

# The San Diego Association of Governments

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



*“The Partnership was instrumental in the evolution of energy management planning for our region’s local governments. It was the missing link that enabled us to take the Energy Roadmap to the next level.”*

**SUSAN FREEDMAN**  
SENIOR REGIONAL  
ENERGY PLANNER,  
SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION  
OF GOVERNMENTS

## Highlights

- 12 Energy Roadmaps completed
- 261 Energy Report Cards & Audits generated
- Energy trainings and workshops provided
- More than \$469,000 of energy savings identified
- Potential demand reduction of 468 kW
- Green Operations Manual developed

## Setting the standard for regional energy management

A vital force behind San Diego's regional implementation of the California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan, SANDAG leveraged its Local Government Partnership with SDG&E® to provide innovative energy assessments to its member municipalities. Now a statewide prototype, SANDAG's comprehensive Energy Roadmap provides user-friendly navigation and a one-stop shop for local governments seeking to fuel their sustainability efforts. It's a model approach to support cities that lack full-time energy management staff and have low or no participation in energy-savings programs. Through no-cost energy-efficiency and conservation outreach, planning, and technical assistance, the Partnership-funded program enabled San Diego's local governments to deliver significant energy savings that would not otherwise be captured. The program also provided training for these municipalities to support their future leadership in energy management through the development of dedicated government and community energy programs. The entire process has been instrumental in the evolution of regional energy management planning, making it a more actionable and effective initiative to achieve 2020 goals.

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**More than 260 audits fueled the compilation of SANDAG's Energy Roadmaps to help local cities navigate their way to increased energy savings and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**





## About SANDAG

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the primary public planning, research agency and forum for regional decision-making. With a Board comprised of elected officials from the 18 cities and county government, SANDAG builds consensus; obtains and allocates resources; plans, engineers, and builds public transportation; and provides information on a broad range of topics, from growth and safety to energy and economics, pertinent to the region's quality of life.

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### Getting more mileage in energy use

SANDAG's Energy Roadmaps help local jurisdictions identify energy-savings opportunities in government operations and the community. It's a framework for making their buildings and processes energy efficient, complying with state energy codes, and influencing energy-saving behavior among local residents and businesses. Recommendations are consistent with regional energy strategy and climate action plans and customized for turnkey integration into the city's general plan, codes and policies. SANDAG's initial efforts have focused on converting each city into an energy-management champion by working with them on plan creation and education, with the next phase dedicated to achieving energy savings.

### Navigating energy savings

When local governments lead by example and improve their own energy efficiency, they spend fewer taxpayer dollars, contribute to cleaner air and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Through wide-ranging, cost-effective measures, Energy Roadmaps drive municipalities to pursue energy upgrades and retrofits in their facilities, demonstrate emerging energy technologies, green their vehicle fleets, promote commuter benefits and evolve environmental stewardship among employees.

The process begins with free energy audits of government facilities to generate Energy Report Cards that benchmark the performance of lighting, motors, heating, cooling, appliances, vending machines, electric signage, roofing, insulation, windows and shading, self-generation technologies and more. SANDAG performed 185 initial audits, plus 76 phase-two audits for deeper discovery. Support was provided to identify and

help municipalities apply for energy-efficiency rebates and participation in programs like On-Bill Financing, which provides zero-percent financing for new energy-efficient equipment. The program also includes access to online tools and experts who can assist municipalities with building improvements, petroleum reduction measures and community outreach.

Energy Roadmap recommendations identified upwards of 1,000 therms of natural gas and well over three million kilowatt hours (kWh) in potential energy savings in hundreds of municipal structures, which could result in more than \$469,000 in cost savings. An additional \$452,600 in savings through energy rate changes for local sports parks revealed a source of capital that could be reinvested in energy upgrades and retrofits. Collectively, recommendations made across the 12 cities could result in an energy demand reduction of 468 kilowatts (kW).

### Taking energy efficiency on the road

Energy Roadmaps further suggest strategies for community outreach that engage the city's residents, schools and businesses through access to energy-efficiency resources, programs, workforce training and incentives, as well as smart growth policies that encourage municipalities to pursue an environmentally-sensitive pattern of development.

### All roads lead to sustainability

The Partnership also supported SANDAG's development of a Green Operations Manual as a reference guide for daily energy-efficiency best practices as well as the procurement and operation of energy-efficient equipment. The manual is used internally and is also available online at no cost for use by regional public agencies.

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. SANDAG 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.

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