

SoCaIREN Advisory Committee Meeting

October 16th, 2024
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

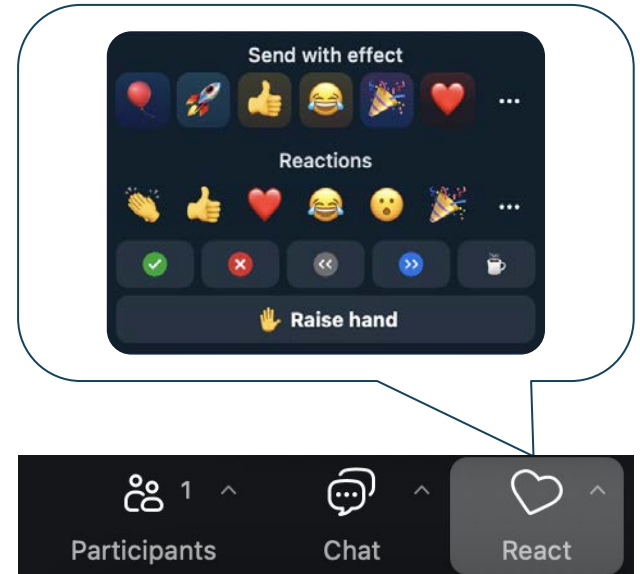


Administration

- This webinar is being recorded
- Please keep microphone muted unless you want to speak
- If you are experiencing any technical issues during the webinar, please contact **Amanda Hassan** at **ahassan@energycoalition.org**

Directions for Chat

- We will be having an open discussion throughout the meeting!
- If you would like to ask your question verbally click on the “raise hand” function.
- If you would like to stay muted, send us your question or comment through the chat!



Who is Participating Today?

Advisory Committee Members



Invited Guests



SoCalREN Staff, Implementers & Regional Partners



SoCalREN Advisory Committee



Guide and Advise



Collaborate and Innovate



Be Informed



Be an Advocate

Agenda

SoCalREN Welcome	Lujuana Medina	7 min
Networking	All	13 min
Regulatory and Policy Updates	Fernanda Craig	20 min
SoCalREN New Program Updates	Tessa & Lujuana	20 min
INVEST CLEAN through CPRG Funding	Aaron Katzenstein	25 min
Closing Remarks	Lujuana Medina	5 min
Adjourn	All	

SoCaIREN Welcome

Lujuana Medina, County of Los Angeles



Networking



Networking Activity - Word Cloud

- Participants can join at slido.com with #3532854 on phone or computer OR use the QR code
- Answer the question on Slido and discuss in your break out room



Networking Activity - Word Cloud

- How do you feel about the end of the year coming up?
- How do you feel about the current EE program landscape?
- What are you most interested in learning about today?

Regulatory and Policy Updates

Fernanda Craig, Los Angeles County



Assembly Bill 3264



AB 3264 Overview

Title: Energy: cost framework: residential rates: demand-side management programs report: electrical transmission grid study.

Author: Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris, 73rd District **representing parts of Orange County, including Irvine, Costa Mesa, and Laguna Beach.**

Status: Signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 27, 2024.

1. CPUC + CEC must develop a framework to assess, track, and analyze total annual energy costs for residential households in California.
2. IOUs/CCAs must publish and provide visual representations of cost categories in residential rates annually, starting January 1, 2026.
 - *Must include costs due to energy efficiency programs*
3. **Revises Section 913.5 of current PUC code to include RENs in required reporting.**
4. By July 1, 2025, the CPUC, in consultation with CEC, IBANK, and CAISO will submit a study to the Governor and Legislature to reduce the cost of expanding the electrical transmission grid to meet state goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 3264 Reporting Updates

- **Section 913.5 of the Public Utilities Code was amended and increases reporting requirements for RENs and other EE Portfolio Administrators (PAs).** This could impact compliance and administrative burden for PAs and individual programs.
- SoCalREN's programs are transparent and track data beyond existing reporting requirements; we can currently meet many of the new evaluation requirements.
- The report will include all DSM (including C&S), with evaluations for each program that include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - Program description and target population;
 - Authorized budgets and actual expenditures;
 - Projected and actual energy savings over the program cycle;
 - Projected and actual bill savings to the average participating and the average nonparticipating ratepayer;
 - Cost-effectiveness analysis, including a TRC and a PAC test;
 - Public interest impacts, as applicable;
 - Actual customers served, aggregated by customer class, geographic distribution, and income level;
 - Peak demand reduction, as applicable; and,
 - Total System Benefit*

Note: the commission may provide evaluations at a portfolio level in addition to the individual program evaluation required by this amendment to the Code. * As adopted in the commission's Decision 21-09-037 (September 23, 2021) Decision Adopting Energy Efficiency Goals for 2022-2032

AB 3264 Key Dates

- July 1, 2025: Transmission grid study submission & DSM Program Report.
- January 1, 2026: First annual cost category publication.

