

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



"Our partnership with SDG&E to promote energy efficiency has been invaluable in helping us achieve a collective annual savings of over \$1 million and maximizing efforts to share our sustainability model."

PETER COMISKEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BALBOA PARK CULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP) helps to preserve and enhance Balboa Park by promoting and implementing sustainability best practices among member institutions.

2010-2012 Savings: 3,025,870 kWh; 15,990 therms
SDG&E® Incentives: \$304,723

Highlights

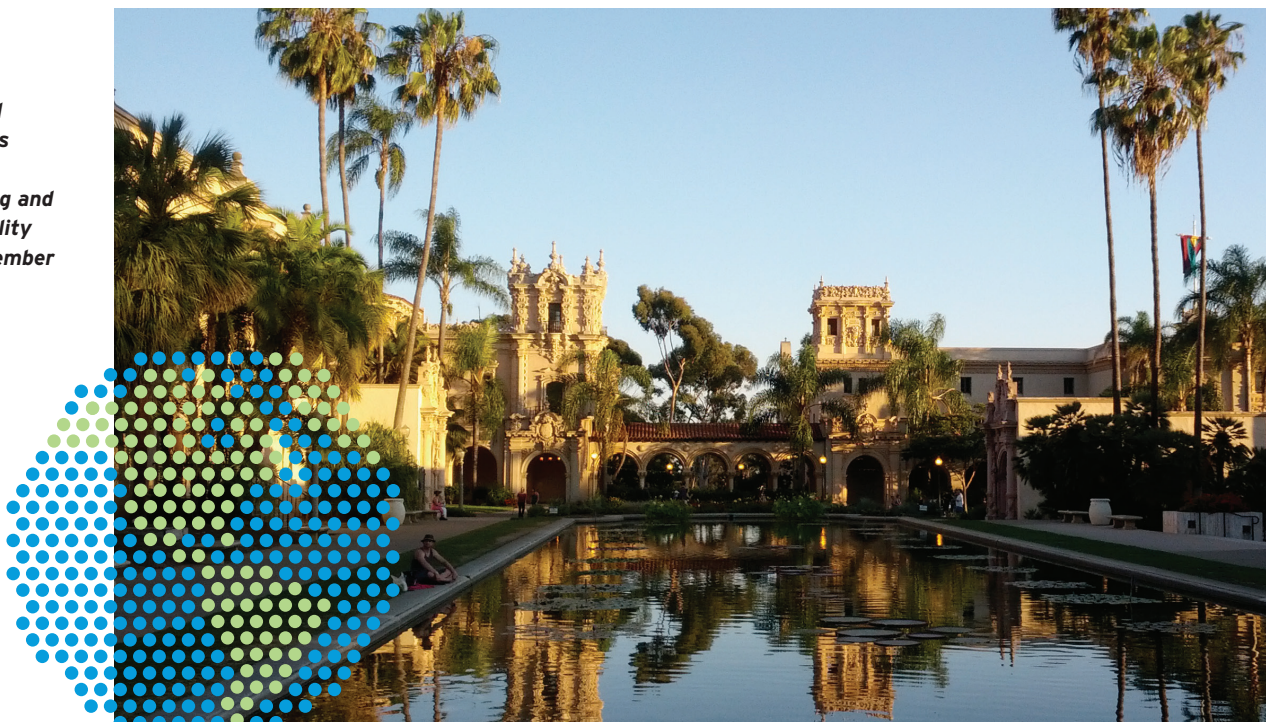
- CO₂ emissions cut by 3,352 metric tons
- \$800,000 saved on energy costs annually
- 2010 Sustainability Showcase Award for Commercial Buildings
- More than 5,000 educational workshop attendees

Cultural epicenter advances sustainability

Known as the "Crown Jewel of San Diego" and encompassing 1,200 acres, Balboa Park is the nation's largest urban park. Home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, the Park offers an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts and classes. In order to help protect its resources, strengthen economic viability, and enhance the visitor experience for generations to come, the Park needed to develop a long-term energy strategy.

In 2008, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP) launched its Environmental Sustainability Program to preserve and enhance Balboa Park by promoting and implementing sustainability best practices among member institutions. Collaborating with the City of San Diego and SDG&E®, BPCP continues to establish Balboa Park as an exemplary model of sustainability.

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About the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership

Founded in 2003, the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is a nonprofit organization that provides a means for the 27 Balboa Park institutions to identify and evaluate collective goals in order to achieve greater organizational efficiency, innovation, and excellence. The BPCP's primary mission is to preserve, enhance, and make accessible the arts, science, and cultural assets of Balboa Park for present and future generations. Its trustees, volunteers, and staff serve more than 6.2 million visitors annually.

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Getting with the Cool Planet Program

With each institution in Balboa Park being as diverse as the installations housed within, there was no "one-size-fits-all" solution to increase the energy efficiency of each structure. Understanding that energy audits are the most effective way to identify opportunities, SDG&E provided funding for training BPCP-member facility managers on how to use the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager, a program that measures energy performance and water consumption, assesses energy management goals over time, and identifies strategic opportunities for savings and recognition. The training also illustrated SDG&E's Kwickview software to help museums take control of their energy use. Through these systems, the BPCP has become the first network of cultural institutions in the country to benchmark its energy performance.

The BPCP also funded assistance for its members to join SDG&E and The Climate Registry's Cool Planet Project, which offers resources to take action against climate change. Participation in The Cool Planet Project was a real "win-win" for BPCP members because in addition to reaping the financial benefits of reduced energy costs, the organizations were able to earn recognition as environmental leaders.

Modernizing through energy efficiency

The BPCP introduced museum operators to SDG&E's energy-efficiency programs that could help them reduce energy consumption and costs. On-Bill Financing, for example, allows operators to finance new energy-efficient equipment through their utility bills. Since 2008, more than \$400,000 worth of energy-efficient equipment has been purchased by BPCP members through On-Bill Financing, which helped those institutions earn over \$100,000 in incentives and rebates. Direct Install and other programs also provide financial incentives and administrative support for upgrading to energy-efficient equipment that facilitates more sustainable operations.

On the LEED-ing edge of sustainability

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification provides third-party verification of green buildings that excel in energy efficiency and sustainability measures. To showcase the incredible achievements of its member institutions, BPCP worked with SDG&E to assist the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center, San Diego Natural History Museum and the World Beat Center in becoming LEED certified, further demonstrating the Park's leadership in environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

California's Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan is a roadmap to integrate cost-effective, energy-efficiency practices through 2020 and beyond. The Local Government Partnership Program (LGP) is a collaboration between regulated utilities and numerous organizations to help our local governments become leaders in reducing energy use and emissions. The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is part of this energy solution through its partnership with SDG&E. Working together we lead by example by fostering an environment of sustainability through new initiatives.

P.O. Box 129831 | San Diego, CA 92112-9831 | Connect at sdge.com

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