

2025 Santa Barbara USD Multi-Site Lighting Upgrade Case Study

SoCalREN Public Agency Programs | socalren.org



Project Summary

In December 2024, Santa Barbara Unified School District (SBUSD) successfully completed a large-scale lighting and controls upgrade across multiple campuses to enhance sustainability, **resulting in \$1,170,000+ lifetime cost savings.** With support from SoCalREN—including no-cost technical reviews, financial analyses, and project management support—the District cut energy use by more than half.

The project was funded by a combination of SoCalREN's Metered Savings Program incentives, internal funding, and SoCalREN's Revolving Savings Fund (RSF)—a 0% interest rate loan that provides upfront construction financing while long-term funding is secured. SBUSD leveraged over \$974,000 in RSF financing to successfully complete multi-site lighting upgrades, enhancing energy efficiency and reducing utility costs. The resulting energy savings are expected to exceed project costs over time, allowing the District to reinvest utility bill savings into other critical school services. Building on the success of this project, the District is now exploring additional lighting upgrades at four more schools, as well as the installation of a pool pump variable frequency drive addition and heat pump water heater.

Project Overview



\$1,170,000+
Lifetime cost savings



\$290,000+
Lifetime maintenance cost savings



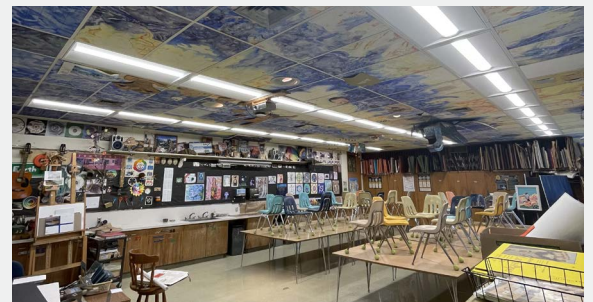
\$974,000
Revolving Savings Fund 0% interest financing



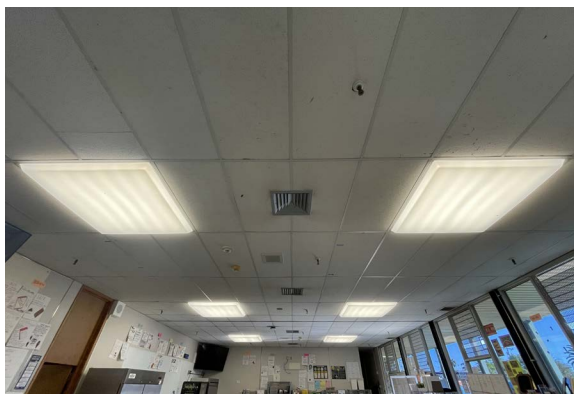
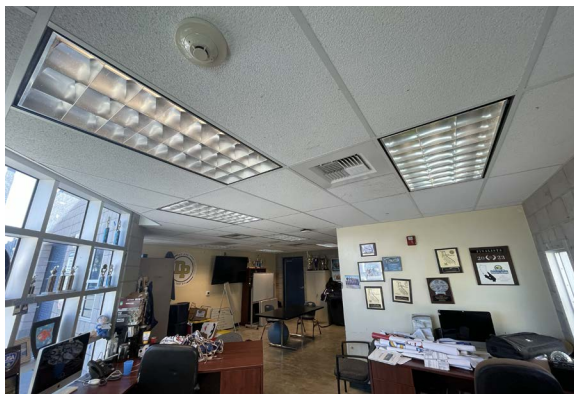
54%
Energy use reduction



1,580+ cars
taken off the road
lifetime kWh savings greenhouse gas equivalency



Energy-efficient LED light fixtures installed in Dos Pueblos High School art classroom



Energy-efficient LED light fixtures installed in Dos Pueblos High School administrator's office (top) and classroom (bottom)

SoCalREN Services

Below are the no-cost services SoCalREN provided that led to a successful project!



Incentive Application



Audit Calculations



Design / Scope of Work



Technical Review



Project Management



Construction Management Support

Interested in the Revolving Savings Fund?



Contact your SoCalREN Project Manager to determine if your project qualifies for RSF.

Submit your RSF application with SoCalREN support to receive formal approval and reserve funds.

Receive a loan offer letter and obtain governing board approval.

Receive funding following governing board approval and signing of loan agreement.

Install your energy efficiency project.

Obtain utility rebates/incentives, On-Bill financing (OBF), or other permanent funding, if applicable.

Repay loan so the cycle can continue!