



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

IN THIS ISSUE

WEDNESDAY 13, NOVEMBER 2013

- ▶ [Attention HVAC and Insulation Contractors](#)
- ▶ [Healdsburg Holiday Light Rebate](#)
- ▶ [New Code Amendments for Renewable Energy in Sonoma County](#)
- ▶ [Renters Guide to Energy Efficiency](#)
- ▶ [How to Improve Indoor Air Quality](#)
- ▶ [Pacific Gas and Electric Programs Generating Mega Savings for Sonoma County](#)
- ▶ [Contractors' Corner](#)

Attention HVAC and Insulation Contractors

Join us to learn from industry experts about resources to enhance your business model including:

- Energy code compliance
- Streamlining the permit process
- Rebates
- Financing
- Free trainings, tool lending library, and marketing

When: December 10th, from 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM – breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Where: North Coast Builders Exchange, 1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

RSVP by December 6th to sceip@sonoma-county.org or 707-565-6470

[back to top](#)

Also this month

GHS Training (Hazard Communication)

November 15th, 8 am - 9:30 am
North Coast Builders Exchange Training Center
1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa

Title 24 Part 6 California's Energy Standard Overview

November 19th, 8 am - 12 pm
North Coast Builders Exchange Training Center
1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa

Energy Upgrade California Webinar

November 19th, 2 pm - 5 pm
Register [here](#).

Healdsburg Holiday Light Rebate

It's that time of year again: as you make your way around town, you will start to see houses being lit up for the holiday season. But did you know that LED decorative lights use approximately 80% less energy than traditional incandescent lights?



To help Healdsburg residents make the move to energy efficient LED decorative lights, the City of Healdsburg is offering a rebate of 10¢ per bulb of these lights (up to 75% of the purchase price).

Green Building Workshop - Zero Net Energy Systems & Construction

November 20, 5:30 pm - 7:30
pm Marin Builders
Association 660 Las Galinas
Ave San Rafael Register [here](#).

Visit www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/rebates or call 707-431-3122 for more information.

[back to top](#)

Connect with us

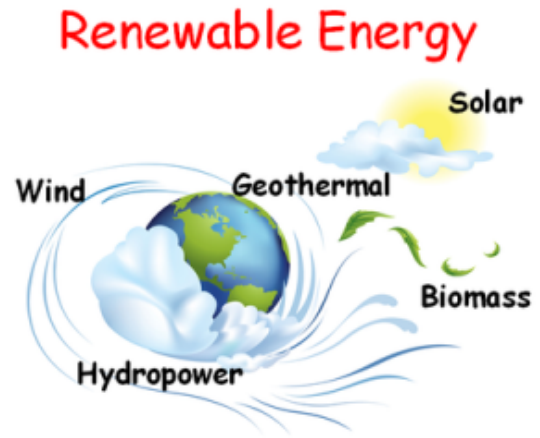


Contact Us

2300 County Center Dr., Suite
A105
Santa Rosa, California 95403-
3009
(707) 565-6470 Phone
(707) 565-6474 Fax
www.sonomacountyenergy.org
sceip@sonoma-county.org

New Code Amendments for Renewable Energy in Sonoma County

The County of Sonoma has adopted changes to the Zoning Code that enable the construction and use of renewable energy facilities throughout the county, while protecting sensitive resources and ensuring neighborhood compatibility. These changes became effective on 10-10-2013 and apply to parcels throughout the county, except in the coastal zone.



Renewable energy is considered a more sustainable energy supply because it is derived from sources that are naturally replenished including biomass, geothermal, solar and wind. The changes implement the resource conservation policies of the County's General Plan to provide for widespread use of renewable energy through distributed generation and increase opportunities for renewable energy power producers. This effort was funded in part by an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant from the Department of Energy.

Forward to a friend



Know someone who might be interested in the email? Why not [forward this email to a friend](#).

Renewable Energy projects are classified into two categories, **Accessory Systems** & **Commercial Facilities**:

Unsubscribe



If you no longer wish to receive this email [please unsubscribe](#).

- **Accessory Systems** provide energy primarily for on-site use (up to 125% of the on-site demand), and are allowed as a permitted use ("by-right") subject to certain criteria. Rooftop Systems are also allowed by-right throughout the County, and are not subject to the 125% of on-site energy demand threshold.
- **Commercial Facilities** generate power primarily for off-site use, and are allowed with a Use Permit in certain zones. In the agricultural and resource zones, solar power generation facilities will require a rezone to add the "RE" (Renewable Energy) Combining Zone. All of these facilities are also subject to special use standards for the type of facility.

