

6/24 @ 1:15 pm - 2:30pm

Nature Based Solutions as an Energy Efficiency Strategy | Erin

Moderator: Tessa Charnofsky, Special Services Assistant, SoCalREN

Speakers:

- Dr. Edith de Guzman, Specialist, UC Cooperative Extension / UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation
- Nurit Katz, Vice President, Board of Water and Power Commissioners, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- Cassie Rauser, The Fielding Family Chief Executive Officer, TreePeople

Instructions:

10 min presentations

Wrap up Q&A by 2:00

30 min for breakout groups at tables

1:25-1:37	Notes - Edith • Introduce Nature Based Solutions and intersection with Energy • Trees use evapotranspiration to make you <i>feel</i> cooler • Tree planting location matters • Cooling energy use can be reduced by up to 60% ◦ Savings are greater as you get closer to the equator • A number of cities have examples for how trees can be planted for energy efficiency • Trees and shade are necessary infrastructure: ◦ Study ran on hottest day in LA - temps were 107 degrees indoors •
1:38-1:43	Notes - Nurit • UCLA researchers have shown that trees impact our life expectancy • LADWP's Shade Tree Program (formerly City Plants) ◦ Establishes where trees should be planted • 54K trees to be planted • Estimated 8,000,000 kWh of annual direct energy savings from the direct tree giveaway program • LADWP has energy savings model with various inputs (on slide) • Workforce development and community-led stewardship

	○ Events, youth opportunities, tree ambassador program ● Key Takeaways ○ NBS should be treated as core energy infrastructure ○ Shade trees are an equitable solution - offer cooling, resilience, air quality and public health benefits ○ National model for combining energy efficiency and urban greening ●
1:43 - 1:52	Notes - Cassie ● Trees as the co-benefit multiplier ○ One intervention has multiple returns - they return enviro, economic, and social returns simultaneously ● Trees Improve ○ Human health ○ Watershed health ○ Biodiversity and ecosystem health ● Medellin Project ○ Full urban infrastructure project, not just a tree project ○ ~2C reduction in urban temps ● Community-Centered Resilience ○ San Fernando - wants cooling & shade ○ Paramount - wants focus on health & wellbeing ● The most valuable tree is the one we already have
	Moderator questions: ● LADWP is using ratepayer dollars to implement tree planting programs. This is not happening at CPUC level. ● Are there any particular trees that you think would be most beneficial ○ If you have the space, Coast Live Oak and Sycamore ○ It depends on what is available and will work well in your location. Larger is better, if you have the space. Trees are going to grow, so you need space for that. Broad leaf trees tend to be better. ○ Partner with your local organization who knows the trees. ○ Also ask an ecologist - they will tend to recommend native trees ● Workforce & maintenance - what is the cost to maintain the trees? ○ It depends on where you are. We're in a semi-arid Medeterraian climate. We have no rain 8 months out of the year. We need to provide water for the first 3-5 years. It used to be much harder to get maintenance dollars, and funders are starting to provide funding for maintenance.

	UCLA ran an evaluation of the tree ambassador program - it is worth it. ○ The skillset to maintain native plants is different ○ UCLA is transitioning the non-functional turf to native plants. UCLA landscapers have done a training created by Theodore Payne and run by USGBC-CA ○ Long-term maintenance is challenging, but engage public works early and get buy-in from leadership and staff. Collaborative solutions can be found. ○ Opt-in vs. Opt-out approach: ■ Opt-in: Org is going to canvass your neighborhood, and they will offer you a tree, if you promise to take care of it for 3-5 years. ■ Opt-out: Get a notice that a tree is being planted in your neighborhood. In that case, the expectation is that government will maintain a tree ○ NYC has a citizen pruner program ○ TreePeople has resources for all residents to help you take care of trees