



Sonoma County Efficiency Financing Program Newsletter July 2012

Please Join Us!

We are hosting a webinar
Wednesday, August 1st
from 10:00-11:30 a.m.
PDT to discuss the SCEF
Program.

To register for this free
webinar, [click here](#).

For more information, see
the [What's Next?](#) article in
this month's newsletter.

Dear Interested Party,

Welcome to our first Sonoma County Efficiency Financing Program Newsletter. We are very excited about the program and are pleased to have a vehicle to keep you informed about the program's progress, status and other similar projects. We thank you for your interest in the program and look forward to hearing your questions and comments.

What is the SCEF Program?

The Sonoma County Water Agency is launching a program to finance energy efficiency and water conservation retrofits for public and non-profit institutions. The Sonoma County Efficiency Financing (SCEF) program is a scaled down version of a Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) model which was developed by Dr. John Byrne and his colleagues at the Center for Energy & Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware. The first SEU model was adopted by the State of Delaware and is currently implementing nearly \$73M in energy and water retrofit projects at public facilities in the State ([See the article below to find out more about the Delaware SEU program](#)).

Under the SCEF Program, participating organizations will contract with an Energy Service Company to complete energy and water conservation measures. For example, improvements could include: street lighting; building lighting; pumps; HVAC; system controls; boilers; chillers; ducting; windows; partial roofing; toilets; and others. The participating organizations will receive substantial utility cost savings, including a contractual guarantee sufficient to cover the full cost of all retrofit work. The Program intends to use tax-exempt bonds to finance the projects.

What is the Status of the Program?

We are currently educating potential participants and inviting letters of interest. If you are interested in learning more about the program or enrolling in the program, please contact Amy Bolten of the Sonoma County Water Agency at 707-547-1981 or Amy.Bolten@scwa.ca.gov.

What's Next?

The Sonoma County Water Agency will be hosting an informational webinar on August 1st from 10:00-11:30 a.m. PDT. The purpose of the webinar is to explain the SCEF model, how it functions and what it would mean for you and your institution.

We are pleased to have Jennie Bruneman, Director of Maintenance and Operations for Santa Rosa City Schools, participating in the webinar. She will be outlining the potential retrofits identified for her district and their operational benefits. Amy Bolten, of the Sonoma County Water Agency, and Geof Syphers, of Syphers Consulting, will be outlining the SCEF Program and will discuss the function and logistics of the program as it pertains to your institutions.

In addition, we will have the creator of Delaware's SEU, Dr. John Byrne, the Director and Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Policy at the Center for Energy & Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware, as a panelist. He will be discussing the Delaware SEU program and highlight other SEU efforts.

We are very excited about this webinar and would love to have you participate! To register for this free webinar, please visit: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/838498646>.

Featured SEU Project

The State of Delaware first adopted the SEU model and its unique bond financing structure in 2007 as an independent, non-profit organization to foster a sustainable energy future for the state. This Energize Delaware Initiative has become a one stop resource to help residents and businesses save money through clean energy and efficiency measures.

While most programs have been operating for a short time, the collective action of Delaware participants taking advantage of the energy efficiency solutions is adding up to big energy savings. This is particularly important for a state where per capita energy consumption is higher than its neighbors.

[Learn More](#)

Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Fund

We are very happy to highlight a program that we feel would work well in tandem with the SCEF Program.

The Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Fund (SEED Fund) is utilizing grant funding to help public agencies overcome the initial hurdles to adopting solar. The goal of the SEED Fund is to realize 10-12% in total project costs savings through collaborative purchase by public agencies in Napa, Marin and Sonoma counties, and to bring at least 5 MW of public PV onto the grid. For more information see the program website: www.solarroadmap.com/seed.

Currently, the SEED Fund Program is performing initial site assessments with public agencies across Napa, Marin and Sonoma counties. There is no cost or commitment required to get started, they simply need some basic site information (facility address and electricity usage).

Additionally, the SEED Fund Program is proud to offer a 2-part workshop series designed to assist public agencies to understand solar electricity markets and technologies and to introduce the SEED Fund.

- Workshop 1 (August 9) will focus on solar economics and financing
Information and Registration:
<http://seedfundworkshopsonoma11.eventbrite.com/>
- Workshop 2 (August 23) will focus on the technical details of solar installation
Information and Registration:
<http://seedfundworkshopsonoma2.eventbrite.com/>

The SEED Fund Program is being implemented by Strategic Energy Innovations in partnership with Optony Inc. Strategic Energy Innovations is a nonprofit organization established to help empower schools and universities, small businesses, local governments, affordable housing agencies, and rural communities to reduce pollution and save money through energy and resource efficiency, green building and green workforce education and training. To learn more, please visit their website:
<http://www.seiinc.org/>.

If you are interested in starting the assessment process or to learn more, please contact Kif Scheuer at 415-507-1433 or kif@seiinc.org.