REACH CODE NEWS BRIEF: JULY 2025

CALGREEN COMPLIANCE WORKSHEETS NOW AVAILABLE!



The Local Energy Codes team has finalized a complete set of CALGreen worksheets, designed to simplify project team compliance work.

The set is for the 2022 CALGreen (July 2024 Supplement) and includes:

- WS1+2 worksheet for baseline water use calculation and water use reduction calculations
- WS-3 worksheet for building reuse compliance (Section 5.105.2)
- WS-4 worksheet for whole building life cycle assessments (Section 5.409.2)
- WS-5 worksheet for Product GWP Compliance - Prescriptive Path
- WS-6 worksheet for building reuse (Section A5.105.2 - Tier 1 and Tier 2)
- WS-9 worksheet for whole building life cycle assessments (Section 5.409.2 & A5.409.2)

The new compliance forms are available at no cost on CALGreenInfo.com.



New Resources for Nonresidential Alterations

The statewide Local Energy Codes team has completed work on its new nonresidential alterations cost-effectiveness study.

The report, available here, evaluates the energy savings and cost-effectiveness of various measures in three different vintages (1980s, 1990s, and 2000s) of the Small Office and Medium Retail prototypes. Analyzed measures include packaged rooftop unit (RTU) replacements as well as efficiency measures.

For packaged rooftop units, the team found that Single Zone Heat Pump (SZHP) replacements of Single Zone Air Conditioners (SZAC) achieve

energy savings and are generally cost-effective. For SZHP up to 20 tons, depending on the climate zone, some additional efficiency measures may be required to achieve cost-effectiveness, while SZHP up to ten tons are cost-effective without additional efficiency measures.

The energy savings and cost-effectiveness of individual energy efficiency measures applied to an existing building without an RTU retrofit, or bundled with RTU replacements (both SZACs and SZHPs), vary by prototype, climate zone, and vintage.

In addition to the report, the workbook containing the complete dataset is also available. The team presented a webinar on these results on Tuesday, June 24. The webinar recording is available here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13: 3C-REN: CALGreen Code – 2025 Update

August 13: California Energy Commission: Business Meeting

August 13: New Buildings Institute: Microgrids for a Resilient Renewable Future

August 14: BayREN: Electrical Upgrade Alternatives for Building Retrofits

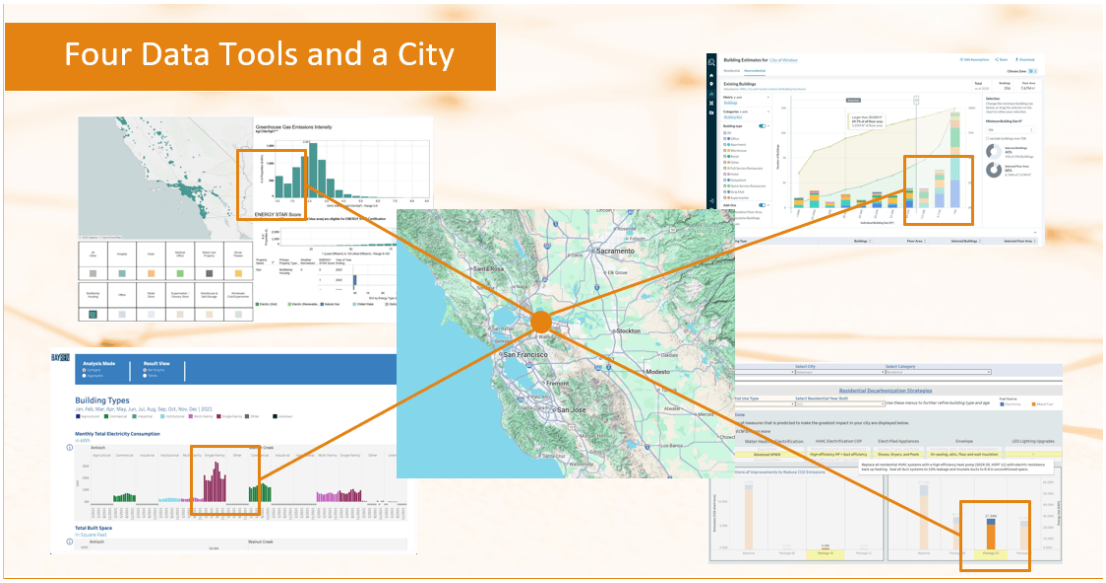
August 19: Building Decarbonization Coalition: California Policy Call

