



**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Peter Imhof, Planning and Environmental Review Director

**CONTACT:** Dana Murray, Sustainability Manager  
Angeline Foshay, Sustainability Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) Annual Update

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive a presentation from Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) on its energy programs, offerings, and Goleta's participation.

**BACKGROUND:**

3C-REN is a partnership between the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura established to deliver energy-saving programs and industry trainings that help reduce energy use, strengthen local job markets, and support efforts to achieve climate goals. As with other Regional Energy Networks, 3C-REN uses funding from the California Public Utilities Commission, effectively bringing ratepayer dollars back to the community.

3C-REN actively supports the City of Goleta's goals to protect the environment and enhance quality of life by supporting no- and low-cost energy saving projects, workforce development through training, technical assistance and outreach through events and partnerships. Staff and 3C-REN work collaboratively to provide resources to the Goleta community, promote available programs and rebates, and share opportunities for training and educational workshops.

**DISCUSSION:**

As an energy resource in the Central Coast region, 3C-REN engages many stakeholders, including local agencies, homeowners, multifamily and commercial property owners, building professionals, and agricultural landowners, through regular outreach, educational training, and program activities.

3C-REN will continue to strategically partner with the City of Goleta to raise awareness and deliver solutions that improve energy efficiency, encourage electrification, fuel-switching, building community resiliency, eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, and creating economic and workforce development opportunities that increase social equity.

**GOLETA STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**City-Wide Strategy:** 1. Support Environmental Vitality

**Strategic Goals:**

- 1.1 Promote renewable energy, energy conservation and local energy resiliency
- 1.3 Adopt best practices in sustainability

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**Legal Review By:** Isaac Rosen, City Attorney

**Approved By:** Robert Nisbet, City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 3C-REN 2024 Annual Report for Goleta
2. Goleta 3C-REN 2024 Achievements
3. Presentation

**ATTACHMENT 1**

3C-REN 2024 Annual Report for Goleta



**MEMO**

**DATE:** February 9, 2026  
**FROM:** Garrett Wong  
Sustainability Division Manager, County of Santa Barbara  
Co-Director, Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN)  
**TO:** Dana Murray, Sustainability Manager  
**RE:** 3C-REN 2024 Annual Impact Report

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On behalf of 3C-REN, I am pleased to share our 2024 Annual Impact Report and highlights for the City of Goleta.

3C-REN is a partnership between the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura established to deliver energy-saving programs and industry trainings that help reduce energy use, strengthen local job markets, and support efforts to achieve climate goals. As with other Regional Energy Networks, 3C-REN uses funding from the California Public Utilities Commission, effectively bringing ratepayer dollars back to the community.

3C-REN supports the City of Goleta’s goals to protect the environment and enhance quality of life by supporting no- and low-cost energy saving projects, workforce development through trainings, technical assistance and outreach through events and partnerships.

For the City of Goleta, in 2024 3C-REN:

- Completed 12 projects serving 179 households and apartment units, reducing 22,630 therms of natural gas; and
- Held events that had 86 attendees, of which 58 were unique attendees.

This memo and flyer offer highlights from 3C-REN's 2024 Annual Impact Report.

***3C-REN Current Programs***

*Home Energy Savings (HES)*

The Single-Family HES Program serves to bring down the cost of energy efficiency and electrification upgrades for single family homeowners. The program pays incentives for any energy upgrades that have measurable (metered) energy savings. Incentives are highest for “hard-to-reach” single-family households, which include households on discounted utility rates, mobile and manufactured homes,

households that don't speak English as their primary language, and households with a member of a California Native American Tribe.

