

10th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum

Session Block #3 – Revolving Loan Funds in a Post-Incentive World

Salon D
Level: All – Track: Financing

Thursday, June 27, 2019
10:00 – 11:15 AM

Notes prepared by *Jose Rojas*, Corpmember at California Conservation Corps

Speakers:

Genaro Bugarin, The Energy Coalition
Annie Secrest, County of San Luis Obispo
Matthew Skolnik, County of Los Angeles
Alelia Parenteau, City of Santa Barbara

Session Summary:

With incentives no longer being a feasible or reliable source of funding, cities look for alternative ways to fund projects through a revolving loan fund built on energy rebates, allocated project funds and energy savings from fund disbursements. By cycling money used in projects to be reused in future projects and leveraging those funds, cities can obtain the necessary money to pay for projects that will increase the energy efficiency in these cities. This can overcome certain barriers that cities face in finding funding for energy projects that they struggle to find funding without the need to compete for funding against capital and maintenance projects, especially in cities with disadvantaged communities. Tools were developed to properly research and measure the effectiveness and impact that the revolving loan fund has. The main focus is obtaining the initial funding to kick start the fund and use them as effectively as possible to maximize the returns at the end of the project to create a larger fund for future energy efficiency projects and maintaining a level of sustainability in both funding and energy efficiency.

The conversation described the work with the Los Angeles County Energy Investment Program, Santa Barbara Public Works Department, and the City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department in adopting the Revolving Loan Fund program through extensive research and work that focuses on the types of projects that the fund seeks to work on as well as addressing the tracking and replenishment of the fund.

Project Type focus

- Energy efficiency projects
- Solar/and or energy storage

Fund Replenishment

- All utility rebates
- Energy savings
- EE: 100% energy savings for 2 years
- Solar/storage: 50% of savings for 3 years

Tracking

Using a tool for the Revolving Energy Fund departments and the general fund can track savings from energy projects

Tool: Energy Fund Tracking Workbook

- Fund must have more than just EE projects
- Funds allow for solar and energy storage projects
- Gives precedence to projects in rural/HTR areas



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Stakeholder Engagement

- Meeting with involved divisions and departments
- Quarterly meetings with Stakeholders
- Savings must be measured

Seed/Contribution Funding

- Energy/Utilities rebate
- CEC Loan
- Grant Funding
- Energy Lease Financing
- Internal Agency Revolving Loan Fund

Creating a network of cities that adopt the revolving loan fund, California can progress towards a more energy efficient and sustainable future. Participants will obtain the tools and data needed to properly address their need for funding for current and future projects all through practical and efficient management of project funds.

