



Save energy. Save money. Live comfortably. Go green.

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DIY Outdoor Drought Solutions

The City of Santa Rosa in partnership with the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership and Daily Acts will be holding an event to help you get through the drought.



Local professionals will demonstrate how to use your outdoor water more efficiently for your home or business.

The free event will be held in the Coddington Mall parking lot in Santa Rosa on Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 10 am to 4 pm.

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Also this month

SCEIP at the Rohnert Park Farmers Market

Friday, August 15, 2014
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
City Center Plaza

Contractor Forum

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
2300 County Center Drive,
Suite A212

SCEIP at Friday Night Live in Cloverdale

Friday, August 22, 2014
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
N. Cloverdale Blvd between
1st & 2nd St.

DIY Drought Solutions Event

Saturday, August 23, 2014
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Coddington Mall Parking lot

Net Energy Metering with Sonoma Clean Power

Net energy metering (NEM) is a feature some utilities offer to customers with grid-tied renewable energy generation systems capable of generating no more than 1 MW. With net energy metering, the normal rate schedule applies when consumption exceeds production, but the meter spins backward and the customer earns credits for any production exceeding consumption. These credits are then applied to future electricity generation charges.



Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) launched its NEM program for customers with solar and wind power systems in May. "All NEM customers today are commercial accounts," said Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power. "We expect residential customers will come into our NEM program in December."

CalCERTS Update Class for Raters - Newly Constructed Homes

Wednesday, August 27, 2014
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
2300 County Center Drive,
Suite A212
\$325 per person
To register: www.calcerts.com

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One of the key features of Sonoma Clean Power's NEM program is that generation credits do not expire, but get rolled over month after month. Once credits reach at least \$100, customers may request to receive a check for the balance.

Mr. Syphers said his agency is keeping its options open by discussing incentives for wind, biomass and energy storage as well as looking at ways to offer a solar financing program that could be implemented three or four years from now, to balance the loss of the federal 30 percent solar investment tax credits for residential and commercial properties (set to expire at the end of 2016) with lower cost financing.

Sonoma Clean Power's NEM program is expected to experience healthy participation because of the steadily increasing number of solar power systems within its territory.

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Energy Upgrade California™ Home Upgrade Increases Incentives

Now is the time to upgrade to an energy-efficient home that is more durable and contributes to your health and safety through improved indoor air quality. You'll reduce energy use, increase comfort and add value to your home, all while receiving cash incentives from the Home Upgrade Program.



With Home Upgrade you'll work with a participating contractor to add improvements from a menu of energy saving measures such as air sealing, duct sealing, high-efficiency furnaces, air conditioners, hot water heaters, energy-efficient windows and insulation. Effective August 4, 2014, additional measures and additional points make it easier to receive rebates of up to \$3,150. For a complete list of incentives, click [here](#).

With Advanced Home Upgrade your participating contractor will use California Energy Commission approved software to model your home and calculate your projected energy savings. The calculated energy reduction from your project determines your rebate. Effective August 1, 2014, maximum incentives were increased to \$6,500. For more information, click [here](#).

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Sonoma County's Electric-Car Infusion

Sonoma County is playing a major role in what is being billed as the single largest government purchase of the electric vehicles in the nation. More than a third of the 90 vehicles being purchased by a collective of 10 Bay Area government agencies are headed to Sonoma County in a bid to reduce fuel costs and demonstrate environmental leadership. A total of 31 new all-electric Ford Focus sedans will soon be humming down Sonoma County roads and in some cases recharging their lithium-ion batteries with solar panels, thanks in part to a federal grant.

“It looks pretty good to have all those Focuses lined up at our charging stations,” said Cordell Stillman, deputy chief engineer at the Sonoma County Water Agency. The Water Agency took delivery of its five vehicles last week. Santa Rosa is getting four and Sonoma County is set to receive 22. The purchases were made possible by a \$2.8



million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, a regional transportation agency. The vehicles will save more than \$500,000 in fuel costs and about 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions over five years, Bay Area Climate Collaborative Executive Director Rafael Reyes said Tuesday.

The collaborative — a public-private initiative of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group that was started by three Bay Area mayors — developed the proposal for funding that was submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. “The Bay Area is clearly in a leadership role here,” Reyes said. The agencies paid for the value of a standard Ford Focus, while the grant funds paid the extra cost of the all-electric version of the 2014 sedan, explained Jon Merian, the superintendent of Santa Rosa’s fleet of vehicles.

For example, Santa Rosa is paying \$23,740, which is the cost of a gasoline-powered Focus, while a federal grant is kicking in an additional \$10,393 per vehicle to meet the total cost of \$34,133 per all-electric model, according to a city staff report. All 31 Focuses were sold as part of a competitive bidding process by Hansel Ford. They will replace gasoline-powered vehicles that were nearing the end of their life cycles.

Santa Rosa has owned electric vehicles in the past, but previous models were leased and turned back to the dealer at the end of those contracts, Merian said. The new Focuses will be the only road-worthy all-electric vehicles in the city’s fleet, aside from two non-functioning electric pickups and some golf-cart like vehicles for transportation around specific facilities, he said. “This will help us with our climate protection goals,” Merian said.

The new Focuses make practical and financial sense because their range is a significant improvement over previous all-electric models, Merian said. According to Ford, the Focuses can travel an average of 76 miles on a single charge. The company claims the cars get the equivalent of 110 mpg in city driving conditions. They take four hours to recharge on a 220-volt plug, according to Ford. Because of the range limitation, the cars probably won’t be used for longer trips to cities like San Francisco or Sacramento, Stillman said. For those drives, the water agency’s fleet of gas-electric hybrids will be more practical. The Focuses will be perfect for trips around Sonoma County, such as between the agency’s Aviation Boulevard headquarters and Sonoma Valley treatment plant or educational center on the Russian River in Forestville, Stillman said.

The grant funds also include money for the installation of five new electric charging stations. Presently the agency only has charging stations at its administrative headquarters, where a large solar array allows the vehicles to at times be powered solely by the sun, Stillman said.

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Contractor's Corner

SCEIP Contractor Forum

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Review of the Loan Loss Reserve process and fees and update on the Financing Marketplace.

Open discussion topic: Ideas, comments and suggestions on potential options to increase consumer protection for property owners to assure understanding of PACE terms and requirements.



"Ask the Expert" at the Fall Home and Garden Show

We have opportunities for our participating contractors to join our staff in the booth and talk to the public about energy efficiency, water conservation and solar improvements to their homes and businesses.

The following shifts are available:

Friday, September 19th

Shift 1: 12pm – 3pm

Shift 2: 3pm - 6pm

Saturday, September 20th

Shift 1: 10am – 1:30pm

Shift 2: 1:30pm – 5pm

Sunday, September 21st

Shift 1: 10am – 1:30pm

Shift 2: 1:30pm – 5pm

Shifts will be filled on a first-come, first filled basis. SCEIP will provide an admission pass. Parking is not included. To participate, email [Dori Estrella](mailto:Dori.Estrella@sceip.org) with your name, company name and phone number along with your 1st and 2nd choice for the shift you prefer.

One shift per contractor and one contractor per business. Logo apparel and business cards encouraged.

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