Low-Global Warming Potential (Low-GWP)

Cristalle Mauleon, Lincus



Low-Global Warming Potential

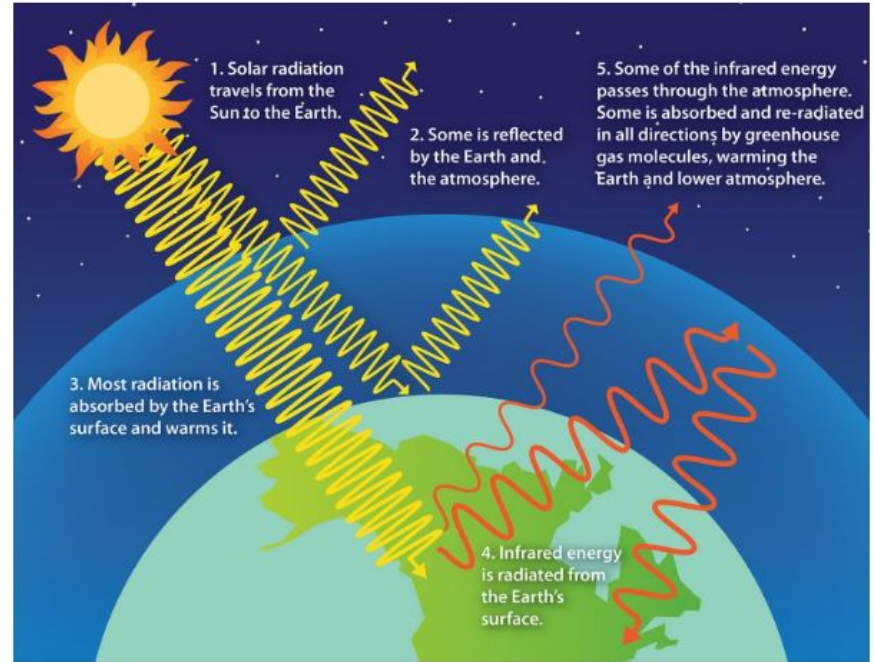
- 1) What is Low-GWP?
- 2) What are the upcoming requirements?
- 3) Why is it important to public agencies?
- 4) Low-GWP Challenges
- 5) Public Agency Asks

Low Global Warming Potential (GWP) Overview & Regulations



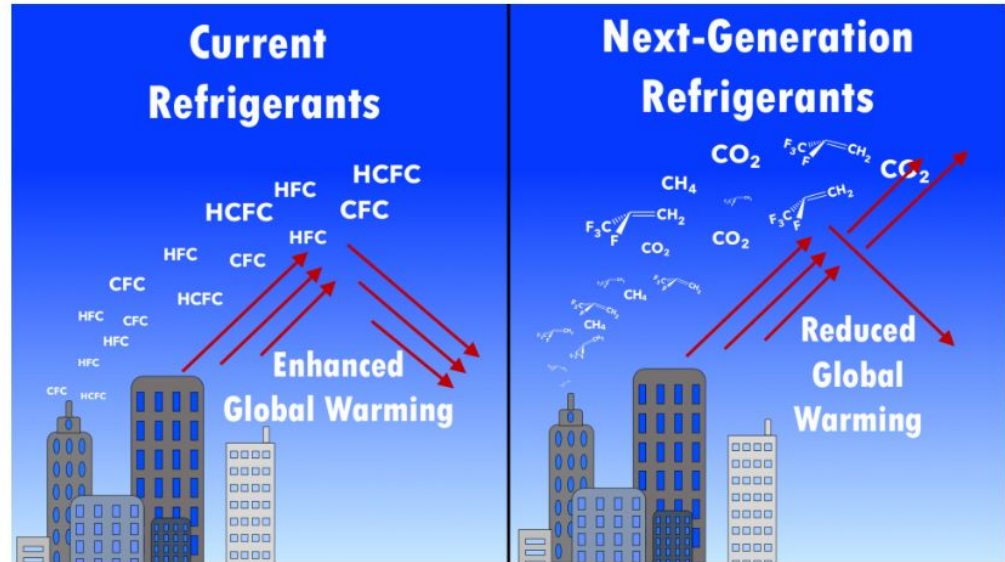
Low-GWP Overview

- Refrigerants are chemicals used in heating and air conditioning and refrigeration systems to provide cooling/heating
- Refrigerant molecules leak from devices and end up in the atmosphere
- They reflect radiated energy back to Earth's surface (re-radiation)
- Global warming potential (GWP) measures how much energy 1 ton of a greenhouse gas (GHG) will re-radiate compared to 1 ton of CO₂



Low-GWP Overview

- Current refrigerants have GWPs that are in the 1000s
 - R134a: 1430
 - R404a: 3920
 - R410a: 2090
- Low-GWP refrigerants have GWPs of 700 or less
 - R454b: 470
 - R32 (aka HFC32): 675
- Ultra-Low-GWP refrigerants have GWPs of 10 or less
 - R290 (aka propane): 3
 - R600a (aka isobutane): 6
 - R717 (aka ammonia): 0



Federal Regulations



Clean Air Act Passed

Clean Air Act passed to reduce and control air pollution in the US

1963

1990

CAA Amendment

Includes Title VI, establishing EPA SNAP to address ozone-depleting substances

SNAP Rule 20

Regulates certain High-GWP HFCs used in commercial refrigeration

2015

2016

Kigali Amendment

- Target phase-out of certain High-GWP HFCs in specific end-uses, including stationary refrigeration and foam blowing
- Outlines a schedule for the reduction of HFC production and consumption

