

# Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

2013 ENERGY CHAMPION - NON-PROFIT



*"The support we feel from SDG&E is so welcoming and helpful. We are incredibly proud of what the collaboration between our facility managers, SDG&E, and our trade professionals has accomplished."*

**PETER COMISKEY,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
BALBOA PARK  
CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

*To share energy-related best practices, BPCP has developed numerous educational programs for the community and its staff including a walk-about series of tours using the energy-efficiency upgrades made across its institutions as living case studies.*

**Annual Savings: 1,059,689 kWh; 7,660 therms**  
**SDG&E® Incentives: \$126,482**

## Highlights

- Lighting and HVAC retrofits
- Energy management systems
- 3 LEED®-certified buildings
- Rooftop photovoltaic installation
- 22 ASHRAE Level 1 and LEED building audits
- EV charging stations

## Working together for sustainability success

Balboa Park is a San Diego landmark and one of the community's greatest treasures. As the park approaches its 2015 centennial, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP) is helping ensure sustainability is celebrated, as well. The group's environmental efforts started in 2008 as an educational program designed to teach facilities directors about greening their institutions. Since then, the BPCP has set a goal of making Balboa Park a sustainable urban park. By working with SDG&E®, the group has achieved dramatic energy savings through a variety of programs. Comments Peter Comiskey, Executive Director of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, "This collaboration is very exciting. We believe it's a unique model for achieving the green museum ideal."

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## About the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is a non-profit organization through which 27 arts, science, and cultural institutions in Balboa Park collaborate to achieve shared goals. By helping these groups achieve greater organizational efficiency, innovation and excellence, it seeks to contribute to the vitality and sustainability of Balboa Park. Its 500 trustees, 7,000 volunteers, and 3,500 staff serve more than 6.2 million visitors annually.

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### Taking the LEED® in energy efficiency

Members of the BPCP participated in audits that identified lighting fixture, HVAC system, energy management system, and server virtualization improvements. The organizations qualified for \$2.3 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to make these energy-efficiency upgrades. To build upon this, the BPCP coordinated another level of audits to uncover additional upgrades and meet the Park's goal of increasing LEED certifications from three to ten by 2015. During twenty-two building audits conducted through the Local Government Partnership program, seven potential LEED candidates were identified. Jessica Rinaman, Manager, Sustainability for the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership explains, "The audits identified what needed to be done. We then determined what could get done, and built a timeline to make it happen."

### Fostering sustainable collaboration

The BPCP has also committed to education. Monthly facilities directors' meetings enable idea sharing and cooperation. By working together, a number of the organizations have been able to take advantage of energy-efficiency programs through SDG&E. As part of the SDG&E Capacity Bidding Program (CBP), the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the Museum of Photographic Arts have made great strides in reducing energy use and shedding load during critical events. Many institutions also work with the SDG&E Emerging Technologies (ET) program to install and test new technologies to find those best suited to museums.

Trade professionals play a key role in BPCP'S efforts. Lighting designer and electrical contractor Absolutely Electric has become a go-to resource for innovative, energy-efficient lighting solutions for unique gallery spaces. For HVAC, A.O. Reed & Co. and Alpha Mechanical have uncovered new technologies and coordinated participation in SDG&E

programs like On-Bill Financing (OBF), Energy Efficiency Business Incentives (EEBI), and Energy Efficiency Business Rebates (EEBR) for various Balboa Park organizations. This has resulted in \$126,482 in SDG&E incentives.

### On the right track with renewable energy

Balboa Park has also explored a number of renewable energy sources. The photovoltaic installation on the roof of the Fleet Science Center is a model for integrating new technologies in a historic design. Because Balboa Park is a National Historic Landmark District, solar installations cannot be visible. The Fleet implemented a discreet installation with a live-feed into an educational exhibit. There are also a number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Park, including the new solar trees erected in the zoo parking lot that provide shade for parking and EV charging through the SDG&E Sustainable Communities program.

From retrofits to renewable energy, BPCP has made dramatic inroads in creating a sustainable urban park. Every institution has completed some sort of energy conservation effort. With 1,059,689 kWh and 7,660 therms of new annual savings in 2012, the Park is on track for a greener future. Notes Kim Ketron, SDG&E Account Executive for Balboa Park, "SDG&E is proud to serve as Balboa Park's energy advisor. We're always thinking about new ways to help them achieve their sustainability goals." With its commitment to continued improvement, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership has set the stage for a sustainable 2015 centennial celebration.

### For more information

To learn which SDG&E program is right for your business, contact your SDG&E Account Executive, call the Energy Savings Center at: **1-800-644-6133** or email [businessenergysavings@sdge.com](mailto:businessenergysavings@sdge.com).

These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by SDG&E® under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. Rebates and incentives are provided on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are no longer available.

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