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Chollas EcoVillage

A Zero Net Energy (ZNE) Advanced Energy Community

A Project by Groundwork San Diego Funded by the California Energy Commission EPIC Program
Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek
2017 SDG&E Environmental Champion

- A Decade of Environmental Justice!
- Working with the community to restore Chollas Creek
  - Watershed Management
  - Chollas Creek-to-Bay Bikeway
- EarthLab UCSD Community Station
  - More than 2,000 students
  - Over 17,000 student hours
- Energy – Water Management Efforts
  - DWR Water Conservation Upgrades
- Chollas Creek Regional Park
Chollas EcoVillage DAC & ZNE

The Community

• CalEnviroScreen > 80%
• Incredible Diversity
  • Hispanic = 61%; Black = 21%
  • API = 21%; White = 3%
• Household > 2000+ Residents
  • Owner = 42%; Renter = 58%
    • 900+ SFDUs
    • 700+ MFDUs
  • AMI = $36,000
• 6 SDUSD School Sites
  • 85% > F/R Lunch

EPIC Grant

• Master Plan neighborhood into a ZNE community
  • Create a model for community-based, participatory climate action transformation
  • Develop local, community renewable energy generation
• Support San Diego Unified School District’s goal of ZNE facilities
• Advance the City of San Diego Climate Action Plan
• Climate Action survey (tri-lingual)
• Chollas EcoVillage media campaign:
  ✓ Print/broadcast media;
  ✓ Facebook “Take the Pledge;”
  ✓ Smart Phone Text “Take the Pledge”
• Outreach by young adults - Millennial Tech MS “Climate Action Ambassadors”
  ✓ English
  ✓ Spanish - https://youtu.be/w_a_2p1IrKA
Lessons Learned

• Climate action driven at the neighborhood-scale by shared local concern (heat, air, health)
• Engagement requires neighborhood-scale organizing to mitigate immigration-scam scares
• Need for a trusted CBO to implement and deliver information and content is paramount
• The CBO can, in turn, introduce and bring in other partners for optimal success
• Outcomes of engagement should be communicated by residents to fellow residents & decision-makers
• DAC residents demonstrate a compelling interest in Climate Action but outreach must be culturally-competent and cross-generational
Community Renewable Projects with SDUSD & City of San Diego as Site Hosts

- **Community Solar**
  - Location: EarthLab & School Sites

- **Fuel Cell w/ BioGas**
  - Location: EarthLab

- **BioDigestor w/ Turbines**
  - Location: Chollas Landfill (City of SD)
UC San Diego Center for Energy Research as Technical and EJ Partner

- List of potential distributed energy resources (DER)
- Potential Locations for Energy Resources
- Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Community Load Requirements
- Community Load Breakdown by Customer Class
- Capital Cost of Resource Scenarios
- Levelized Cost of Energy
- Energy Efficiency Improvements
- DER Financial Analysis
Generating Accessible & Affordable Renewable Energy

- Leveraging public incentives with private investment
- SDG&E EcoShare - SB43 Program
- IOU customers purchase renewable energy from community-based projects
- Customers receive a bill credit from SDG&E based on the size of their renewable energy purchase and a bill from the Community Renewable Developer
- Groundwork partners with SDUSD
  - District property vacated by CalTrans
  - Schools also subscribe to program
**EV Adoption in Chollas EcoVillage**

- **EV Affordability**
  - Forthcoming announcements for cash rebates on certain models
  - Working with OEMs for used EVs
  - CA Incentives including proposed AB 1184 (Ting) for cash rebates
  - Focus group of the 2000 UCSD employees residing in DACs with ample workplace charging

- **EV Charging Accessibility**
  - VW Settlement Agreement
    - 8 DAC sites proposed as a subset to UCSD’s VW application
    - San Diego designated priority region
    - DCFC units @ high volume corridors
  - SDG&E Power Your Drive Program
  - Forthcoming CEC EVSE Funding
  - Home and MUD demonstration sites under UCSD’s research
  - Regional EVSE Readiness Programs
Chollas EcoVillage Team