Applied Solutions

APPLIED SOLUTIONS WEBINARS

• Upcoming Webinar: Three Water Agencies in California & Washington Seek Input in Pursuit of GHG-Free Water

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• Santa Clara Valley Water District, CA
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APPLIED SOLUTIONS NEWS

WEBINARS

Upcoming Webinar: Three Water Agencies in California and Washington Seek Input in Pursuit of GHG-Free Water

Thursday, June 20th 10:00am-11:30am PDT/1:00pm-2:30pm EDT

Water systems are notoriously energy intensive and utilities are beginning to seek greenhouse gas reduction as a means to lessen their environmental impact. Three water utility greenhouse

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gas reduction programs of varying completion are explored during this webinar. The utilities invite questions from other interested agencies.

Speaking on behalf of their programs are Paul Fleming, Climate Resiliency Group Manager, Seattle Public Utilities; Sarah Young, Senior Project Manager, Santa Clara Valley Water District; and Amy Bolten, Public Information Officer, Sonoma County Water Agency.

Space is limited, register for the webinar here. For videos and materials from past webinars, please visit our website.

PROJECT PROFILES

City of Seattle Public Utilities, WA

Seattle Public Utilities provides a reliable drinking water supply to 1.3 million people in the Seattle metropolitan area and provides essential sewer, drainage and solid waste services to City of Seattle customers. Seattle Public Utilities is focusing on climate adaptation and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation as a response to the climate change problem. In order to mitigate greenhouse gases, the Seattle Public Utility joined The Climate Registry to verify their 2009 GHG inventory. This allowed the utility to begin developing strategies to reduce their GHG emissions. Seattle Public Utility has been leading the water utility sector with information regarding implications of climate change. Recently the utility developed a map of Seattle showing areas that might be below sea level during high tide in 2050 under different sea level rise and extreme tide scenarios.

Learn more about their program on their website.

Santa Clara Valley Water District, CA

The Santa Clara Valley District is a primary water resources agency in Santa Clara County, California. The District manages the county's drinking water resources, provides water to thirteen water retailers, coordinates flood protection for its 1.8 million residents, and serves as a steward of the county's more than 800 miles of streams and 10 district-built reservoirs.

The governing Board recognized that climate change not only affects the District's mission of providing a clean, reliable water supply, but District operations also generate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. An internal carbon offset framework (ICOF) was established to account for both carbon footprint and the District's green footprint, including reductions from water conservation, district's investments in local green business program and habitat restoration. This framework defined carbon neutrality in the context of the policy directions provided to date, and provides a mechanism for continuous improvements.

More information on this program can be found on their website and in their Board Agenda Memo: Update on Progress and Approach Toward Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2020.
Sonoma County Water Agency, CA

The Sonoma County Water Agency has a special interest in energy matters that arise from a unique set of circumstances, the primary being that the Water Agency is among the region's largest user of electricity. The more the Water Agency can do to mitigate the impact of climate change, the more secure the source of water will be for the future. To achieve this goal, the Water Agency is actively working to reduce their carbon footprint. Guiding the efforts is the Sonoma County Water Agency Energy Policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Water Agency Energy Policy focuses on the Carbon Free Water program, which implements programs that reduce the Agency's greenhouse gas production. Carbon Free Water is being pursued through a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy purchase and development. The goal is to achieve a net carbon neutral energy supply by 2015, which they are on set to achieve, already reducing their electricity emissions 97% from 2006 levels.

Learn more about their energy and sustainability projects, and programmatic efforts on their website.

CURRENT NEWS AND RESOURCES

AC EEE Study Looks at Energy Efficiency Across the South

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) published a report that sought to answer the question "are end-users of energy in the Southeastern states interested in energy efficiency?" The report looked at several southern states that are just beginning to adopt energy efficiency programs. The Behavior and Human Dimensions Program staff at ACEEE used a case-study approach to see how "Southern" identity is relevant to the ways in which people use energy. The analyzed data revealed fascinating patterns in farming, truck driving, home renovations, businesses, that affect energy consumption and reveal areas that can be improved.

The study focuses on the fact that energy efficiency is not a 'one size fits all' and needs to be tailored to specific areas and sectors. The researchers strove to understand the social and cultural forces acting on individuals' decision making, and how this affects energy efficiency.

The full study can be found here.

Best Communication Practices for Renewable Energy Projects

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a study aimed to inform policy makers and decision makers on "Communication Best-Practices for Renewable Energy". The study examines case studies of communication strategies for renewable energy projects from governments, private sector, and civil society. Examining these cases, many of them were
determined to have poor communication strategies, which can negatively influence project development and success. The report seeks to improve common communication mistakes that prevent the widespread acceptance of renewable energy technologies, such as the public's misunderstanding about benefits, opportunities and capabilities.

The study identifies effective options for improving communication campaigns throughout project development, including collaborating, financing, evaluation, and media coverage. The study recommends specific improvements in order to improve renewable energy project success, such as application of behavior economics to raise awareness, influence attitudes, and change behaviors.

The full study can be found [here](#).

**LBNL Report: Low Gas Prices Jeopardize Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Programs**

Lawrence Berkeley National Labs (LBNL) has released a brief, Assessing Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Programs in a Low-Price Environment. This brief offers several considerations to weigh when evaluating the costs, benefits, and future of natural gas energy efficiency programs. These considerations include economic, environmental and societal benefits.

The brief is available [here](#).

**Water Partnerships Provide Investment Capital and Debt Relief in Bayonne, N.J.**

The Bayonne Municipal Utilities Authority (BMUA) teamed up with United Water (second largest water provider in the US) to fix years of underinvestment, credit quality problems, and the difficulty of attracting and retaining qualified staff. The partnership is a hybrid of regulated utilities and contract operations, with legal ownership of the assets remaining with the governmental entity, while United Water provides capital. Collaborating with Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts, & Co. L.P., the capital provided is both upfront and along the way. Even though a partnership like this is innovative in the water sector, it has been used successfully in other sectors. United Water believes that partnerships like this are needed to reduce the extent of municipal debt in time where cities/public utilities are in financial dilemmas.

More information can be found [here](#).