

Energy Savings for San Diego

An Overview of the San Diego Regional Energy Network

June 9, 2026



The San Diego Regional Energy Network (SDREN) makes it simpler for everyone in San Diego County to save energy and realize the benefits of a clean energy economy.

Led by San Diego Community Power in partnership with the County of San Diego, SDREN offers 10 energy efficiency programs that shape how people access clean energy solutions, while ensuring benefits reach every corner of the region.



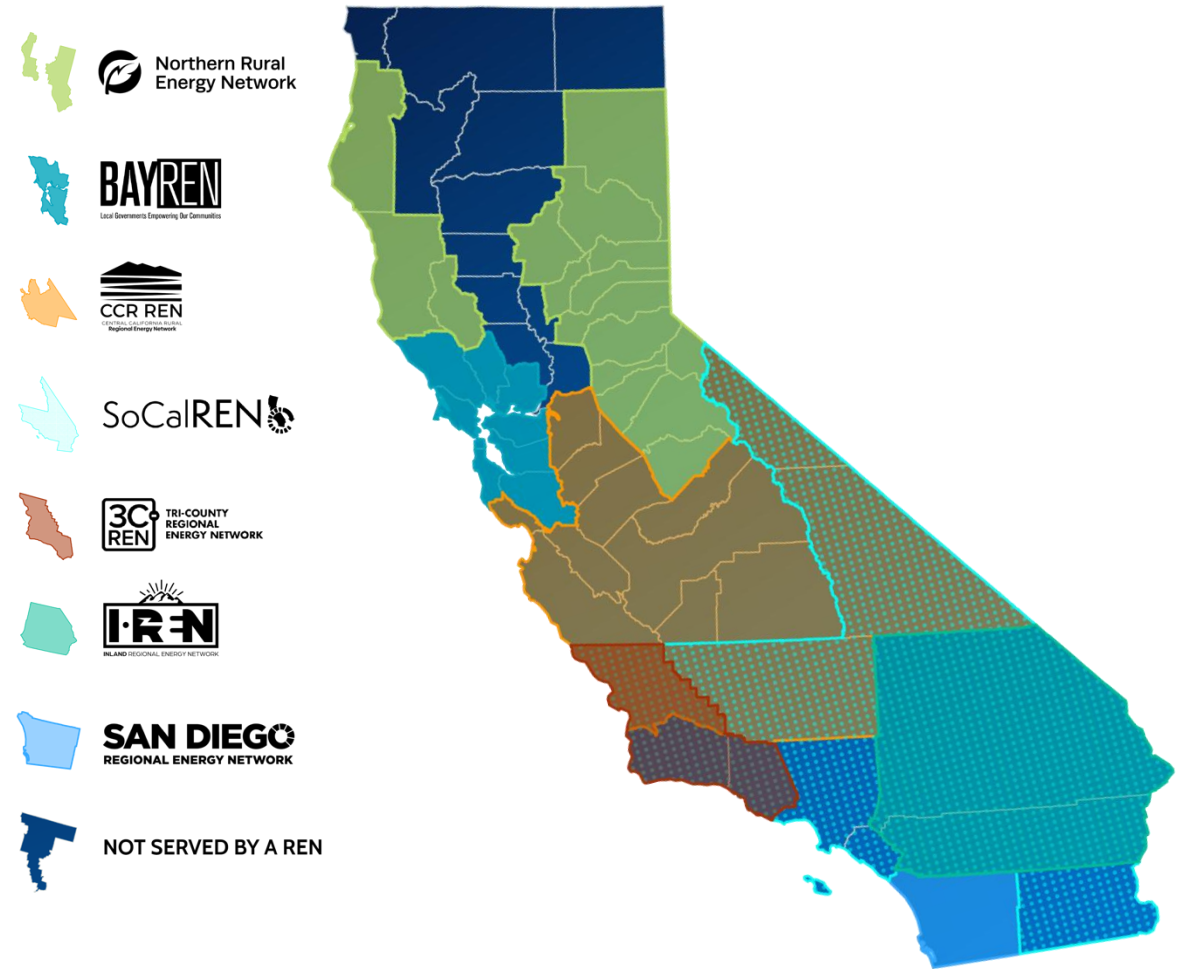
What is a Regional Energy Network (REN)?

What is a REN?

- Local government entities that help homes and businesses save energy
- Each REN creates programs designed for its specific region's needs

Why RENs?

- We know our communities and can reach people that bigger programs often miss
- We focus on helping historically underserved neighborhoods
- In total, RENs serve 48 counties, 480 cities and 37 million Californians



Discussions of creating
a local Regional
Energy Network

PAST 10+ YEARS

SDREN
approved

AUGUST 2024

Program
Implementers
procured

2025

YOU
ARE
HERE

History

Business plan
submitted
to the California Public
Utilities Commission

JANUARY 2024

SDREN team
onboarded

OCTOBER–
DECEMBER 2024

All programs
available

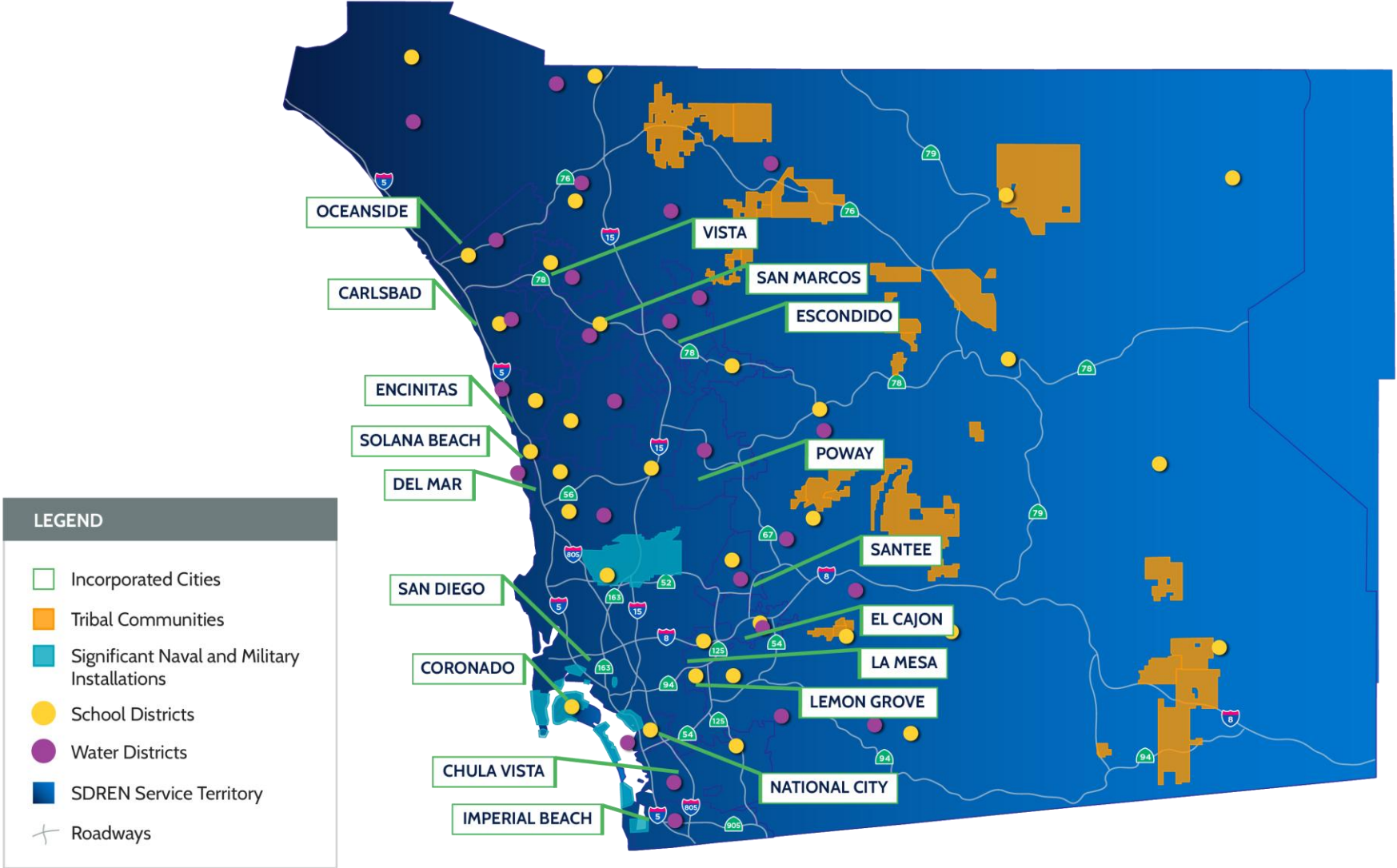
2026

San Diego Regional Energy Network (SDREN) Background

- SDREN was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on August 1, 2024
- Approved for \$124M to administer a portfolio of 10 energy efficiency programs (2024-2027)
- Programs target underserved and hard-to-reach residents, businesses, public agencies, and Tribal governments across the region



SDREN Service Territory



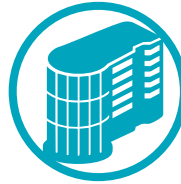
Who Do We Serve?

We work across San Diego County to deliver tailored programs that meet diverse community needs for:



Homeowners, Renters & Property Owners

Energy efficiency upgrades, expert guidance and building-wide improvements



Businesses

Energy coaching, no-cost assessments, incentives and upgrades



Tribal Nations

Co-developed solutions aligned with community priorities



Workforce & Industry

Training for contractors, career pathways for job seekers and incentives for project developers



Public & Community Partners

Technical support for local governments, educational institutions and community organizations

An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood with many houses and trees. In the background, there are hills and a mountain under a colorful sky. A large green circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image.

SDREN Programs

Program Rollout Schedule

(Subject to change)

April

High school educators and their students
Building professionals
Job seekers and current workers

June

Public agencies

Webpage coming soon!

July

Homeowners

Renters

Owners and managers of properties
with 2+ units

Tribal communities

August

Small businesses



Workforce Development

Youth and Adult Workforce Development

Spark Your Education

- Connects high school students to careers in clean energy
- Audience: High school students, educators
- Services: No-cost Career Technical Education (CTE)-aligned courses, mentorships, internships, wraparound services, career fairs

Spark Your Career

- Provides training, mentorship and career connections in clean energy and related trades
- Audience: Job seekers, employers, employees seeking upskilling
- Services: Low- to no-cost training and certifications, personalized mentorship, career guidance, job placement, wraparound services, recruitment and retention support



Public Agencies

Public Agencies

Energy Code Coach

- Improves regional compliance with the state's energy code and supports jurisdictions with reach codes
- Audience: Jurisdictions and permitting officials and broader code community
- Services
 - Virtual and in-person access to energy code coaches
 - Advanced code support
 - Regionally customized templates, trainings, and resources

Public Sector Energy Upgrade

- Remove barriers for public agencies to complete energy efficiency projects
- Audience: Local governments, Tribal governments, school districts
- Services: Technical assistance, incentives, project management support

Tribal Engagement

- Fund and support Tribal government's energy efficiency initiatives
- Audience: San Diego's 17 federally recognized Tribal governments
- Services
 - Technical assistance
 - Co-development of energy initiatives
 - Direct funding
 - Referrals to other programs



Residential

Residential

Single-Family and Multifamily Programs

- Helps people living in single- and multifamily properties save energy and reduce costs through education and low- to no-cost upgrades
- Audience: Property owners, managers and residents, including renters
- Services
 - Low- to no-cost energy upgrades
 - One-on-one service from energy advisors
 - Bill analysis and energy efficiency kits to start saving energy quickly



Commercial

Commercial

Refresh Refrigeration

- No-cost energy-efficient refrigeration equipment to store fresh foods.
- Audience: Small corner stores, grocers and food donation nonprofits in underserved areas.
- Services: Direct installation of equipment, technical assistance, education and resources, community outreach events.

Business Energy Coach

- No-cost technical assistance and energy efficiency upgrades that help businesses lower energy costs.
- Audience: Underserved small businesses
- Services
 - End-to-end service for provided by energy coaches
 - No-cost technical assistance and energy upgrades
 - Recognition and ongoing support from CA Green Business Network.

Market Access Program

- Performance-based incentives for contractors that reduce energy use through projects with verified energy savings.
- Audience: Contractors, underserved small businesses
- Services
 - Clear incentive rates and flexible projects for contractors, cost savings for businesses
 - Contractors paid based on evaluation of post-project energy savings.

Investing in You and Making It Simpler for Everyone in San Diego County to Save Energy

SDREN.org



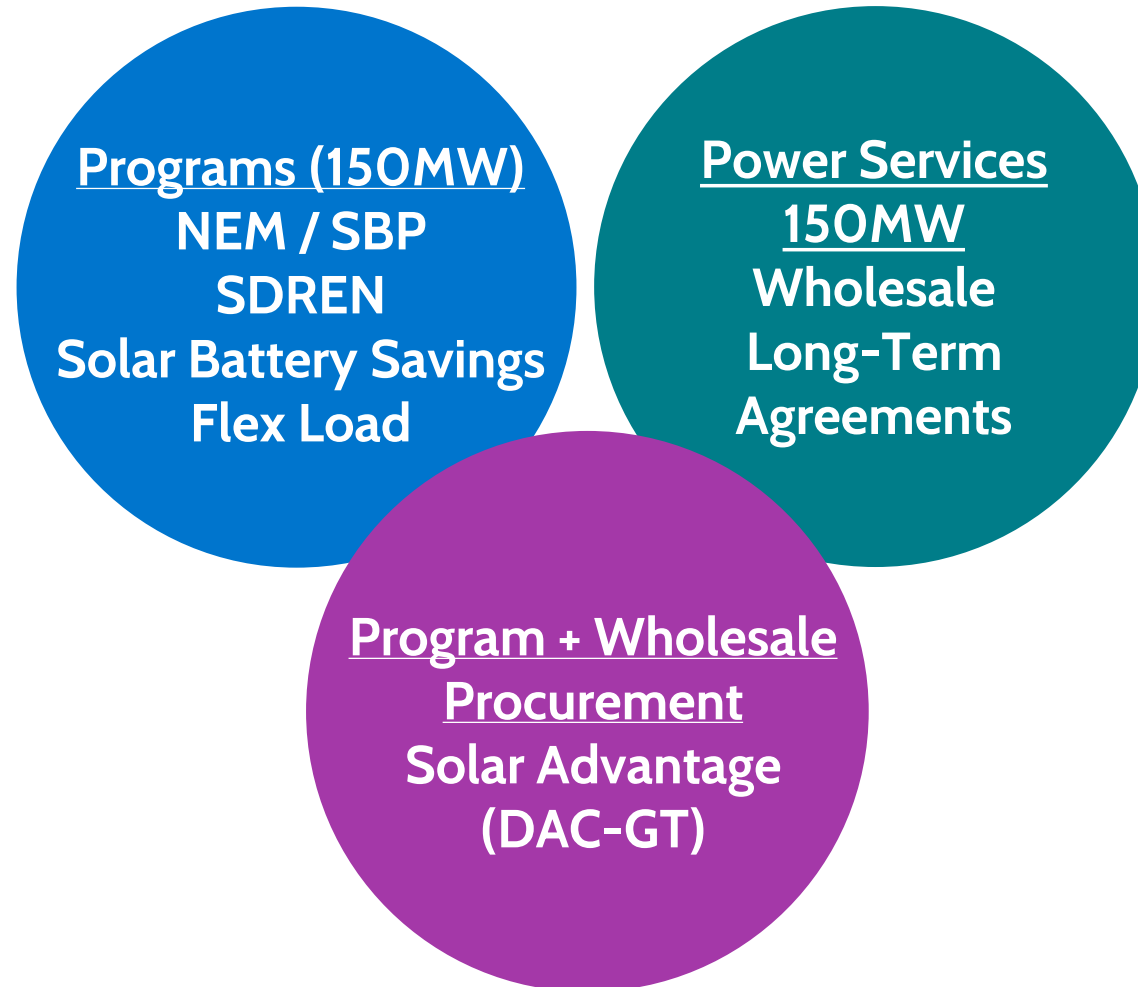


Local Development Update

300 MW Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Goal Breakdown

Programs

- Established and managed for **customer bill savings, reliability and equity** as primary drivers.
- These customer sited resources reduce Community Power's peak load and mitigate certain compliance requirements, including Resource Adequacy.
- Board approved budgets contribute the bulk of funding to the broad portfolio of offerings.



Wholesale Procurement

- These are **long-term agreements directly between developers and Community Power**.
- Solicitation proposals are reviewed by staff using ISWP/EPEC.
- Board approves all long-term agreements.



Helpful Definitions

- **FTM (Front-of-the-Meter)** – refers to resources that are deployed “in front of”, on the utility side of any customer meters, and so they are directly interconnected to either the distribution, or more commonly for utility-scale, the transmission grid. Most utilities and Community Choice Aggregators (CCA) procure exclusively from power resources that are FTM, realizing revenue by selling energy and other attributes into the CAISO market and helping to meet CPUC mandated compliance obligations.
- **BTM (Behind-the-Meter)** – refers to resources that are deployed “behind”, on the customer’s side of their utility meter. Everything that programs do is BTM, as they involve customer sited resources for customers’ direct benefit. Community Power is exploring innovative pathways to contract with BTM resources via wholesale procurement that add value and improve overall viability.
 - Solar Battery Savings
 - Flex load strategy



Helpful Definitions

- **DER (Distributed Energy Resource) –**
 - (1) Any resource, either BTM or FTM, that is connected to SDG&E's distribution network, adhering to the California Energy Commission's definition of a DER, or
 - (2) For the purposes of Community's Power's goal, resources connected to SDG&E's transmission network if the resource is in an urban or suburban area as defined by SANDAG's Census Urban Areas database
- **Community-Scale** – used in Community Power's workforce standards to distinguish the evaluation of projects under 10 MW versus projects sized 10+ MW, which are defined as "utility-scale". A minimum size threshold has not been established for this definition, but practically speaking, this is referring to anything that's not a residential resource as the floor.



Helpful Definitions

- **Interconnection** – the process by which the utility (SDG&E) studies and approves the ability of a renewable resource to interconnect physically to the grid. BTM interconnection is regulated by the CPUC (state). FTM interconnection is regulated by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Interconnectability is a critical and historically challenging gating factor in what projects can be interconnected and where.
- **Resource Adequacy (RA)** – a capacity-based compliance requirement that all CA load serving entities (LSE) are subject to, and a crucial element of renewable and storage project value. RA requirements are determined based on each LSE's load served.
- **Deliverability** – the certification of a resource to be counted against RA obligations, and a product of technical studies performed by CAISO to confirm that a resource can deliver energy to the grid during stressed, high-demand conditions. Like interconnectability, deliverability is a generally difficult to obtain, especially for distributed resources in the San Diego region. Just because a project is approved to be interconnected, that doesn't mean it will be approved for deliverability. Community Power contracts with both deliverable and non-deliverable resources – the deliverable resources can command a higher price due to their value to RA compliance.



Helpful Definitions

- **Feed-In Tariff** – a standard offtake contract offered by many utilities/CCAs, typically small programs in scale, that provides a simplified, non-negotiable contract and terms at a predetermined price for renewable power.
- **Long-Term Agreements** – contracts with terms greater than five (5) years in duration.
 - Power Purchase Agreements
 - Energy Storage Services Agreement
 - Resource Adequacy Agreements
 - Hedging Agreements



Procurement Selection

- Community Power uses an Energy Proposal Evaluation Criteria (EPEC) to score proposals for long-term, wholesale energy contracts
- The criteria includes evaluation within the following six areas, each of which will be rated **high (A)**, **medium+ (B)**, **medium- (C)**, **neutral (D)** or **low (F)** and aggregated for holistic review

Project
Location

Quantitative
Value

Project
Development

Community
Benefits

Workforce
Development

Environmental
Stewardship



Procurement Overview

Attracting and securing long-term contracts that provide best value to Community Power customers

Challenges

- DER projects can be more expensive primarily due to scale as well as technical challenges unique to distribution grid interconnections and congestion.
- Rapidly shifting market conditions, evolving compliance requirements and unstable federal policy add risk and uncertainty to long term project valuations
- DER projects are often undervalued

Solutions

- Multiple solicitations:
 - Local Request for Information – Rolling solicitation that invites all local developers to present proposals with few constraints or specific requests.
 - Local **Request for Offer** – Targeted competitive solicitations for DER projects that is more bound in terms of the requested sizes, attributes, delivery timelines, etc.
 - Solar Advantage RFO – Third RFO release expected in Q2 2026
- Procurement Innovations – A first-of-its-kind BTM procurement vehicle that seeks to improve project viability while substantially increasing value to Community Power and our ratepayers.



Local Development Priorities

- Engage directly with SDG&E on interconnection & deliverability
- Behind-the-Meter development as a near-term opportunity
- Selectively approach Front-of-the-Meter opportunities that meet certain feasibility criteria
- Consider public private partnerships to unlock more complex opportunities

Thank You