AIM Act

Empowers EPA to regulate production, consumption, and used of HFCs using authority granted by CAA

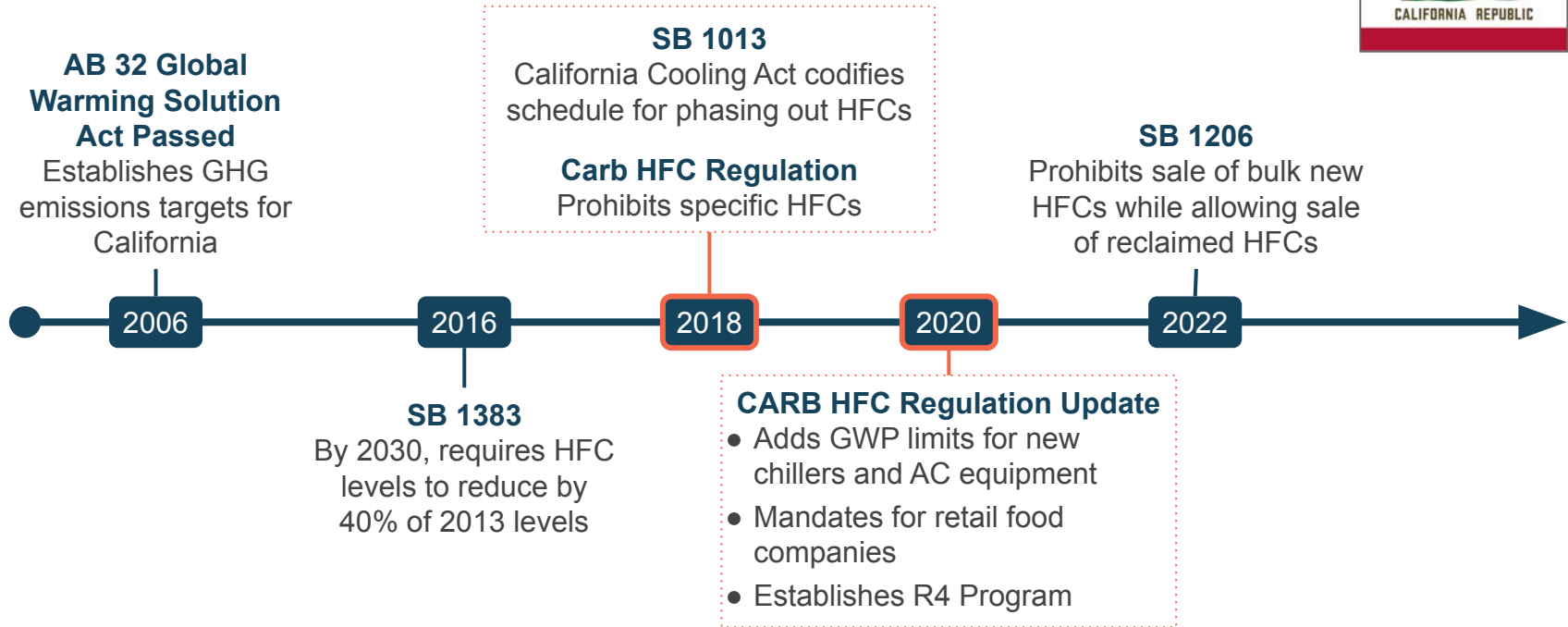
2020

2023

AIM Act Final Rule

- Restricts uses of HFCs in specific sectors/subsectors
- Established process for technology transitions petition
- Established recordkeeping and reporting requirements

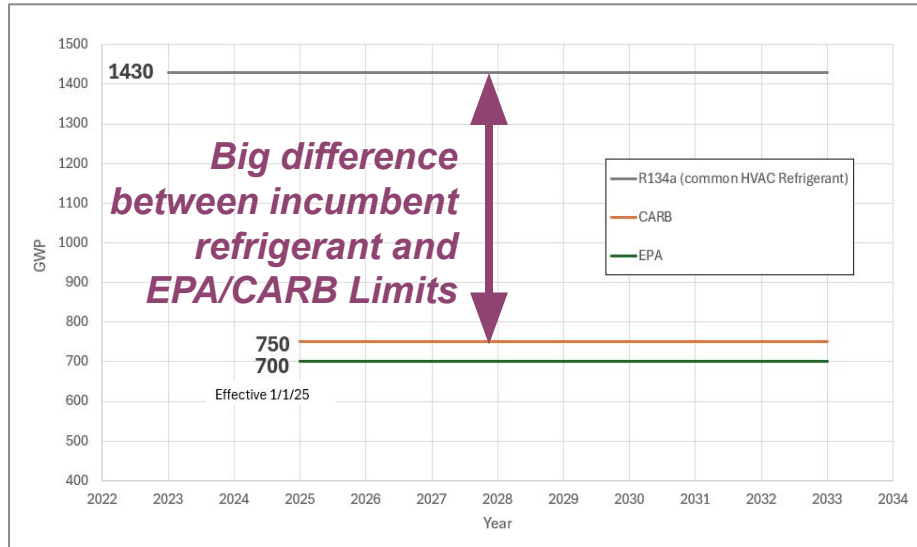
California Regulations



California and federal government regulations are not well aligned on equipment definitions, GWP limits, or timelines for GWP limits

