



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 8/9/2011
Agenda Placement: 10B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Christine M. Secheli for Steven Lederer - Director
Environmental Management
REPORT BY: Steven Lederer, Director of Environmental Management - 253-4471
SUBJECT: Presentation to the Board on Energy Upgrade California

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Environmental Management and Sustainable Napa County to provide an update on the implementation of Energy Upgrade California (EUC), a State sponsored program which encourages residential energy efficiency projects and practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

County staff and Sustainable Napa County (SNC) will provide an update on Energy Upgrade California (EUC), which encourages conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects on private residential properties. This State program, developed using federal stimulus funds, provides information for homeowners to encourage such projects, and for certifying contractors who are trained and capable of performing the work. SNC has been contracted by the County to help educate the contractor and home owner community on this program. Other related programs, such as the Napa County Energy Watch Program (funded by PG&E) will also be discussed.

PROCEDURAL REQUIRMENTS

1. Staff report.
2. Public comment (at the Chair's discretion).
3. Board comment, if any.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

County staff and Sustainable Napa County (SNC) will provide an update on three programs of immediate interest to County residents:

- Napa County Energy Watch
- Energy Upgrade California
- CHF Residential Retrofit Loan Program

Napa County Energy Watch is operated by Sustainable Napa County under contract with PG&E to provide comprehensive energy efficiency assistance (including substantial rebates) for municipal, nonprofit and small business PG&E customers.

Energy Upgrade California (EUC) provides significant rebates and support for Napa County homeowners to undertake comprehensive energy efficiency improvements.

CHF's Residential Retrofit Program provides zero interest loans and small grants to homeowners (earning less than \$136,000/yr) in counties that are members of the Regional Council of Rural Counties to undertake comprehensive energy efficiency improvements, including possible installation of renewable energy

Both the EUC and CHF programs operate under state direction and in partnership with the utilities, are primarily funded by ARRA resources and will probably expire in March 2012, making timely outreach to our residents a matter of some urgency.

With 18 months experience running NCEW, SNC has an excellent framework already in place for getting the word out. The County has contracted with SNC to do extensive outreach with both building contractors and residents.

Educating our community on EUC and CHF will result in several beneficial outcomes:

- create business opportunities for local building contractors
- reduce utility bills for County residents
- contribute to the County's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by making change in the significant, but hard-to-reach residential sector
- improve property values in the County

Outreach undertaken and planned includes:

- Targeted presentations to key stakeholder groups (Solano-Napa Builders Exchange, Chambers of Commerce, service clubs, realtors' groups, neighborhood associations, senior municipal staff, policy leaders, community groups, faith-based organizations)
- Print, radio and electronic placement of informational materials
- Physical placement of promotional materials in Building Departments, home improvement and hardware stores, etc.
- Informational workshops for homeowners and builder

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Presentation Materials

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan