



Sonoma County Efficiency Financing Program Newsletter January 2013

Useful Links

[SCEF Program website](#)

[SCEF Program FAQs](#)

Strength in Numbers

We are delighted that 67 schools, 2 cities and government agencies, water districts, a hospital and several other entities are participating in the program.

Questions?

If you have any questions or comments about the Sonoma County Efficiency Financing Program, please contact Amy Bolten at (707)547-1981 or Amy.Bolten@scwa.ca.gov. We are available to answer any questions you may have and assist you through this process.

Welcome to the Sonoma County Efficiency Financing (SCEF) Program Newsletter. This newsletter is intended as a vehicle to keep the public informed of the program as it progresses. We thank you for your interest in the program and look forward to hearing your questions and comments.

Audit Results Starting to Come In

Participants have selected their Energy Service Companies and are receiving their pre-contract no-cost energy and water efficiency audits. The reports are starting to come in. Already we are seeing great initial results from these audits which are very promising as we continue to move forward to bond issuance.

Financial Advisor Selected

KNN Public Finance has been selected as the financial advisor for the Sonoma County Efficiency Financing program. As financial advisor KNN has been identifying likely bond interest rates, bond ratings for individual participants and assisting with the selection of bond counsel.

Moving Forward

As participants start to receive audit reports outlining potential energy and water upgrades to their facilities, they will be determining if they will move forward to the next step, the Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA). The Investment Grade Energy Audit is the first time a commitment would be made. At this stage, if a participant moves forward to have an IGEA performed, they will be signing an agreement to reimburse the Energy Service Company for the IGEA cost if they do not move ahead to construction. If the participant moves ahead to construction, the IGEA cost will be rolled into the bond issuance.

What is the SCEF Program?

The Sonoma County Water Agency has launched 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.

Under the SCEF Program, participating organizations will contract with an Energy Service Company to complete energy and water conservation measures using standardized contract language that protects the owner. 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.

Sonoma County Efficiency Financing Program
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