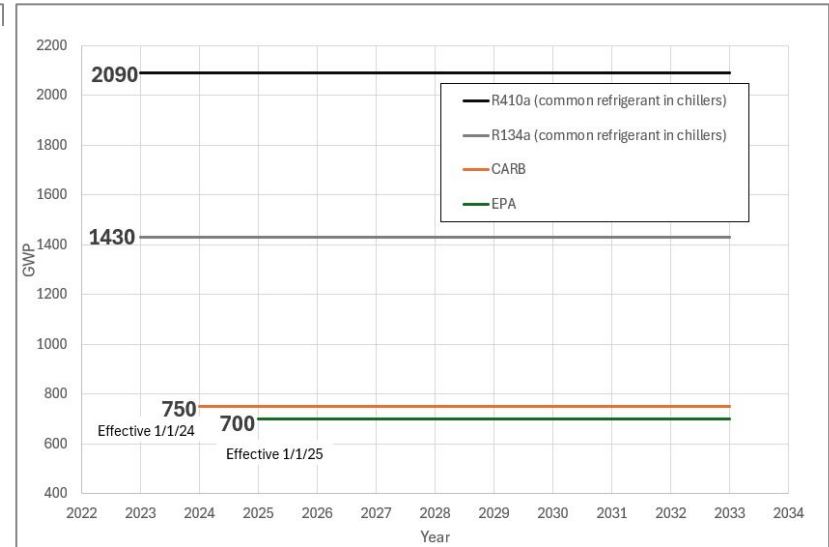
Low-GWP Limits

Light Commercial HVAC Limits



- EPA and CARB limits go into effect 1/1/25
- EPA allows a sell-through period until 12/31/25

Chiller Limits

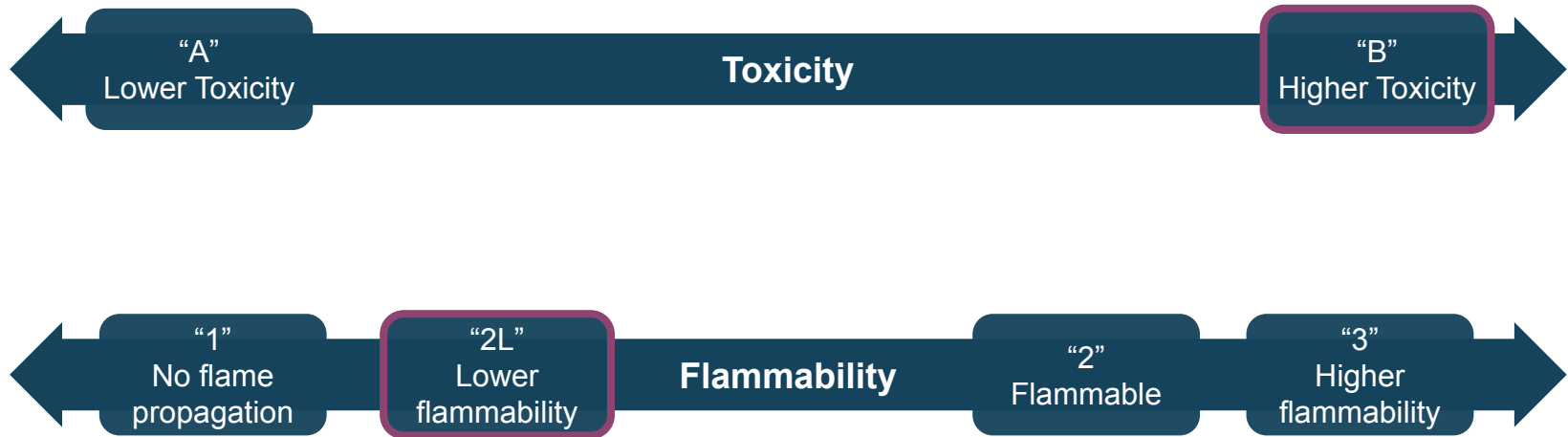


- CARB limits went into effect this year and EPA go into effect 1/1/25
- EPA allows a sell-through period until 12/31/25

