

13 Water Heater Replacements at Santa Barbara Unified School District



In a bid to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability, the Santa Barbara Unified School District participated in SoCalREN's heat pump water heater offering in 2023. SoCalREN assisted with site audits, funding and financing assessments, and equipment procurement.

The County upgraded a total of **13 water heaters** to provide seamless heating for several of their facilities. Facility types include: **cafeteria, admin office, pool showers, maintenance room, health center, and classrooms.**

Expedited Procurement

To bypass a lengthy request for proposal (RFP) process, agency leveraged the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act, which allows agencies to bypass RFPs if costs are below \$60,000.



“ They are working well - our staff did not notice any change in their hot water delivery from the old boilers/natural gas powered water heaters, which is everything that we had hoped for.

- Desmond Ho
Operations and Sustainability Coordinator

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Project Timeline

- May 2023 Agency expressed interest in the offering
- July 2023 Site visit at approved schools
- December 2023 Water heater installation was approved by the board
- December 2023 Construction completed
- April 2024 Incentive paid out directly to the contractor

Project Overview



\$184,000+
lifetime cost savings



\$364,000
SoCalREN incentives awarded



\$59,000
Capital funding used



10 years
estimated useful life



2.6M+ kWh
lifetime energy savings



15 - 20%
therm usage reduction



116 cars
taken off the road
lifetime kWh savings
greenhouse gas equivalency



Before and after photos of one of the water heater replacements