There are over 50 contractors actively participating in the program, more than double from 2023. In 2024, the program served 516 homes across the tri-county region, a 62% increase from last year, with projects ranging from heat pump water heaters to energy efficient pool pumps. In Santa Barbara County, 24 single-family projects were completed reducing natural gas use by 7,403 therms and carbon emissions by 18 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. (CO<sub>2</sub>e, or Carbon Dioxide Equivalent, is a unit of measurement used to compare the impact of greenhouse gases (GHGs) on the environment. This unit of measurement is reflected in the County's GHG inventory and Climate Action Plan.)

The Multifamily HES Program offers no-cost site assessments, technical assistance, and rebates paid directly to property owners or property managers. The structure includes enhanced incentives for underserved properties and adders for high performance measures, such as heat pumps. In 2024 the program completed 13 projects across the tri-county region, serving 1,319 dwelling units with energy upgrades—a fivefold increase in units served from the previous year. There were 32 projects in the pipeline at the end of 2024.

In Santa Barbara County, projects at 4 multifamily properties with a cumulative 331 units reduced natural gas use by 21,880 therms and carbon emissions by 73 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### *Building Performance Training (BPT)*

BPT is a workforce development program for current and prospective building professionals in the construction trades, design, real estate, and beyond. It offers technical and soft skill training and certifications focused on energy efficiency, high performance building, and electrification. It is a key resource for industry professionals on the Central Coast looking to upskill through convenient classes and by obtaining certifications. In 2024, the program hosted a total of 115 training events with 2,091 total attendees.

#### *Energy Code Connect (ECC) Program*

The ECC Program offers local governments and local building professionals access to the resources needed for enforcing and complying with the California Building Energy Efficiency Code (Title 24), including best practice guides, checklists, policy support, on-site support, and targeted training—hosting 25 energy code events in 2024. It also offers on-call expert assistance through a “Code Coach” service.

In 2024 the service fielded 142 inquiries, serving 64 organizations and 39% of tri-county jurisdictions, with 100% of jurisdictions receiving at least one marketing touch.

#### *Commercial Energy Savings (CES)*

The CES program has just begun to serve local businesses with discounted energy upgrades. The CES program will pay incentives for any project that saves energy, with the highest incentives paid for projects on “hard-to-reach” businesses. In this case, businesses in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and small- and medium-sized businesses are located in a leased or rented facility. This program works in partnership with regional Green Business Programs.

#### *Energy Assurance Services (EAS)*

The EAS program offers tailored energy audits for critical facilities within the tri-county region. Critical facilities provide essential services to the community during emergencies or power outages and may include locations like community centers, libraries or churches. These facilities may perform a variety of critical services including acting as evacuation shelters, heating, cooling, or clean-air centers, food and supply distribution sites, or providing medical care. Energy audits conducted by the program are

customized to meet the specific needs of each facility, with a focus on resiliency, energy efficiency, and comprehensive load management. 3C-REN leveraged the groundwork laid by the County of Santa Barbara's Energy Assurance program to grow interest in energy audits for critical facilities across the entire tri-county region.

#### *Agriculture Energy Solutions*

The AES program offers specialized support to agricultural operators with high energy consumption, such as those in controlled environment agriculture (CEA), by identifying opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and supporting their implementation. It offers free technical assistance in the form of utility bill analysis, facility assessment, and benchmarking, and largely targets small- to medium-sized farms in rural, socially disadvantaged, and "hard-to-reach" areas. Where available, farmers will also be provided with connections to complementary incentive programs that can help cover the costs of implementing the energy projects identified through these offerings.

**ATTACHMENT 2**

Goleta 3C-REN 2024 Achievements



# Annual Impact 2024

## City of Goleta

*In 2024, 3C-REN provided incentives, professional training, and technical assistance to residents and businesses in the City of Goleta, reducing emissions in the community.*

### Overall Impacts



**12** Projects Completed



**86** Event Attendees



**179** Households Served



**2** Energy Code Coach Questions Answered\*



**22,630** Therms Saved Annually



**114** Trainings Held\*



**\$50,048** Incentives Provided for Single Family Projects



**459** Tons Co2 Avoided in 3C-REN Territory

\*Includes virtual events held in the Tri-County

### About 3C-REN

3C-REN (The Tri-County Regional Energy Network) is a partnership between San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. 3C-REN takes a holistic approach to improve energy efficiency and develop the workforce in the tri-county region. These efforts reduce energy use, strengthen local job markets, and support climate goals.