Click on the picture above to see the Renewable Energy provisions and Special Use Standards for each type of renewable energy at the Permit and Resource Management Department website.

[back to top](#)

Renters Guide to Energy Efficiency

Do you rent an apartment, a townhouse, or even a house? If you do,

you might think energy efficiency is in your landlord's hand, not yours. However, you can make a big difference! There are many easy and inexpensive ways to not only reduce your carbon footprint, but lower your bills. Here are some examples.



1. **Use energy efficient light bulbs.** Replacing the five most frequently used lights in your home with ENERGY STAR qualified lights can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. Remember to always turn off your lights when leaving a room, turning off just one 60 watt incandescent bulb that would otherwise stay on for 8 hours can save you about \$15 per year.
2. **Install a programmable thermostat.** A good quality thermostat can be found for under \$35 and be installed in just an hour or two. When used properly, a programmable thermostat can save you up to \$150 per year in energy costs. It can be set to keep a constant energy savings mode when you are away or on vacation.
3. **Caulk & Seal around Doors and Windows.** Over time, buildings shift and air leaks occur where there weren't any before. You can combat this by applying caulk around windows, door frames, chimneys, electrical outlets and anywhere else you feel a draft. Doing so will allow you to run your heater or air conditioner less often, saving you money.
4. **Uncover those registers.** Make sure that all of the air registers are clear of furniture so that air can circulate freely. Otherwise your heater or air conditioner will have to run longer and may never fully warm or cool your home.
5. **Use power strips.** A lot of energy is wasted by electronics that are left plugged in, e.g. microwave clocks and cell phone chargers (whether or not they are not charging a phone). Put a stop to this waste by simply turning off the power strip when not using the electronics plugged into them.
6. **Wash your clothes in cold water.** Heating water accounts for about 90% of the energy your washing machine uses, only 10% is used by the motor. Switching to cold water can save you \$30-\$40 dollars per year on your energy costs.
7. **Clean your dryer's lint trap.** By cleaning the lint trap in your dryer before each and every use, you will reduce both time and energy needed to dry your clothes. This step can save you up to \$34 per year.
8. **Replace your furnace filter.** Furnace filters should be changed every 1-3 months to ensure clean air and improve the efficiency of your furnace. This is an inexpensive and quick way to ensure that your furnace isn't working harder than it needs to.
9. **Take a shower.** Using a low flow (2.5gpm or less) shower head for a 10 minute shower will save 5 gallons of water compared to filling a bathtub. Saving you up to \$145 per year on your energy costs. Try shortening your shower to 5 minutes to save even more.

10. **Check your water heater.** Have you ever experienced scalding hot water? If so, your water heater is probably set too high. Lower the temperature to the lowest comfortable setting and with it your costs of heating that water will drop too.

These are just a few simple steps that you can take to both lower your utility bills and increase the comfort of your home.

[back to top](#)

How to Improve Indoor Air Quality

If you were asked if the air you breathe was cleaner inside your house or outside, what would you say? If you said outside you'd be right, but 87% of American homeowners are not aware that pollution may be worse inside their homes than outdoors. In fact, indoor air pollution is 2-5 times, sometimes up to 100 times, worse. The average person breathes 3,400 gallons of air each day, making ambient air pollution a major environmental problem. It's one the EPAs' top 5 environmental risks to public health.



You might be asking yourself right now, "How can that be?" Over the years, buildings have been made more airtight to conserve energy. A variety of methods are employed to keep the hot or cool air from escaping from our homes: installing storm windows and insulation; applying caulk and weather-stripping to seal cracks and other openings; and heating our homes with kerosene, wood, coal, and natural gas. Unfortunately, when we trap in hot or cool air, we also trap in pollutants and sometimes generate more.

Did you know that on average, people spend about 90 percent of their time indoors. Sixty-five percent of that is spent at home. To make matters worse, those who are most susceptible to indoor air pollution are the ones who are home the most: children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. Children breathe in 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults.

It is often difficult to determine which pollutant or pollutants are the sources of a person's ill health, or even if indoor air pollution is the problem. Many indoor air pollutants cannot be detected by our senses (e.g., smell) and the symptoms they produce can be vague and sometimes similar, making it hard to attribute them to a specific cause. Some symptoms may not show up until years later, making it even harder to discover the cause. Common symptoms of exposure to indoor air pollutants include: headaches, tiredness, dizziness, nausea, itchy nose, and scratchy throat. More serious effects are asthma, other breathing disorders and cancer.

There are many ways to improve your indoor air quality. These fall into three

basic strategies: source control, improved ventilation, and air cleaners.