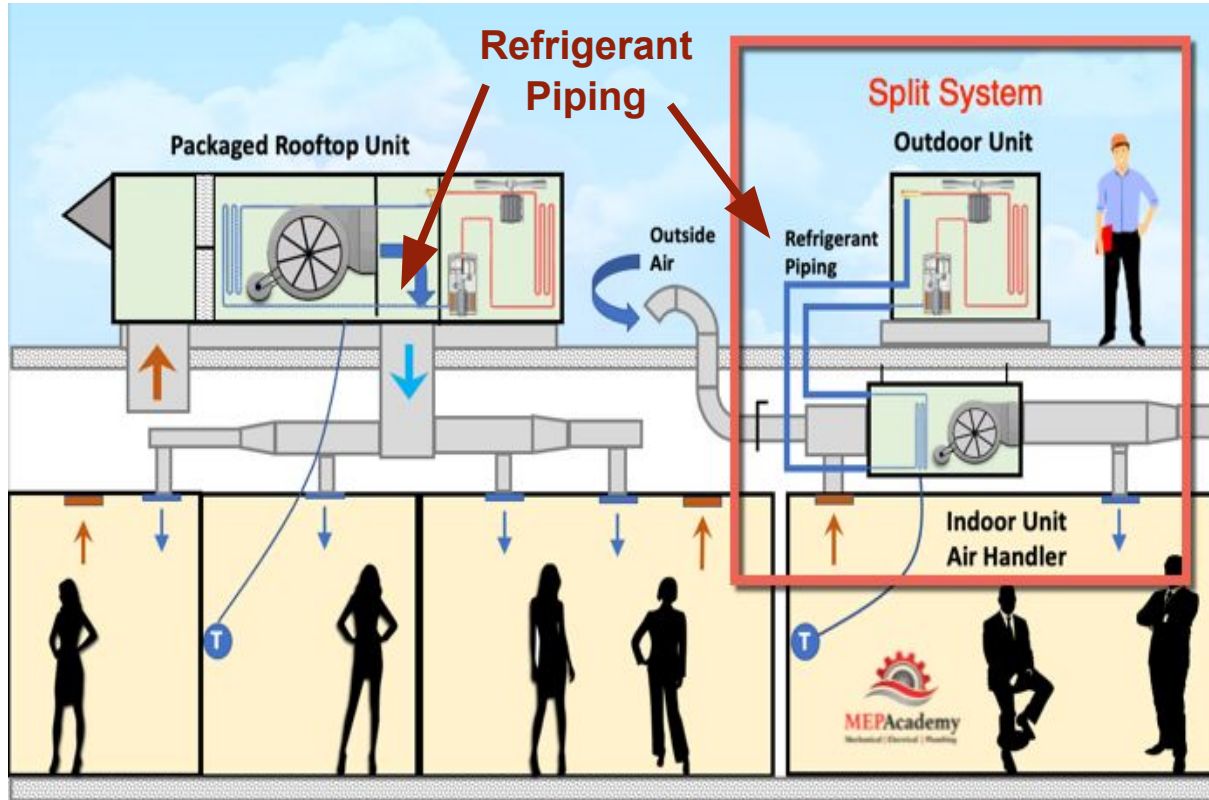
Low-GWP Challenges



Refrigerant Classification: Refrigerants are categorized/classified for toxicity and flammability



High Probability System



California Mechanical Code

- California Mechanical Code (CMC) **currently does not allow A2L or A3** refrigerants in **High Probability** systems
- Effectively, this **prohibits Low-GWP refrigerants in most air conditioning systems**
- FYI Chillers are Low-Probability systems
- Local Authorities Having Jurisdictions (AHJs) are in charge of enforcing CMC or their own local code
- What to do in 2025 if CARB says you have to use a Low-GWP (which is an A2L) refrigerant but CMC says you can't?



AB 209 (2022)

*“This bill would require the commission, on or before July 1, 2023, to consider whether to adopt specified consensus safety standards. If the commission does not adopt the consensus safety standards, then the bill would **prohibit a state or local building code from prohibiting the use of a refrigerant listed as acceptable** under specified provisions of the federal Clean Air Act if the use is installed in accordance with specified standards, effective July 1, 2024.”*

In plain English: an AHJ may **not** prohibit an A2L from being installed if it has been approved by EPA through their SNAP program for that type of equipment

Refrigerants allowed by EPA for Light Commercial HVAC¹

Refrigerant	Classification
HFC32	A2L
R290A (propane)	A3
R452B	A2L
R458A	A2L

1. <https://www.epa.gov/snap/substitutes-residential-and-light-commercial-air-conditioning-and-heat-pumps>

Public Agency Questions

- Are your AHJs aware of CMC or AB209?
- Have they received training on CMC requirements?
- Have they received training on CARB/EPA requirements?
- Have they begun to seek quotes for Low-GWP HVAC equipment?

