

# LIVING SUSTAINABLY

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 September 2020

### TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE

The Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) is a partnership between Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties to improve energy efficiency in our region. With \$50M in ratepayer funds allocated over 7 years (via the California Public Utilities Commission), 3C-REN offers free services for households and workforce professionals, returning utility ratepayer dollars to our local community. 3C-REN currently offers 3 programs:



#### BUILDING PERFORMANCE TRAINING

**Building Performance Training:** For professionals, 3C-REN offers free training events for everyone from plan examiners and architects to contractors and realtors. Past training topics include Passive House design, air sealing, and sales skills. Find upcoming events at [3C-REN.org/events](https://3C-REN.org/events).

#### HOME ENERGY SAVINGS

**Home Energy Savings:** Households can receive free and discounted upgrades like smart thermostats and water heaters to reduce energy use at home. Apply at [3C-REN.org/home](https://3C-REN.org/home).

#### ENERGY CODE CONNECT

**Energy Code Connect:** For anyone with energy code questions, free compliance support is available from the Energy Code Coach at [3C-REN.org/code](https://3C-REN.org/code). Additionally, sign-up for energy code training events and regional code forums at [3C-REN.org/events](https://3C-REN.org/events).

Since 2019, 3C-REN has hosted over 50 events with nearly 1,000 attendees. In 2020, 3C-REN has engaged over 150 residents in the Home Energy Savings program.

### GREENING BUSINESS

Ventura County Green Business (VCGB) Program and the kWh Countdown Pilot Project, both implemented by Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), are working to create a vibrant green economy and helping businesses reach their sustainability goals.

**kWh Countdown** provides business owners with the necessary information and analysis to invest in energy efficient projects with confidence through FREE auditing and benchmarking services. To date, more than \$130,000 has been invested in 17 energy audits of local businesses.

Click [here](#) to find out more information.



**VCGB** partners with small to medium size businesses to help them become Certified Green Businesses. Being certified shows the community and customers that they care about sustainability, committed to taking action to conserve resources, and complies with environmental regulations. To date, 35 businesses have been certified and more than 110 businesses are working towards certification.

For more information click [here](#).



## ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH



October is Energy Awareness Month, an annual effort to highlight the importance of energy to our regional and national prosperity and security. To do our part for Energy Awareness Month, VCREA, County of Ventura Library, and 3C-REN are partnering together to provide the community with Do It Yourself (DIY) Home Toolkits.

The DIY Home Energy Saving Toolkit is designed to increase knowledge of home energy and water usage through a hands-on experience, to help community members assess the performance of their home, and identify where improvements can be made to save money and increase comfort. Each Toolkit contains supplies, measuring devices, and a handbook to enable a user to evaluate and understand their home's energy and water use and utility bills. Toolkits will be available for check-out at Ventura County libraries. Stay tuned from more details.



## CLEAN AIR DAY

When it comes to air pollution, we can all do our part. Whether you're an individual, business, government agency or nonprofit organization, there are things we all can do to improve air quality and protect public health. In a state with some of the worst air pollution in the United States, it is imperative that we do. Clean Air Day's goal is to inform Californians about air pollution and how it directly impacts our health.



As part of Clean Air Day and the launch of [Solarize Ventura County](#), VCREA and the Community Environmental Council are hosting a Ventura County Residential Solar & Battery Storage 101 webinar on October 7th from 12pm to 1:30pm to learn about how easy and affordable it is to go solar, add home battery systems, or both. Check out our [website](#) where you can take the pledge, sign up to participate in the webinar, and read up on a Supervisor Parks' project involving tree plantings.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The average American breathes roughly 3400 gallons of air each day.

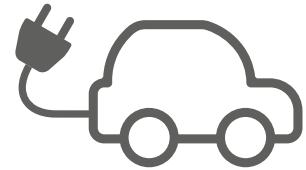
Important ways to protect the air in your home. Take an interactive [tour](#).

Want to see real time data pertaining to local air quality? Click [here](#) and check out AirNow.

## NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

National Drive Electric Week (NDEW) is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are fun to drive, less expensive, and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles. EVs are better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Each year, NDEW includes hundreds of events in communities across the United States and around the world. This year, for the 10th annual NDEW, things may look a little different; however, we have added online events and other fun activities to meet the challenges of the times.

Check out our [website](#) for more details and event details.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### September

- 28th [Evie McWheelie Launch](#)
- 29th [EV Movie Streaming Days](#)
- 29th [Quality Insulation for Contractors](#)
- 30th [EV Driver and Dealership Meet and Greet](#)

#### November

- 4th [Carbon Free Homes](#)
- 5th [Solarize Ventura County Webinar](#)
- 10th [Selling High Performance Homes](#)
- 13th [Forum: Taking the High Road](#)
- 16th [Selling High Performance Homes](#)

#### October

- 1st [EV Related Incentives and Funding Lunch and Learn](#)
- 2nd [EV 101 Lunch and Learn](#)
- 5th [Solar PV: Technology and Valuation](#)
- 7th [Clean Air Day Webinar](#)
- 15th [CALGreen Project Requirements](#)
- 21st [Solar PV: Technology and Valuation](#)
- 26th [Carbon Free Homes](#)



All events are held online, please register for meeting details.



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**SUSTAINABILITY  
DIVISION**