1. **Clean and vacuum regularly** to remove dust, dirt, and particulates that build up indoors; be sure to change vacuum filter bags or clean dirt cups often, to ensure that the dust and dirt do not end up back in your home.
2. **Buy plants.** Use the power of nature to help clean the air indoors. Some types of plants can remove chemicals quickly from the air and thrive on substances that can be harmful to people.
3. **Use non-toxic materials** including wall and wall finishes, caulks, adhesives, upholstered furniture, and carpeting.
4. **Use natural cleaning products** that contain no volatile organic compounds or toxic chemicals.
5. **Invest in good HEPA air filters** to help purify the air in your home, and be sure to change filters often.
6. **Remove your shoes** when you come indoors to prevent a host of outside dirt from spreading throughout your home.
7. **Keep smoke outdoors** by never smoking indoors, or even inside near open windows, doors, or vents. Be aware that toxins from smoking are also carried on your clothing and person.
8. **Check air and furnace filters** at least every two months, and replace or clean regularly.

By taking steps to improve your indoor air quality you can benefit from healthier home air, relief from allergy and asthma and decreased dampness and odor; reclaim additional living and storage space and even improve your homes resale value.

[back to top](#)

Pacific Gas and Electric Programs Generating Mega Savings for Sonoma County

Since 2006, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) energy efficiency programs have provided over \$36,823,000 in incentives and saved over 376,000,000 kilowatt hours (KWh) in Sonoma County.

Using an average electricity rate of \$.13/kWh that is a savings of over \$48,882,459 for Sonoma County residents, businesses, non-profits and local governments.

Reported Year	Incentives	KW	KWh	Therms
2006	1,732,872	4,802	30,786,668	192,111
2007	5,317,792	10,694	69,858,044	293,782
2008	8,422,327	17,994	115,591,574	492,585
2009	4,435,987	7,515	41,787,335	-19,380
2010	4,977,404	5,445	35,294,287	35,090
2011	5,277,217	6,369	38,622,829	9,817
2012	5,248,519	5,723	35,232,453	5,214
2013	1,411,802	1,901	8,845,732	224,989
Grand Total	36,823,920.00	60,443.00	376,018,920.00	1,234,208.00

The programs responsible for this success are the County of Sonoma's Sonoma County Energy Watch (SCEW), The Energy Alliance Association (TEAA) as Energy Savers Program, Resource Solutions Group's Wineries, Dairies, and Schools Programs, other Third Party Programs, and Core PG&E Rebate Programs.

SCEW was established in 2006 and is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. SCEW offers no cost energy evaluations to commercial, government, and non-profit clients throughout Sonoma County. This program mostly serves small to large sized organizations that can save money with lighting, HVAC, and refrigeration retrofits. Visit

www.sonomacountyenergywatch.org for more information.

TEAA, in partnership with SCEW and PG&E, has assisted small to medium sized businesses in Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Mendocino Counties since 2003 with lighting retrofits and has now added refrigeration upgrades as well. Visit www.teaaonline.com for more information.

Core Program Rebates are also available to customers for a wide variety of energy savings measures such as appliances, windows, HVAC and lighting retrofits. Visit <http://www.pge.com/myhome/saveenergymoney/moneysaver/#/default> for more information on ways you can obtain rebates through energy efficiency upgrades.

Following the mantra of "reduce before you produce" the County of Sonoma has completed major efficiency upgrades to the County Campus. Better interior lighting, LED parking lot lights, new water heaters, improved chiller systems and advanced controls have allowed the County to dramatically reduce its energy use. Rebates and incentives available through SCEW, private bank financing and PG&E's 0% interest on-bill financing program helped pay for these projects.

These programs have been successful in saving hundreds of millions of kilowatt hours per year and producing significant monetary savings through no-cost technical consultation, zero and low interest loans, and ongoing demand reduction strategies.

To learn more about SCEW and its partnership programs, or to schedule a free evaluation, visit www.sonomacountyenergywatch.org or call (707) 565-2160.

[back to top](#)

Contractors' Corner

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

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



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

***We encourage all contractors to join us. We will be discussing updates to the improvements eligible for PACE financing through SCEIP, including reasonable costs & specifications.**

**** Green Building Workshop - Zero Net Energy: Systems & Construction
Where: Marin Builders Association 660 Las Galinas Ave. San Rafael Ca
When: November 20th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Register [here](#)**

[back to top](#)

© 2013 Sonoma County Energy Independence Program
2300 County Center Dr., Suite A105, Santa Rosa, California 95403-3009 . ph (707) 565-6470 . fax (707) 565-6474