SoCalREN New Programs



SoCalREN New Program: WE&T

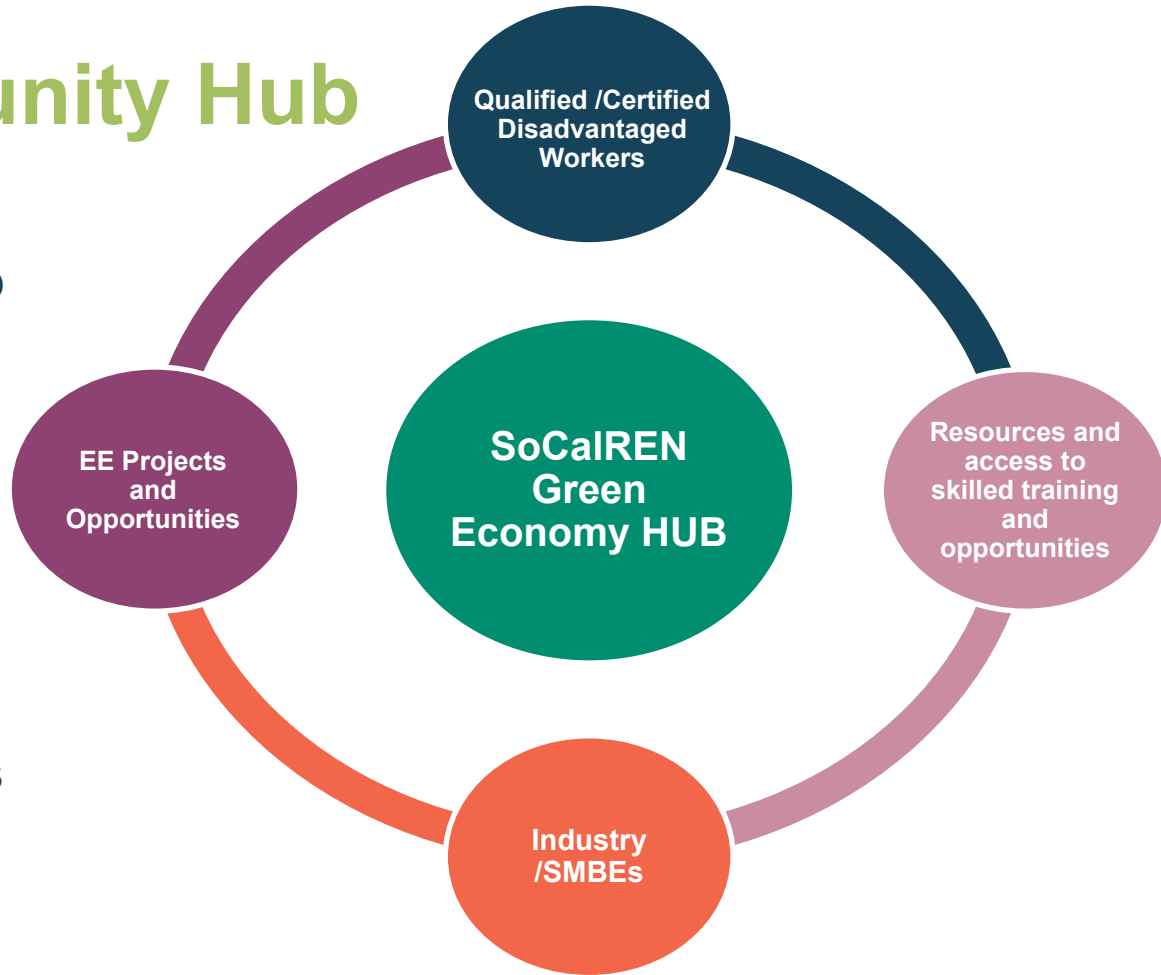
Tessa Charnofsky, County of Los Angeles



WE&T Opportunity Hub

The WE&T Opportunity Hub **connects contractors and workers to jobs and opportunities.**

Organizes the infrastructure needed to connect SoCalREN's small and minority contractors and disadvantaged workers to capacity- building resources and opportunities.



Opportunity Hub

A one stop shop for Job seekers, Small Business Contractors, Industry Partners and those looking to enter the green economy.

Resource Library

Centralized source to provide tools, templates, and information to support small contractors in managing and growing their businesses.

Training Center

Training Center offering specialized education aimed at improving skills for contractors and job seekers. These will be on demand in the form of modules, videos or live learning.

Clearing House

The Opportunity clearing house will serve as the hub for small contractors, and individual workers can find relevant projects, bid opportunities, job postings, etc.

Dialogue

Small to Medium Commerce

- As local governments, what are some current local small business contractor needs or challenges you are hearing about?
- What would help them be more competitive?

Green Economy Workforce

- If you were a worker with some skills training in energy related fields, what would you seek in a resource Hub?



SoCalREN New Program: Residential

Lujuana Medina, County of Los Angeles



SoCalREN Small Hard-to Reach Direct Install: Overview

The SoCalREN Hard-to Reach Direct Install: Multifamily program helps customers who do not have easy access to program information due to a language, income, housing type, geographic, or home ownership barrier, still enjoy the benefits of energy efficiency upgrades.

After a consultation with a Program Trade Ally and an energy assessment, a licensed and qualified contractor will install energy efficiency measures available through the program, followed by a project wrap-up to review results to the satisfaction of all involved.

SoCalREN 

Program Objectives

- Providing services that create a significant positive impact to a historically very underserved multifamily market sector.
- Establishing a team of local DI contractors to serve a diverse geographic region.
- Serving 644 small multifamily buildings meeting HTR criteria and providing bill savings measures to over 16,000 tenant units within the 2024-2027 program cycle.
- Expected to launch in early December.

