

Energy Efficiency and the Integration of Distributed Energy Resources

Moderator: Rick Brown--President, TerraVerde Renewable Partners

Ken Chawkins--Business/Policy Manager, SoCal Gas

- Government is calling for more distributed generation--this allows for more comprehensive management of the grid
- CHP has many benefits--environmental, for customers, and for efficiency
- There are a lot of different distributed energy technologies, and finding the right one for your circumstances is important

Rick Brown--President, TerraVerde Renewable Partners

- Gave overview of the RES-BCT Tariff
- Cannot do net metering with the RES-BCT tariff, but there is a separate tariff for net metering

Janet Purchase--Energy Manager--County of Riverside

- Overview of 12.1 MW solar RES-BCT project and of Energy CAP to help organize utility data
- Revolving energy conservation fund--all savings from energy conservation projects go back into the fund
- External demands (ex: building new county jail) can cause construction delays
- County can't get credit from the state for any energy efficiency projects that they can't get a rebate for
- Post-Title 24 makes some county processes more difficult, negatively impacts energy conservation fund
- Some trendy/popular resources (ex: for EVs) cause other less trendy topics to lack resources (ex: for EE)
- Expect the unexpected

Anna Levitt--Energy Manager, UCSD

- UCSD has a goal for carbon neutrality by 2025
- Major investments in energy efficiency should be the first step towards carbon neutrality
- Lab HVAC retrofits are the most expensive but best because labs use the most energy

Discussion:

- Know what current tariff will apply in each case, and what changes you must make to the project to make sure the tariff goes through, is an important step. There is no consensus yet on how to handle new tariff features, so right now we have to go project by project to figure out if the tariff works.

Questions:

- It's getting harder to identify EE projects that have best ROI. Cities are interested to see how transition to next generation of EE--does that mean new, passive buildings?
 - Panel is experiencing the same difficulties--one important thing is to get data systems in line and use Energy CAP for energy management
 - Smart city initiative is a big push--build a more high-tech, more responsive network
 - Rate structure is not caught up because policy keeps changing. Inform policy makers that things can't keep changing/they can't keep chasing what the best thing they think might be at the time because it gets too confusing and difficult to manage for local governments