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WEBINARS

Webinar Archive: Models for Promoting Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Within Your Community

*The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the City of Bellevue shared their experiences and lessons learned with electric vehicle infrastructure. The webinar engaged local governments and answered questions to help governments better implement programs within their own community.*

Did you miss the Applied Solutions March webinar? Don't worry! You can always reference videos and materials from past webinars in the webinar archive.

PROJECT PROFILES

City of Roseville, CA

A pioneering partnership between the City of Roseville's utility departments, Roseville Electric and Environmental Utilities, the Roseville Utility Exploration Center provides entertaining education on environmental topics to its visitors. Six exhibits educate schoolchildren and the community on recycling, water conservation, and smart energy choices, entirely free of charge. One such exhibit displays a comic book series of characters that solve environmental mysteries. Bernard Chang, a
regular contributor at DC® and Marvel® Comics, illustrates the limited edition Planet Protectors books that all visitors receive. The Exploration Center also offers Green Living Workshops and Building Tours to display the recycled and repurposed materials that qualify the building for its Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification.

More information can be found in the complete project profile.

King County, WA

When the Bullitt Foundation embraced the Living Building Challenge to build the greenest commercial building in the world, they understood they'd encounter a few barriers along the way. Through working with King County to modify regulatory frameworks and negotiate creative solutions to help zero-discharge structures meet accepted health and safety standards, the Bullitt Center is leading the way to the future of sustainable structures.

Learn more about the problems facing green construction and how King County helped to solve them in the complete project profile.

CURRENT NEWS AND RESOURCES

Why Cities Should Care About Energy Retrofits

The relevance of energy retrofits for cities is addressed by Mike McCormick, Mayor of Vernon, CA, in the article 'Energy Retrofit: How California Cities are Overhauling Infrastructure for Greater Sustainability’. The Independent Cities Finance Authority article highlights energy project examples and the economic benefits and financing mechanisms. The City of Ridgecrest, CA displays the economic benefits of solar arrays by buying solar power at below-the-grid rate through a Power Purchase Agreement, saving almost $200,000 annually. Streetlight retrofits offer a city energy reduction, electricity cost savings, maintenance cost savings, and better nighttime visibility. The City of Los Angeles, CA has installed LED fixtures on over 141,000 street lights so far, reducing energy use by 63% and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

More information on energy retrofits and California cities can be found on the Independent Cities Finance Authority website.

Street Lighting Evaluation Tool

Retrofitting street lights to more efficient fixtures, can save municipalities a substantial amount of energy and money. The Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative has developed a free and easy-to-use calculator to evaluate street lighting. The SEAD Street Lighting Tool evaluates light quality, energy use and costs for common road configurations. The analysis can be simplified so small municipalities and first-time users can perform an assessment to help achieve up to 50 percent in energy savings. The calculator evaluates LED and traditional lighting fixtures and compares luminance, illuminance, energy consumption and life cycle cost.

Please visit the Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment website for more information and to download the Street Lighting Evaluation Tool.

Municipalities Increase Resources for Energy Projects

Looking at capital project spending in the nations' largest cities and surrounding areas, local governments are upgrading facilities and developing renewable energy projects. Projects of interest
include Cook County, Illinois and Garland, Texas. Cook County is upgrading county facilities through energy conservation measures such as replacing insulation, lighting fixtures, and heating and cooling control systems. The $60 million project is expected to produce $4.1 million in savings over 20 years. In Texas, Garland Power and Light completed transmission lines for the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) transmission project. The CREZ project will move 18,500 megawatts of wind power from West Texas wind farms to major load centers in Texas. Garland Power and Light will earn a return on its $110 million investment.

The full article on energy spending initiatives can be found on the American City and County website.

California to Launch Largest PACE Program

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) will launch the United States’ largest Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Beginning this summer, the CaliforniaFIRST residential PACE program will be available in 17 California counties and 167 cities. The public-private partnership aims to make energy and water efficiency projects more affordable for homeowners whose repayment is secured through a special tax assessment that is repaid through the property tax bill. In order to combat concerns from mortgage entities, California Governor Brown has announced plans to create a PACE mortgage loss reserve program, which will refund mortgage holders from losses related to PACE property liens. This retrofit program comes at a crucial time; as California struggles with extreme drought, homeowners are able to install low-flow toilets and other energy and water saving investments.

For more information, read the full article, or visit the CaliforniaFIRST website.

Mayors Look Towards Congress to Renew Energy Efficiency and Conservation Funds

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recent report, Successful City Initiatives with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funding, highlights 204 cities and their experience with the federally funded Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The stimulus program provided $3.2 billion to local governments, spurring energy efficiency programs, projects and partnerships.

The report breaks down how municipalities spent the grant, and reveals that almost two-thirds of cities launched programs that were not previously planned, dispelling critics who argued that the money wouldn't spur new projects. Cities also forged partnerships with private entities, utilities and other government entities, leveraging funds when possible. The report announces that after EECBG funding depleted, municipalities' participation in energy projects and partnerships declined. The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to renew the EECBG program, and allow cities to continue investing in strategic projects that produces long-term savings.

A full article on the report can be read here.
"...Think of the 1,200-some cities in the United States each as a separate laboratory...the best ideas will be copied and repeated... these funds help us do that."

-Mayor Jim Brainard  
Carmel, Indiana