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## **TWO CITIES' HARD WORK TO SAVE ENERGY PAYS OFF WITH MONEY BACK**

**South Bay** - The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) and Southern California Edison (SCE) recently honored two South Bay cities - Hawthorne and Inglewood - for reaching new heights in Kilowatt-hour savings. Both cities have achieved Gold status by reducing their kWh usage by 10 percent over their initial baseline. The savings were achieved through SCE's Energy Leader Program, which encourages local government customers to participate in Edison energy efficiency and demand-response programs.

The Energy Leader Program rewards participating cities with a standard cash incentive, plus increased incentives for reaching tiered levels of cumulative kWh savings. These additional incentives can be achieved through energy-efficient projects such as retrofitting local government buildings, and through local government outreach efforts that support community-wide participation in Energy Efficiency (EE) and Demand Response (DR) activities.

For example, achieving a 5 percent kWh reduction (compared against a baseline set in 2004) earns participating cities Silver Level status, for which the city receives SCE's standard EE cash incentive and an additional six cents for every kWh saved. Reaching the 10 percent reduction tier, or Gold Level, lifts the additional incentive to nine cents for every kWh saved. The ultimate 20 percent tier—Platinum Level—returns an added 12 cents to the city per kWh saved. Reaching each tiered level requires cities to meet both EE and DR criteria.

The cities of Hawthorne and Inglewood were both recognized at an Energy Leader Forum for achieving their Gold Level status; they have reduced their kWh usage by another additional 5 percent kWh reduction over the Silver Level (10 percent over their initial baseline). Both cities are aiming for the Platinum Level – an additional 10 percent kWh reduction over the Gold Level (20 percent reduction over baseline level).

SBESC, SCE and SCG provide comprehensive support to help cities achieve their energy savings and demand reduction goals. SBESC is a program of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

### ***SBESC***

*The SBESC is the South Bay's local clearinghouse for energy and water efficiency training, materials and other environmental information. SBESC works closely with the sixteen South Bay cities and County Unincorporated Areas of the South Bay on the implementation of energy and water saving projects that reduce greenhouse gases as well as costs. SBESC provides resources and tools to assist residents, businesses, and public agencies in better understanding the potential for energy and water efficiency within their homes and businesses. The Center hosts a wide variety of seminars, training sessions, and participates in many community events to assist consumers in making the best decision regarding energy and water use. The SBESC is operated by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) which partners with The Gas Company<sup>SM</sup>, Southern California Edison, West Basin Municipal Water District, City of Torrance Water Department, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and County of Los Angeles. Visit [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com) for the latest activities, schedules and opportunities to participate in a greener South Bay.*

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