Making the (Up)grade
Funding Energy Efficiency Through School Bonds

The Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Public Agency Programs see a future in which public agencies play an active leadership role in shaping safe, secure, resilient, affordable, and sustainable communities. We offer a suite of no-cost services to help schools and other public agencies save energy and money and lead their communities to greater sustainability.

Alhambra Unified School District serves over 16,000 students throughout San Gabriel Valley at 18 schools, where 68% of students are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Alhambra USD engaged SoCalREN to identify energy-saving project opportunities and reduce energy costs across the District. By using school district bonds to fund energy efficiency upgrades, the District is improving student learning environments through revenue-positive projects.

300+ Eligible SoCal School Districts

District-wide assessment
SoCalREN supported assessments of energy efficiency opportunities at 13 elementary schools, 4 high schools, and 4 other District facilities.

Whole-building perspective
SoCalREN took a whole-building perspective, identifying 30+ energy efficiency measures such as lighting upgrades, HVAC equipment replacement, and building system tuning and scheduling.

$20+ million in cost savings
With SoCalREN’s help, the District identified $22M in lifetime energy cost savings, with project costs at $18.6M, making the District’s use of bond funding revenue positive over the long term.

$20+ million in cost savings and a better learning environment
Improving occupant comfort and 3.8 million kWh of energy savings, equivalent to taking over 5,700 cars off the road.

Lesson #1: Start Early
Districts have many competing needs and bond funds go quickly. Be first in line!

Lesson #2: Be Creative
Public agencies can simplify the procurement process for energy projects using CA Code Section 4217.

Lesson #3: Get Comfy
Efficiency projects benefit the learning environment through better air quality, lighting, and comfort.

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Southern California Regional Energy Network

The SoCalREN Public Agency Programs are administered by the County of Los Angeles and funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

The Energy Coalition is the current implementer of SoCalREN Public Agency Programs. Learn more about us at energycoalition.org.