



CHUMASH COMMUNITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY + RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

Highlights from 2015 EPA Case Study

Full Report
<http://wp.me/a5WT9H-pS>

Highlights

Key Learnings

- The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians overcame barriers to EE/RE by using trusted community members as messengers and cultivating partnerships that led to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the creation of an ongoing EE/RE job training program.
- Highlights of Chumash Community Energy Program (CCEP), created by Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office (SYCEO):
 - Apprenticeship /jobs training program
 - Door-to-door outreach by trusted members of tribe
 - Residential solar panel giveaway and utility rebates
- Jobs training program overcame perceived complexity in EE jobs by customizing program to fit the specific education needs and skill level of the trainees and also provided remedial skills training as needed.
- Contractors recruited explicitly expressed interest in community well-being and patience to train community members
- Community member reluctance to participate in the program was overcome by utilizing jobs training program trainees from the tribe as door-to-door participant recruiters.
- Solar giveaway prizes offered to those who completed EE retrofits was highly effective in driving participation in retrofits.
- Solar demonstration projects on community buildings also built interest in the program.
- The solar installations on the Tribal Hall and Health Clinic save 90,000 kilowatt-hours and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 42 metric tons of CO₂ annually, the energy-related emissions from four average American homes over a year.
- CCEP trainees completed 62 energy audits, with 88 percent of audited buildings (55) going on to perform energy upgrades.
- In addition to 43 solar projects in the broader Santa Barbara County community, CCEP trainees completed solar projects on 15 of the 100 residences on the reservation.
- 50 tribal descendants received on-the-job training for solar energy and/or EE.
- Ten tribal descendants were hired for jobs with local contractors or SYCEO.

Utility Structure

IOU - Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)

Program Funding Source

EPA Climate Showcase Communities grant, Administration for Native Americans grant, utility rebates

Contact

[Santa Ynez Chumash Community Energy Program](#)

