



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

IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ [The Energy Independence Program is Moving Soon](#)
- ▶ [Welcome New Energy Independence Program Staff](#)
- ▶ [Discover the Energy Independence Program YouTube Channel!](#)
- ▶ [Saving Energy is Good Business](#)
- ▶ [Newly Standardized Solar Permitting Unveiled for Sonoma County](#)
- ▶ [A Positive ROI in Landscape Water-Use Efficiency](#)
- ▶ [Contractors' Corner](#)

Also this month

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Monday, February 18, 2013

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FRIDAY 8, FEBRUARY 2013

The Energy Independence Program is Moving Soon

The Energy Independence Program is planning a move to the Sonoma County Administration Center in April 2013.

The move will provide customers and staff a more convenient location. The location at [2300 County Center Drive](#) in Santa Rosa is within walking distance

to other County Department offices, including PRMD, Assessor/Tax Collector and the Recorder's Office. It has easy access from Hwy 101, plenty of parking, and is located across the street from the IN-N-OUT Burger restaurant.

Stay tuned for more information, and an invitation to our Grand Opening party!

[back to top](#)



Welcome New Energy Independence Program Staff

The Energy Independence Program is pleased to introduce two new staff members!

Melanie Markarian

As a Program Representative, Melanie processes applications, helps customers learn about energy efficiency and renewable energy options, and will eventually do contract signings. She graduated from CSU Chico in May 2012 where she studied Geography and Planning, Environmental Planning, and Managing for Sustainability. Melanie became passionate about sustainability and accomplishing environmental initiatives while keeping an eye on the bottom line and maximum potential savings. She is excited to work with the Energy Independence Program and participate in the business aspect of sustainability in Sonoma County.

Melanie's favorite tier of sustainability is energy efficiency, especially as it pertains to passive solar design in buildings. "I love walking into a sunlit building and knowing that it was designed with purpose. I also enjoy learning about other creative ways homeowners adapt their home to the specific conditions of the

Contact Us

404 Aviation Boulevard, Ste.
200
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-6470 Phone
(707) 565-6484 Fax
www.sonomacountyenergy.org
sceip@sonoma-county.org

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surrounding environment to strive for energy efficiency.” Another interest of hers is the food sector of sustainability; she worked with a community garden in Butte County and became very passionate about local food.

Melanie enjoys playing music in her off-hours. She began teaching herself how to play the guitar when she was 16, and continues to practice at least 5 days a week.

Anita Adams

With a background in construction, publishing, and event management, Anita Adams’ new role as Program Representative allows her to provide excellent service for customers and contractors. Her responsibilities include front desk operations, scheduling and materials coordination of offsite events, and oversight of the Program’s social media presence. “I am excited about joining the Energy Independence Program Team, and look forward to promoting energy efficiency and renewables in my new position, a natural fit for my skills and background.”

Anita’s experience includes almost ten years as editor of the North Coast Builders Exchange’s weekly newspaper, the Building News; coordinator and curator of the Green Expo at the 2013 Sonoma County Fair; five years as committee chair of an annual event which included almost 500 attendees and a recycling program, The Green Team, which sorted all event-generated refuse onsite; and most recently, as Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator at the Sonoma County Museum. She received a BA in Political Science from UC Berkeley and a Graphic Design certification from SRJC.

A resident of Sonoma County since 1989, Anita is a Northern California native, hails from a multi-generation family of contractors, and is an avid hiker, sailor, and photographer.

[back to top](#)

Discover the Energy Independence Program YouTube Channel!

Want energy saving tips for your home? Want to learn more about PACE financing? Want to hear others talk about their experience with Energy Upgrade California?

Visit our new [YouTube](#) video gallery to learn about the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, access a library of energy videos and hear testimonials by property owners of our residential and commercial programs.

[back to top](#)

Saving Energy is Good Business

Saving money in energy bills can have a big impact in overhead for



businesses. Fortunately for small and medium businesses in Sonoma County, there are a number of low or no-cost opportunities to achieve energy savings. Sonoma County Energy Watch (SCEW), a partnership between the County of Sonoma and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), provides small businesses, nonprofit organizations and local governments with free energy audits, rebates and incentives, free technical assistance, and financing options.

The best place for a business to start is with a free energy evaluation of its facility, resulting in detailed recommendations on upgrades, and expected cost and energy savings data. For more information or to schedule a free audit, call (707) 565-2160 or visit



www.sonomacountyenergywatch.org

[back to top](#)

Newly Standardized Solar Permitting Unveiled for Sonoma County

Permitting for residential solar projects throughout Sonoma County is about to become simpler and more streamlined than ever. Local building inspectors, fire safety officials, and solar installers worked together over the past year to produce a newly revised, standardized Residential Rooftop Solar Permit process that reduces administrative burden while satisfying the needs and requirements of all stakeholders. Separate building and fire department requirements and fees for some jurisdictions have now been eliminated completely. Solar permitting throughout the county is now a singular process with one fee.



Click here to read the entire [press release](#) from Solar Sonoma County.

[back to top](#)

A Positive ROI in Landscape Water-Use Efficiency

Landscape Professionals:
Increase your sales by showing your customers a return on investment (ROI) for their landscape project.



Property Managers/Owners:
Improve your properties by validating a positive ROI for a landscape improvement project.

Learn how to calculate potential water and dollar savings for your projects by using the City of Santa Rosa's Landscape Water Management Return on Investment Calculator. Attend a free seminar on February 26, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Utility Field Operations Building, 35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa.

For more information, visit the City's [website](#). To register, call (707) 543-4506 or email wue@srcity.org.

[back to top](#)

Contractors' Corner

MONTHLY CONTRACTOR FORUM Thursday, February 21, 2013 4:00pm - 5:30pm at the SCEIP [office](#).



PG&E's Spring 2013 [educational programs](#) to support you as a critical part of California's building energy workforce. The educational programs will help you in developing some of the skills you will need to meet our energy challenges. Additionally, you can find links to other [educational opportunities](#) beyond and in partnership with PG&E.

[back to top](#)
