

California Energy Commission

Energy Partnership Program

The California Energy Commission staff estimates that California local governments spend over a billion dollars annually to purchase electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels. While energy costs for cities and counties are a small portion of their overall operating budgets (typically 1-5%), it is one of the few costs that can be reduced because it is not fixed. Through its programs the Commission's staff have projected that on selected local government facilities up to 25% can be saved on energy costs.

Thanks in large part to California State Senate Bill 880 (1986), the California Energy Commission has been given and has carried out a broad mandate to improve energy efficiency in the state's cities, counties, and school facilities. The Energy Partnership Program (EPP), a subset of this activity, is the focus of this profile. EPP addresses the energy efficiency of city and county facilities and provides technical assistance for existing facilities, new construction design assistance, fleet management assistance and training, automotive and HVAC training, loans, and awards for participants.

While this profile addresses all components of the EPP program, technical assistance for existing facilities is the largest component in terms of participants, expenditures, and staff time. The Commission contracts with private consultants to provide technical assistance for all types of local government facilities including city halls, administration buildings, libraries, fire departments, police departments, and wastewater treatment plants. One interesting aspect of the program is that the Commission targeted jails and hospitals which have 24-hour, energy-intensive operations.

An important part of the program is to facilitate project financing for energy efficiency upgrades through its own revolving loan fund, federal funds, utility assistance, energy service companies, or other outside funding sources. In order to access its revolving fund which has a highly competitive interest rate, projects must have a simple payback of 6.5 years or less. Large funding requests (over \$250,000) are often referred to private sector sources such as municipal leasing companies and pooled bond mechanisms. Pooled bond programs available include the FARECAL program administered by the California Municipal Utility Association, the CASTLE program administered by the California State Association of Counties, and the ABAG program administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION Energy Partnership Program

Sector: California cities and counties

Measures: Fluorescent lamps, ballasts, occupancy sensors, thermostat controls, energy management systems, variable frequency drives, HVAC improvements

Mechanism: Technical assistance for existing facilities, new construction design assistance, fleet management, automotive and HVAC training

History: Started in 1989

1992 Program Data Existing Facilities Committed Projects

Energy savings: 15.7 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 125.2 GWh
Cost: \$6,569,200

Cumulative Data Existing Facilities Committed Projects (1989 - 1993)

Energy savings: 165.9 GWh
Lifecycle energy savings: 417.0 GWh
Cost: \$17,296,900

The Results Center produced 126 profiles of the most successful energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the United States and around the world in the early and mid 1990s. With the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ted Flanigan directed a research team at Colorado-based IRT Environment to produce and distribute these exceptional examples. Thanks to strong demand for solid case studies, The Results Center was supported by dozens of major utilities and energy associations worldwide. Today, The Results Center is managed again by Ted Flanigan, now at California-based EcoMotion Incorporated, a firm focused on strategic consulting, information dissemination, program design, outreach services, and aggressive implementation. To nominate highly successful programs, contact: The Results Center, c/o EcoMotion, 15375 Barranca Parkway, F-104, Irvine, CA 92618, (949) 450-7155, or TFlanigan@EcoMotion.us