

Sound Energy Management Saves Money and Rebuilds Trust

It was the wrong kind of publicity for a city building its future: several years of poor administration and political turmoil made the City of South Gate headline news and nearly destroyed the city's finances. After the crisis, a new regime of leaders and managers faced the challenge not only of restoring services and best practices, but also of rebuilding public confidence and the city's good name in the business community.

"We've come from a time of serious mismanagement into an era of teamwork, with the goals of integrity and efficiency at the top of the list," says Osie Harrell, Jr., Electrical & General Maintenance Superintendent in the City of South Gate Public Works Department. "This city was teetering. We're making a new start," concurs David E. Torres, Field Operations manager for the city. "We're reestablishing excellent civil service to prove to South Gate's residents and prospective new businesses that we can run our city honestly and effectively. Sound energy management is a key part of that effort, and we're glad Southern California Edison (SCE) is on the team."

Combined Programs for Energy Savings

Serving a population of 110,000, South Gate's first step in improving its energy management was to see where its dollars were being spent. With SCE's help, the city consolidated its many single billing statements to an easier-to-manage summary bill. Then it reassigned some services to more advantageous rates to shift loads, optimize spending, and give the City more flexibility. EnergyManager[®], SCE's Internet-based suite of tools, gave Harrell and Torres real-time feedback on the city's consumption patterns and savings opportunities. A class at SCE's Energy Efficiency Center in Irwindale (EEC-I) showed them how to put it to use.

Next came participation in SCE's Agricultural Express Efficiency (AgEE), Technical Assistance & Technology Incentives (TA&TI), and Demand Bidding Program (DBP). AgEE offered financial incentives to improve the efficiency of South Gate's water pumps, which pump 3 million gallons a day from underground wells. The increased efficiency could save over 350,000 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of energy, more than \$40,000 annually, and make the city eligible for a \$28,000 rebate. Through SCE's TA&TI Program, South Gate received a free assessment and a detailed analysis of its demand response potential at several of its larger facilities, which identified potential incentives that could be applied to the purchase and installation of demand response technologies. During recent heat waves, South Gate already demonstrated its ability to successfully save energy during the peak hours by reducing nearly 10,000kWh of energy, for savings and incentives worth over \$3,000. Using the TA&TI incentives, the city will be able to improve its system technologies and achieve even greater demand response savings. Going forward, South Gate is also looking at utilizing SCE's Express Solutions, for additional energy savings of 700,000 kWh, or over \$80,000 annually.

The Big Difference of Small Measures

South Gate projects that its combined savings from these energy management measures will exceed a million kWh, saving the city over \$120,000 annually. "You might not think the nickels and dimes make a difference," says Harrell, "but when you save consistently, you're saving bigger all the time." Torres agrees. "SCE embraced our commitment to bringing South Gate back, and they were ready to help us with training, support, and money-saving programs we needed.

We're planning to use SCE's Savings by Design Program to capture energy savings on the drawing board for our new Gateway City Walk project, which we intend to be a major shopping and recreation destination. Our Council and the city leadership are all behind this because they see the results."

Better Quality of Life, Restored City Pride

"There's been no compromise to our quality of life from South Gate's using any of these programs," says Torres. "In fact, the community is pleased because we're saving money, and that's critically important to us not just for the financial benefit, but as a matter of civic pride. We're raising our accountability for every public dollar we spend," Harrell agrees. "And we're seeing that trust return. City Council, business owners, and residents are all breathing a sigh of relief, and that's satisfying to us. We have a calling to make this city as great as it can be, and with energy management practices like these, we're answering that calling every day."

This case study is presented for informational purposes only. Savings and incentives will vary by project. SCE programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Estimated Savings by Managing Energy

Location: City of South Gate, California

Industry: Municipality

SCE Programs Utilized: Demand Bidding Program, Agricultural Express Efficiency, Technical Assistance & Technology Incentives (TA&TI), and SCE EnergyManager[®] suite of tools

Results: Potential energy savings of over 1 million kWh (\$120,000 annually) using SCE's energy management programs

Like City of Southgate, you can save money on electricity:

- Take free SCE classes in lighting, HVAC, energy management and more at the Edison Energy Center.
- Use Web-based tools such as SCE EnergyManager[®], SCE Cost Manager[®], and SCE Bill Manager[®] to monitor your electricity usage in real time and over the long term.
- Use SCE's Express Efficiency Program for prescriptive cash incentives on a list of qualifying energy-efficient equipment. Contact your account representative or call 800-736-4777 for information on the program.