Program Summary

Program Segment

Resource Acquisition

Program Cycle Period

Four years (2024-2027)

Target Sector

Residential (Small MF <50 units)

Incentive Path Offered

Direct Install

Key Program Performance Metrics:

- TSB, Savings (kWh, therms), TRC
- Hard to Reach multifamily properties served
- Tenant units served
- Total project costs in DAC
- Total project costs in Rural/HTR

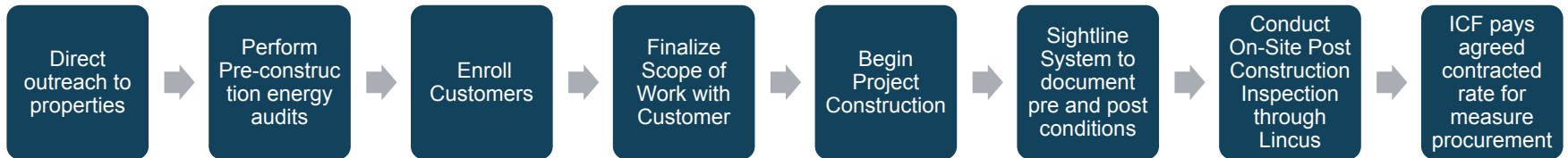
Annual Quantitative Program Targets:

- Serve 160 multifamily buildings in DAC ZIP codes or meeting HTR criteria
- Provide bill savings measures to 2,400 tenant units
- Establish a team of local Direct Install Contractors to serve a diverse geographic region

Delivery Pathway

Key Trade Ally & Regional Trade Allies

- ICF worked closely with key trade ally partners to develop this experience-based design for the Small Multifamily HTR DI program sector.
- These key trade allies have the customers and business structure to support ICF in successfully delivering the goals of this program and can begin installing projects immediately upon program launch.
- Regional Account managers will recruit trade allies in HTR communities, then concurrently train individuals on the installation principles associated with the measures offered through the program and the policies and guidelines of the SoCalREN Small Multifamily HTR DI program.



SoCalREN New Programs: Public

Lujuana Medina, County of Los Angeles



Rural & Hard to Reach Small Public Agency Direct Install



Program Description: Will provide no-cost EE retrofits at underserved public agency facilities with < 20 kW of peak demand usage.

Program Services:

- Offers streamlined, no-cost implementation of energy efficiency measures.
 - Measures may include: lighting, HVAC replacements, HVAC controls, window film.
- Provides public agencies with technical expertise and knowledge through project managers and vetted contractors.

Water and Wastewater Strategic Energy Management (SEM)



Program Description: Will help municipally-owned potable water systems and wastewater treatment plants expedite comprehensive peak demand reduction projects. The SEM approach creates a foundation for sustained energy savings by fostering staff's ability to integrate strategic energy decisions into their workflow.

Program Services:

- Delivery of an SEM Roadmap to set energy and operational goals.
- Trainings on how to identify, prioritize, and implement energy saving actions.
- Cash incentives and access to no-cost technical assistance.

Underserved Schools Strategic Energy Management (SEM)



Program Description: Will engage K-12 school districts and community colleges building occupants on systematic energy management best practices and will develop energy leadership across staff, administrators, and educators.

Program Services:

- Provide designated SoCalREN Project Manager.
- Provide tools and guidance to support schools with their long-term strategic energy planning.
- Develop and help agencies integrate energy efficiency curriculum.
- Expand one-stop energy efficiency project delivery to include IDSM audits and recommendations.

Water Infrastructure Program



Program Description: The Water Infrastructure program will incentivize long-term energy efficiency solutions to water production, distribution, and treatment systems. Measures incentivized will include wastewater mixing, ultraviolet controls, pump sequencing, etc.

Program Services:

- Cash incentives for energy efficiency measures.
- Project development support and education on emerging technologies.
- Assistance with identifying additional funding and financing pathways.

INVEST CLEAN through CPRG Funding

Aaron Katzenstein
SCAQMD Deputy Executive Officer for Technology Advancement





South Coast AQMD INVEST CLEAN

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

October 16, 2024

Aaron Katzenstein
Deputy Executive Officer
Technology Advancement Office



Background



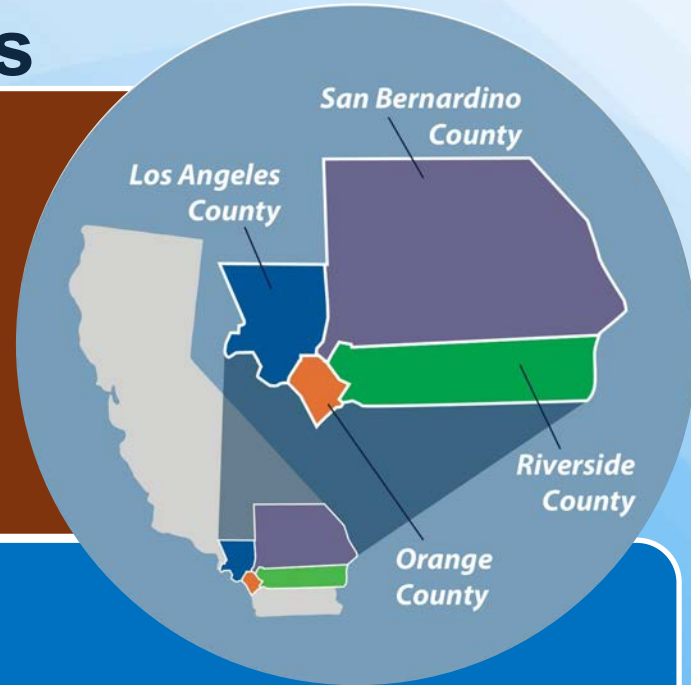
- Inflation reduction act (IRA) created \$4.6 B U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG)
- The goals to develop climate action plans and implement projects:
 - Reduce GHG emissions
 - Support jobs
 - Leverage funding, maximize emission reductions and community benefits
 - Address environmental justice
- South Coast AQMD worked with two Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and played an active role
- \$500 million award, the largest in the nation