# Achievements to Date

## Decarbonization

**581.21** Annual Avoided Tons of CO2

**1,374** Projects Completed

## Equity

**67%** Of MultiFamily Projects for Hard-to-Reach\* Sites

**3.13x** Higher Incentives for Hard-to-Reach\* Single Family Homes

## Upskilling Workers

**249** Total Training Events

**5,735** Total Event Attendees

## Energy Code Compliance

**334** Energy Code Cases Receiving Technical Support

**1,852** Code Training Event Attendees



\*3C-REN focuses on delivering energy and cost savings to customers that are hard-to-reach\*. Hard-to-reach customers include those who:

- Are eligible for CARE/FERA utility rates
- Speak a primary language other than English
- Are an enrolled member of a Native American Tribe
- Live in a manufactured/mobile home
- Reside in a disadvantaged community

## Why a Regional Energy Network?

- Staffed by County employees, 3C-REN creates regional continuity of services in an area intersected by utilities and 3 community choice energy providers.
- Our success demonstrates a demand for services designed by and for the region, and 3C-REN's local presence also drives equitable participation in statewide initiatives through on-the-ground relationships.

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

Presentation



TRI-COUNTY  
REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK  
SAN LUIS OBISPO • SANTA BARBARA • VENTURA

# 3C-REN 2024 Annual Report

*Presentation to City of Goleta*  
March 3, 2026



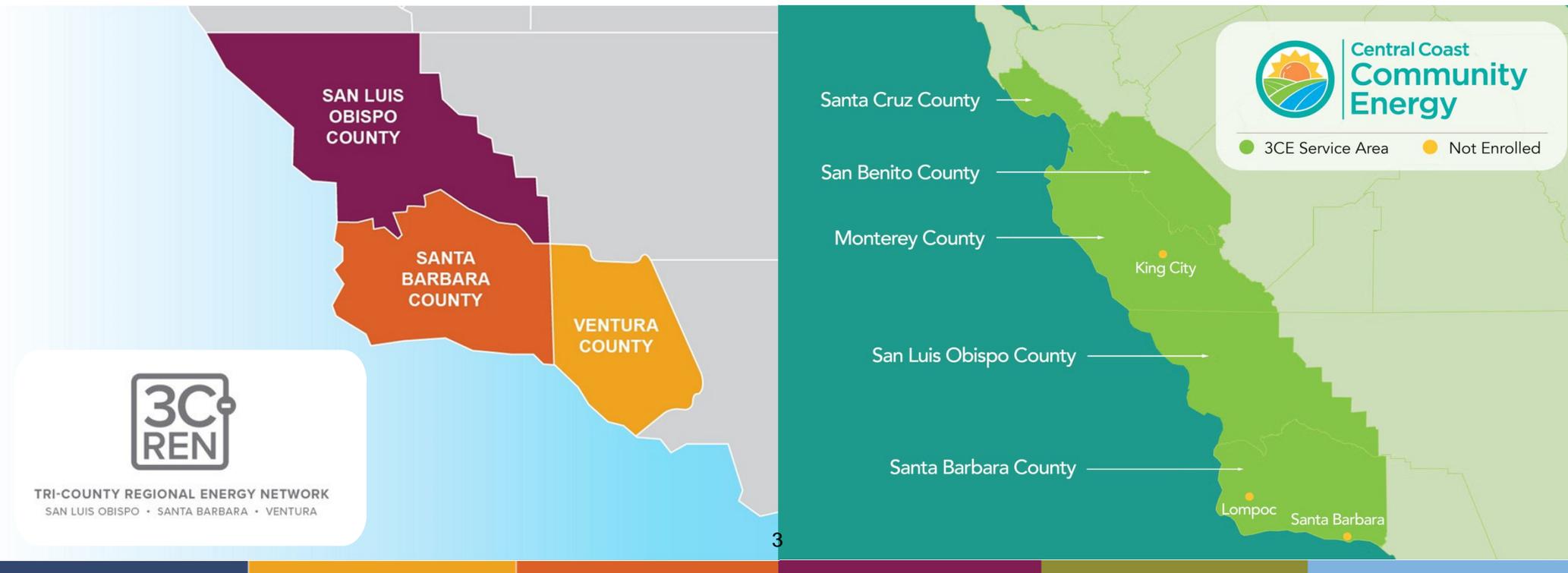
# 3C-REN

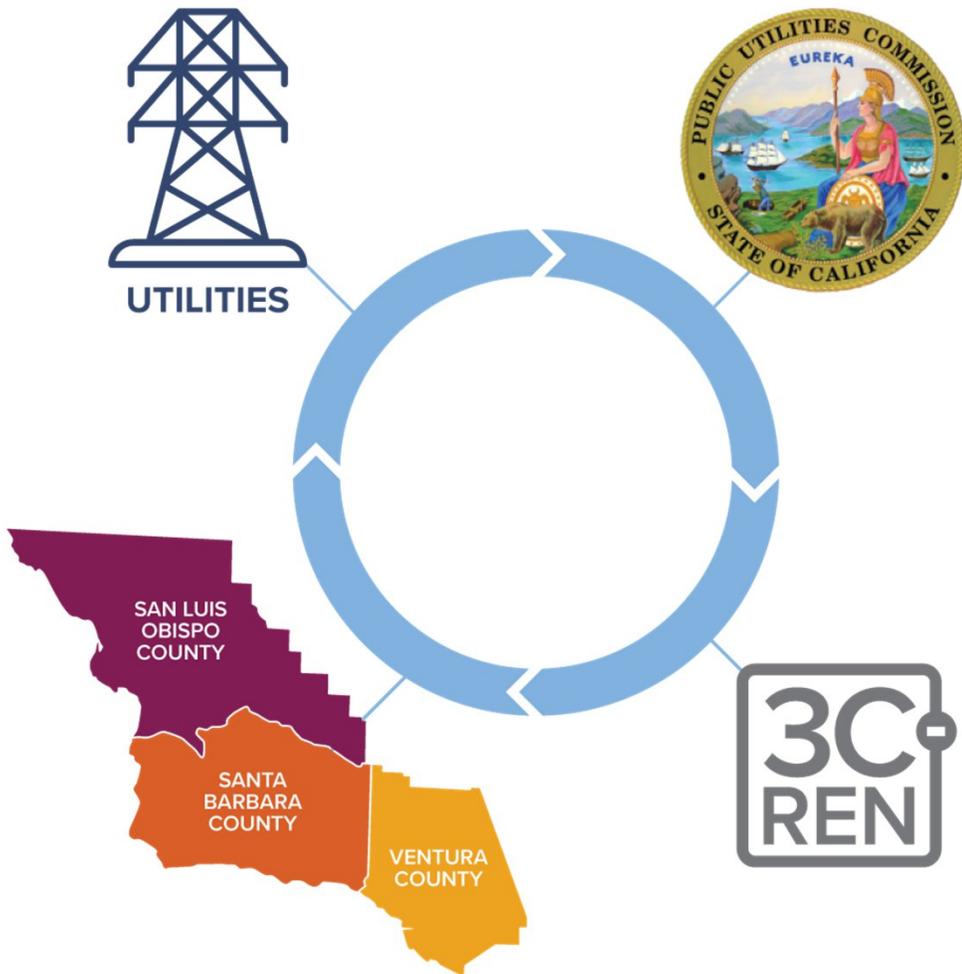
...or

# 3CE?

3C-REN offers **energy efficiency programs** and **industry trainings** funded via the CPUC, these include incentives for residents and businesses