August 26: Sustain SoCal: Water Solutions 10. The Cove at UCI Beall Applied Innovation

August 28: I-REN C&S Training: 2025 Code Series: Deep Dive on What's New: Multifamily



NEW THIS MONTH!



CONNECTING DATA POINT DOTS: USING DATA TOOLS TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE REACH CODES AND ENERGY POLICIES

The Local Energy Codes team participated in the 16th Annual California Climate and Energy Collaborative Forum this month in San Jose, as panelists for the Connecting Data Point Dots: Using Data Tools to Develop Effective Reach Codes and Energy Policies session on July 9. The 90-minute session offered an overview of four building data tools, including strengths and weaknesses of each, together with a demonstration of how to access and use the data from the tools for a specific city.

Panelists included JoAnna Saunders, California Energy Commission, who provided an overview of the statewide benchmarking program; Jasmine Krause, Policy Studio, who presented the Local Energy Codes tool the Cost-Effectiveness Explorer; Spencer Mathews, California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA, who introduced BayREN's Energy Atlas tool; and Emily Miller, Arup, who offered an overview of BayREN's Existing Buildings Decarbonization Study and Dashboard. Additional panelists Misti Bruceri, Local Energy Codes Program and Karen Kristiansson, BayREN, provided a look at how each of these tools would work for a specific jurisdiction; in this case, the City of Antioch. Moderator Kelly Cunningham, Pacific Gas & Electric, handled a lively Q&A.

California’s Energy Benchmarking Program

Since 2018, this mandatory statewide program requires commercial buildings greater than 50,000 ft^2 and multifamily buildings greater than 50,000 ft^2 with 17 or more units to report energy use annually to the California Energy Commission (CEC). All reporting is done through the US EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager®. The CEC provides a wide range of the reported building data to the public, including the building address, vintage, property type, ENERGY STAR score, monthly and/or annual site energy use by energy type and more.

Cost Effectiveness Explorer

This no-cost web-based tool is designed to help accelerate reach code adoption and support better data-driven decision-making for California city and county staff. The tool aggregates findings from statewide cost-effectiveness studies and estimates building stock and future construction forecasts for each of 500+ California cities and counties.

Bay Area Energy Atlas

This tool is a large, interactive database of account-level electricity and natural gas consumption, linked spatially to building characteristics and sociodemographic data. First released in 2020, Energy Atlas enables users to explore consumption by parcel use type, building size, and building vintage as well as explore statistics such as per capita energy use and energy use intensity (EUI).

BayREN Existing Buildings: Decarbonization Study and Dashboard

This effort gathers data on existing buildings by jurisdiction, providing information including building type, vintage, total square footage, ownership, energy and carbon estimate per subcategory, and the impact of various energy conservation and electrification measures on energy and carbon. This helps inform development of policy and incentive programs to hit local decarbonization goals.

Putting It into Practice

Using these tools and the City of Antioch as an example, the panel was able to identify some important trends as well as a range of impactful policy options. The panelists concluded the workshop with some valuable recommendations:

- Spend some time working with each tool
- Focus on patterns and trends rather than exact numbers
- Review tool documentation or help files (and/or reach out to tool sponsors or developers with questions)

- Reality-check everything with local information:
    - Local planning or building departments may have better information for some of these items
    - Check local sources and use to supplement or correct regional or statewide tools as appropriate

Download the presentation slides here.

This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E®) and Southern California Edison Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and in support of the California Energy Commission.

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OTHER REACH CODE NEWS BRIEFS

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