CPRG Development Process

Planning Grant

January/February 2023 – April 2024

- Created Steering Committees
 - LA-OC MSA: Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim
 - Inland Empire MSA: Riverside – San Bernardino, Ontario
- Developed Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)– foundation for implementation grants
- Worked to prioritize Goods Movement application
- Coordinated regionally and with State



Implementation Grant

February 2024 – April 2024

- South Coast AQMD took lead for CPRG Southern California Goods Movement Working Group
- PCAP submitted in March 2024
- Built consensus on goods movement proposal framework
- Developed proposal and submitted in April 2024



INVEST CLEAN: Four Incentive Measures

Infrastructure, Vehicles, and Equipment Strategy for Climate, Equity, Air Quality, and National Competitiveness



**Heavy-duty
Charging
Infrastructure**

(Approx. 1,020 chargers)



**Battery Electric
Class 8 Heavy-Duty
Trucks and Last Mile
Freight for Class 4 &
5 Vehicles**

*(Approx. 70 Class 8 &
750 Class 4/5 trucks)*



**Battery Electric
Cargo Handling
Equipment**

(Approx. 60 CHE)



**Battery Electric
Switcher
Locomotive Pilot
Project**

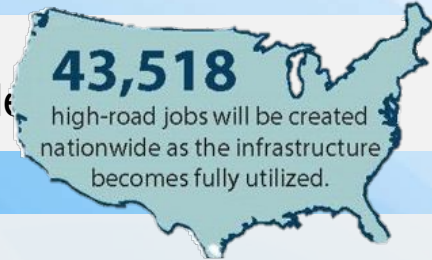
(Approx. 18 locomotives)



Jobs, Workforce Training & Community Benefits

Jobs

- Near-term over 470 jobs created in California and 4,700 nationwide



Workforce Training

- Partnership with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – National Electrical Contractors Association, workforce non-governmental organizations, community colleges, and universities/colleges

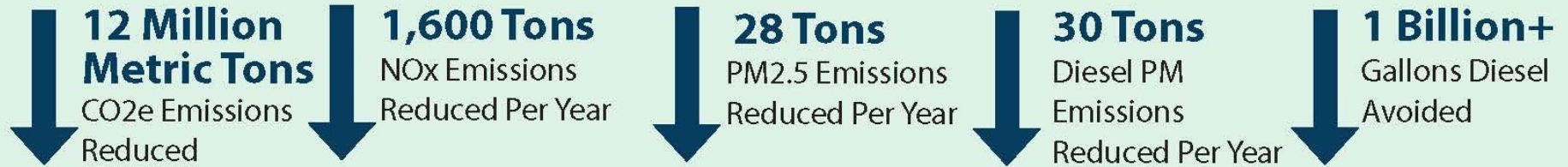
Community Benefits

- Steering Committee to conduct outreach and education on climate, air quality and zero-emission technologies
- Community priorities incorporated as voluntary measures that infrastructure project can elect to implement



Climate & Air Quality

Benefits Over 25 Years (2025-2050):



Excellent cost effectiveness at **\$42/metric ton** CO₂e over the **25-year** period.



Next Steps

SCAQMD Board
Approval &
Recognizing the Award
(Sept. 2024)

EPA Grant Agreement
(Oct. 2024)

Solicitation for 3rd Party
Facilitator (Dec. 2024)

Subaward Agreements
for Workforce, NREL, &
First Mile Freight
(Q1 2025)

Develop
Implementation Plan
(Q1 2025)

Release Program
Announcement for
Incentive Measures
(Q2 2025)



Contact Information

For more information, please subscribe to updates at:

<https://www.aqmd.gov/sign-up>, and select “Climate Pollution Reduction Grant”

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Closing Remarks

Lujuana Medina, County of Los Angeles



2024 Meeting Proposed Schedule



Date	Time
March 20th	Virtual 10:30 am - 12 pm
August 8th	In-person - SGVCOG Offices 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
October 16th	Virtual 10:30 am - 12 pm
December 11th	Virtual 10:30 am - 12 pm

**Please take a minute to complete our
October 2024 Meeting Survey!**

SoCalREN Podcast & Social



Don't forget to listen to SoCalREN's podcast and follow us on social media!



- SoCalREN's nineteenth podcast episode, Decarbonization 101 was recently released and ReEnergizing Communities has been rebranded into *Hi, Energy!*
- Currently available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#) platforms.

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[linkedin.com/company/southern-california-regional-energy-network](#)

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Online Resource for Advisory Committee Members



Advisory Committee



Working Group Updates

As needed documents such as operating structure, meeting minutes and opportunity trackers.

[More Info](#)



Regulatory Reports

Monthly regulatory reports and proceeding updates.

[More Info](#)



Advisory Committee Meeting Materials

Quarterly meeting materials such as agendas, minutes, presentations and other supporting documents.

[More Info](#)

Adjourn

