasurer and the legislature to promote SCEIP. Those actions in combination with HR 4285 will go a long way to help grow the program and thereby assist the County in meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets."

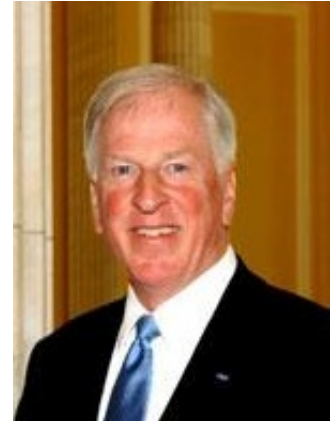
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**1st Annual - Local Energy Action Forum**

Energy Champions to be Honored at Local Forum

The 1st Annual Local Energy Action Forum will be held April 17, 2014, from 4 p.m. to 7p.m. at Paradise Ridge Winery in Santa Rosa, CA.

Sponsored by the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) and Sonoma County Energy Watch in partnership with PG&E, the forum is targeted at the local business community and is among Sonoma County's many ongoing initiatives to promote and reward energy efficiency.



Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Chair David Rabbitt will open with an introduction leading into a keynote address by Congressman Mike Thompson. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore local resources for energy and water conservation financing, rebates and incentives, including a presentation by the Economic Development Board's Green Business Certification Program. The evening will culminate with an award ceremony recognizing local business leaders in energy efficiency and solar power.

The Energy Leader Awards, presented by the County of Sonoma, Energy & Sustainability Division, honor organizations and companies that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to becoming more energy conscious by implementing measures that will not only save money but reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

"Each of the Energy Leader Award winners has made an outstanding contribution to increasing their energy efficiency," said Congressman Thompson. "Their efforts have helped them reduce their utility costs, energy use, and environmental impact. They have set a great example for others to follow. I'm confident that we will see more businesses take advantage of these wonderful local programs and the benefits they provide."

The 2014 Local Energy Action Leader Award winners are:

- Santa Rosa Plaza – Simon Properties, Santa Rosa
- Sonoma Veterinary Clinic – Dr. Howard Rosner, Sonoma
- Glaser Center, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa
- Speer's Market, Forestville



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Empire College, Santa Rosa  
Cotati – Rohnert Park Unified School District, Rohnert Park

For more information or to register for the forum please contact [sceip@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sceip@sonoma-county.org)

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## SCEIP Community Advisory Group

The SCEIP Community Advisory Group consists of individuals and industry representatives engaged in activities that share the same goals and mission of SCEIP. The Advisory Group helps SCEIP program staff develop initiatives that expand and strengthen program effectiveness and sustainability. It provides a platform for staff to bring forth and discuss program challenges and opportunities with the stakeholders directly impacted by the program operations. Advisory Group members analyze proposed programmatic changes to ensure that any decisions made are for the betterment of SCEIP and the community.

David Sundstrom, as the SCEIP Program Administrator, is the Chair and facilitator of the Advisory Group. There are 12 members in the Advisory Group with a variety of backgrounds in construction, real estate, media, policy, energy and environment, small business, law, and PACE. The Group has met twice since inception and meets quarterly or more frequently as determined by the Group Chair.

During the last meeting, staff provided background and details regarding the CAEATFA Loss Reserve Program and outlined potential impacts to SCEIP, homeowners, and lenders. The Group was also presented with the updated draft of the SCEIP Operations Plan. Input and direction has been provided and is currently being considered.

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## Countywide Drought Drive-Up Event

Looking for ways to save water at your home in this drought year? Get your FREE drought tool kit at a Drought Drive-Up event in

your area on Wednesday, April 23 from 7:30am until 6:30pm. Build your own custom drought tool kit from the following water-friendly gadgets:



- faucet aerators
- toilet dye tab leak test packs
- shower timer
- shower bucket
- low-flow showerhead
- conservation tip card

Participating in this FREE give-away is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Drive up or park at any of the event locations listed below.
2. Pick which water efficient tools you need from a menu of options.
3. A friendly water conservation specialist will fill your bucket with your order and off you go to save water!

The Drought Drive-up event will take place at the following locations:

**Healdsburg**

- Healdsburg City Hall

**Rohnert Park**

- Ashley Furniture parking lot

**Petaluma**

- Lucchesi Center

**Santa Rosa**

- Finley Center
- Roseland – Dollar Tree parking lot
- Coddington Mall – Whole Foods parking lot
- Veterans Memorial Hall

**Sonoma**

- Arnold Field parking lot (near Veterans Hall)

**Windsor**

- Windsor Town Green

All items are available on a first-come, first-served basis and quantities are limited. One tool kit per household please.

This event is co-sponsored by the Sonoma County Water Agency and each participating local jurisdiction including the Cities of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sonoma, Town of Windsor and the North Marin Water District – all members of the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership.

See you there!

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## The California Climate Credit

### CPUC And Air Resources Board Announce The California Climate Credit

*Average \$35 credit the result of State's  
program to fight climate change*



SAN FRANCISCO, March 31, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Air Resources Board today announced that millions of California households will see a credit averaging \$35 on their April electricity bills thanks to a State program to fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. California consumers can save even more money by investing the bill savings in energy efficient home upgrades, including more efficient lights and appliances.

"The Climate Credit is made to households and small businesses to promote a cleaner, more energy efficient California, giving millions of Californians a stake in the fight for clean air and a healthy environment," said CPUC President Michael R. Peevey. "By investing their Climate Credit in simple items to improve energy efficiency – like LED lights or smart thermostats – consumers and businesses can save energy, reduce costs, and join with the State of California to fight climate change."

Households and small businesses do not need to do anything to get the credit. Households will see the Climate Credit on their April and October bills each year, regardless of energy consumption or bill amount. Small businesses will receive the Climate Credit every month, as a credit related to the amount

of electricity used. Those customers include commercial, industrial, and agricultural customers, as well as nonprofits and schools that typically use less than 20 kilowatts of power each month.

More information about the Climate Credit is available at:

[www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org/climatecredit](http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org/climatecredit).

SOURCE California Air Resources Board; California Public Utilities Commission

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## Free Water Audits offered by Sonoma Green Business Program

For over 20 years, the Sonoma Green Business Program (SGBP), a program of the Economic Development Board, has worked hard to help the Sonoma County business community to meet compliancy standards for the County and State. In addition to basic compliance, the SGBP helps businesses go above and beyond these basic standards, to ultimately increase their bottom line and increase the quality and wellbeing of their surrounding community and environment.



With the recent proclamation of a drought and the governor's request for a statewide decrease in water usage by 20%, the SGBP would like to remind the business community that they are here to help! They can provide FREE water audits, which would provide the means to assess how your business is doing in terms of water savings, make suggestions on how to improve, and provide valuable resources for free water reduction devices and business practices.

The following are highlights of what a water audit would look like for your business:

How long do water audits take?

Water audits take about 1 hour, depending on size of facility

What is inspected?

- Indoor water fixtures (e.g. toilets, urinals, aerators)
- Outdoor water irrigation systems (person who is the programs controller must be present during water audit)

What resources does the SGBP provide?

- Low-flow pre-rinse spray valves
- Water conservation stickers for bathrooms
- Aerators

Water audits are a normal service offered through the SGBP. Additionally, for a more complex water audit, contractors from the Sonoma County Water Agency are available to examine water use.

Please contact the SGBP by email [sonomagreen@sonoma-county.org](mailto:sonomagreen@sonoma-county.org) or by phone (707) 565-6455 to make your FREE water audit appointment today!

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## Contractors' Corner

Energy Independence  
Program Monthly  
Contractors Forum

**Date:** Wednesday April 16,  
2014

**Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

**Location:** 2300 County  
Center Dr. Suite A212 (La  
Plaza Building A, upstairs  
conference room), Santa  
Rosa, California

If you arrive after 5 pm,  
please call (707) 565-6470  
for entry into the building.

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