

Designing Energy Initiatives With, Not For, Communities

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Panel Speakers

PANELISTS



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The Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) harnesses the collective power of residents, businesses, agricultural customers, and public agencies to **achieve unprecedented levels of energy efficiency impacts across Southern California.**



SoCalREN is administered by the County of Los Angeles and funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Learn more at socalren.org.

View the SoCalREN Strategic Business Plan and EE Portfolio Plan, as well as the 2025 SoCalREN Annual Report, [here](#).

What are SoCalREN's Community-based Programs?

Market support programs that:

- Span multiple sectors and segments
- Are co-designed with community partners to reflect their priorities and needs
- Deliver services through collaboration and capacity building
- Center outreach to engage every audience equitably



Goals when Working with Community Partners



**Foster trust and
collaboration**



**Contribute to
program design**



**Provide direct
services**



**Establish
continuous
feedback loops**



SoCalREN Community-based Programs

Community-Based Design Collaborative

A framework to identify and fund locally-focused energy programs through a community-driven process

Regional Partner Initiatives

Increasing local energy action, projects, and energy savings through regionally-focused outreach

Tribal Community Resiliency Program

Supporting Tribes in developing initiatives aligned with local priorities within CPUC funding boundaries



Bishop Paiute Tribe Video Slide





Thank you!

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The initiatives and service offerings below are being implemented by the panel speakers and are funded through SoCalREN Community-Based programs, including the Regional Partnership Initiative, the Community-Based Design Collaborative, and the Tribal Community Resiliency Program.

Facility Equipment Inventory (FEI)

The FEI program catalogs energy-using equipment such as lighting, HVAC, water systems, etc., at public agency facilities to analyze retrofit opportunities and anticipate replacement timelines. The equipment is cataloged in a workbook that can be used to identify incentive opportunities to replace inefficient equipment. *Implemented by SoCalREN Regional Partners, including High Sierra Energy Foundation.*

Energy Resilience Action Plan (ERAP)

The goal of the ERAP is to support agencies in developing a roadmap for near- to long-term energy resilience strategies. ERAP supports public agencies in developing energy efficiency and distributed energy resource projects to enhance the resilience of critical community infrastructure and future resilience hubs. ERAP also assists agencies with regional planning and prioritization of energy resiliency project implementation through data-driven insights and stakeholder engagement. This program started as an initiative and is now a service offering through SoCalREN. *Implemented by Gateway Cities COG and High Sierra Energy Foundation.*

socalren.org/agencies/services/long-term-energy-planning

Climate Solutions Navigator

The Climate Solutions Navigator initiative partners with community organizations to help prepare residents across SoCalREN's territory to participate in current and emerging decarbonization, energy efficiency, and emissions-reduction initiatives. Key activities include community outreach and education, hub-and-spoke partnership development, direct household support, program access and demonstration pilots, community engagement and feedback, and phased regional implementation and tracking. *Implemented by the Central California Asthma Collaborative.*

emPOWER Gateway

emPOWER Gateway connects residents to thousands of dollars in rebates for electric vehicles and home upgrades — all at no cost. emPOWER Gateway helps low-income households across the Gateway Cities take advantage of clean energy programs funded by Southern California Edison. Whether residents are looking to purchase an EV, upgrade their electrical panel, or lower their utility bills, the team walks residents through every step — from checking eligibility to completing their application. *Implemented by Gateway Cities COG. empowergateway.org*

Based on what you've learned today, practice identifying needs in your community and scaling creative solutions. At your table, discuss these questions as applicable to your work and community.

1. What specific energy needs do current programs miss?
2. Which local leaders and organizations hold the community's trust?
3. What specific tools, data, or funding are needed to move an idea forward?
4. What does local impact look like, and how can it grow?