3CE **sources** clean and renewable electricity and offers energy programs, including rebates for customers





## How it works

Our free services are funded via the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and

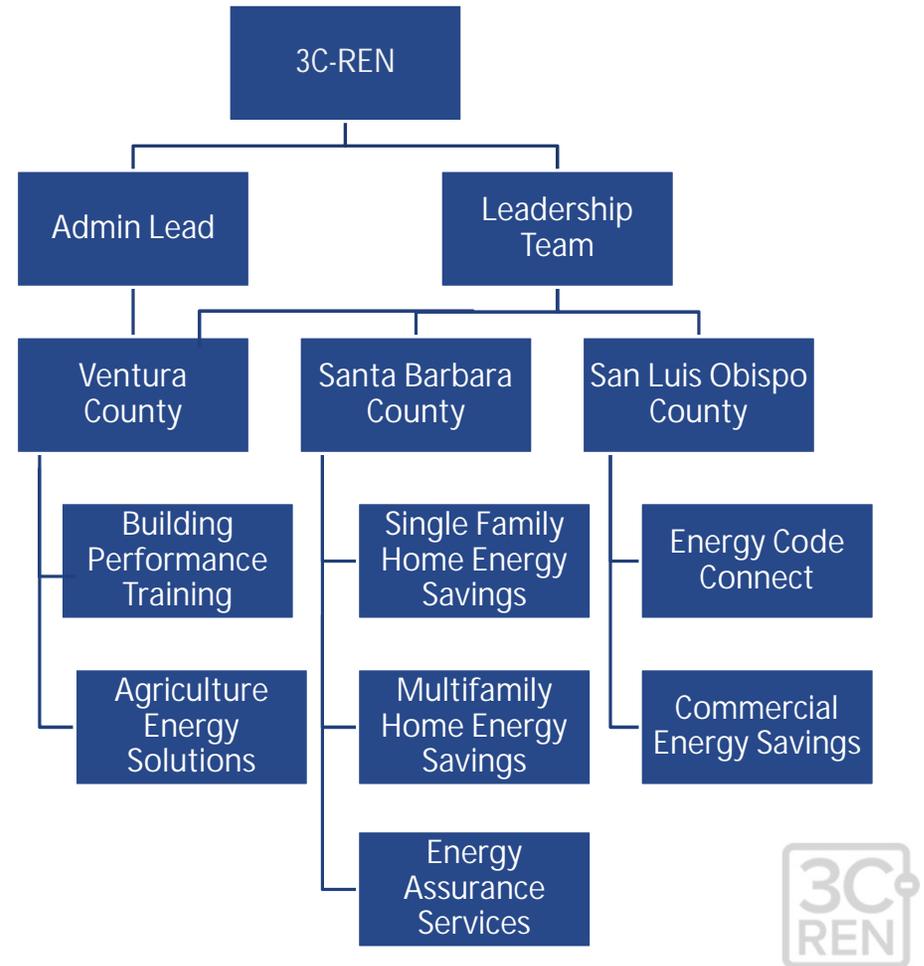
- Reduce energy use,
- Strengthen local job markets,
- Support efforts to achieve local climate goals, and
- Serve “hard-to-reach” customers and underserved communities



# Goals & Structure

3C-REN is a collaboration between the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura

- Each County participates in Leadership
- Each County leads distinct programs that serve the tri-county region
- Ventura leads administration



