



Altman Specialty Plants A Win for Growers in the City of Nipomo

Through its Agriculture Programs, the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) offers **no-cost technical consulting and rebates** to help farmers and growers make energy efficiency improvements. Farms and agriculture facilities in hard-to-reach markets can receive additional incentives.

Altman Specialty Plants, specializing in various ornamental plants for home and garden, became the City of Nipomo's first grower to complete direct install and retrofit projects through SoCalREN. Built in 1990, the property includes growing space spread across six greenhouses.

Altman worked with Greenhouse System USA to install targeted improvements, including heat curtains and infrared film. The upgrades were designed to reduce energy use, lower utility costs, enhance control of the production environment, and improve crop performance. Since completing the projects, the facility has seen significant gas savings.

"The partnership with SoCalREN on these projects has been seamless. The heat curtain installation demonstrated a 19% reduction in heating therm usage after accounting for weather variations, while also achieving a more consistent and improved growing environment."

– Jeff Corey, Operations Manager

PROPERTY PROFILE

Property Name	Altman Specialty Plants
Location	Nipomo, CA
Owner	Altman Plants
Property Size	Medium
Trade Ally	Greenhouse System USA
Product	Svensson
Square Feet	224,000
Year Built	1990



Learn More About SoCalREN's Agriculture Programs

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As the first project of its kind in Nipomo, the success at Altman Plants showcases how early adoption and proactive implementation of energy efficiency improvements can deliver meaningful results.

Upgrades at a Glance

MEASURE TYPE	IR FILM	HEAT CURTAINS
Greenhouse Area	201,960 ft ²	24,240 ft ²
Project Cost	\$164,837.27	\$55,358
Percentage of Project Covered	100%	42%
SoCalREN Incentive	\$164,837	\$15,271
Final Customer Cost	\$0.00	\$40,087
Annual Energy Savings	38,534 net therms/year	5,060 net therms/year
Total Energy Savings*	192,670 net therms	25,300 net therms
Estimated Annual Cost Savings	\$40,774	\$5,353

*Over the course of the effective useful life (EUL) assuming the annual energy savings is consistent.

Benefits

Infrared Film

- **Reduced Heat Loss.** Helps to retain radiant heat inside the greenhouse during cooler periods.
- **Lower Natural Gas Consumption.** Improves insulation, decreasing heating demand and helping to reduce natural gas use and utility costs.
- **Enhanced Crop Performance.** Stabilizes temperatures, reducing plant stress, improving growing conditions, and promoting more uniform crop development.
- **Energy Curtain System Compatibility.** Works with heat curtains to provide an additional thermal barrier, maximizing energy savings and overall greenhouse performance.

Heat Curtains

- **Energy Savings.** Create an insulating barrier that reduces heat loss and lowers natural gas consumption for heating.
- **Lower Operating Costs.** Reduce heating demand, lowering monthly natural gas bills and decreasing operating expenses.
- **Improved Climate Uniformity.** Maintain more consistent temperatures by minimizing cold spots and reducing temperature fluctuations.
- **Extended Equipment Life.** Feature a diffuse weave that promotes more uniform light distribution when deployed, helping create a balanced growing environment.