# Timeline & Background

2013

SB, VC and SLO counties jointly offer EE programs

2016

3C-REN submits \$50M Business Plan to CPUC

2019

3C-REN launches RES, WET and C&S programs

2023

CPUC Approves \$155M Business Plan, proving funding through 2031



County BOS approves pursuing participation in a REN

2016

CPUC approves \$50M for 3C-REN Business Plan

2018

3C-REN submits new \$155M Business Plan

2022

3C-REN launches CES, AES and EAS programs

2024



# Our Services

## Incentives



**HOME  
ENERGY  
SAVINGS**

[3c-ren.org/for-residents](https://3c-ren.org/for-residents)  
[3c-ren.org/multifamily](https://3c-ren.org/multifamily)



**COMMERCIAL  
ENERGY  
SAVINGS**

[3c-ren.org/commercial](https://3c-ren.org/commercial)

Contractors can enroll at  
[3c-ren.org/contractors](https://3c-ren.org/contractors)

## Training



**BUILDING  
PERFORMANCE  
TRAINING**

[3c-ren.org/events](https://3c-ren.org/events)  
[3c-ren.org/building](https://3c-ren.org/building)



**ENERGY  
CODE  
CONNECT**

[3c-ren.org/code](https://3c-ren.org/code)

View past trainings at  
[3c-ren.org/on-demand](https://3c-ren.org/on-demand)

## Technical Assistance



**AGRICULTURE  
ENERGY  
SOLUTIONS**

[3c-ren.org/agriculture](https://3c-ren.org/agriculture)



**ENERGY  
ASSURANCE  
SERVICES**

[3c-ren.org/assurance](https://3c-ren.org/assurance)



# 2024 Tri-County Achievements



2,438

Training Event  
Attendees



1,835

Dwelling Units  
Served with Energy-  
Saving Projects



142

Title 24/CalGreen  
Inquiries Served



22%

Projects Utilizing  
Incentive Stacking



# Home Energy Savings: Single Family Incentive Program



## 2024 Achievements in Goleta

Efficiency and Energy  
Projects Completed:  
**11**

Homes Served:  
**11**

Incentives Provided:  
**Over \$50,048\***  
\*Total potential incentives provided  
dependent on performance

- Incentive program to benefit single family homeowners
- Pays incentives for energy saving projects of all types- including electrification
- Incentives for "hard-to-reach" homes are highest
- Homeowners work with enrolled contractors to access benefits

# Home Energy Savings: Multifamily Incentive Program

## 2024 Achievements in Goleta



Efficiency and  
Energy Projects Completed:  
1

Units Served:  
168

Two-thirds of projects completed in 2024 in the 3C-REN tri-county region had **90% or more** of their project costs covered with 3C-REN rebates or by applying multiple rebates that stack with 3C-REN's.

# Commercial Energy Savings

Launched in 2024



- Incentive program for small to medium businesses in the tri-county region
- Offers flexible solutions and funding for businesses to meet energy goals

“The program’s focus on sustainable solutions and its commitment to supporting local businesses aligns perfectly with our vision for a greener future.”  
– Enrolled Contractor, Ventura County

# Building Performance Training

## Goleta Achievements in 2024



Training Events:  
**114\***

\*Includes virtual trainings provided  
Tri-County wide

Event Attendees:  
**86**

Serves current and prospective building professionals in the construction trades, design, real estate, and beyond. Training and certifications focus on energy efficiency, high performance building, and electrification.

# Energy Code Connect

## 2024 Achievements in Goleta



Training Events:  
24\*

Code Coach  
Inquiries:  
2

“3C-REN’s Code Coaches will break down how the code would apply to a particular scenario and work with you to make sure your project is in compliance.”  
– Mechanical Engineer in San Luis Obispo

\*Includes virtual trainings

# Agriculture Energy Solutions

Launched in 2024



1. Utility Bill Analysis

2. Facility Assessment

3. Benchmarking

In 2024, the program team engaged with PG&E, SCE, and SoCalGas incentive program staff to align and coordinate efforts across programs.

# Thank you!

Questions?

More info: [3c-ren.org](http://3c-ren.org)

Email updates: [3c-ren.org/newsletter](http://3c-ren.org/newsletter)



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