



**SOUTH BAY CITIES**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



**SOUTH BAY**  
**ENERGY SAVINGS CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Torrance, CA (June 7, 2006) – The South Bay Energy Savings Center (SBESC), a project of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, announced that it has successfully implemented the Energy Controller Purchasing Initiative where it expects to deploy over 160 vending machine energy saving devices throughout cities in the South Bay. With the installation of the energy controllers, it is expected the public agencies will realize savings of over 260,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and more than \$40,000 in energy costs per year. By SBESC aggregating city purchases and coordinating rebates South Bay cities have been able to purchase this equipment at significantly discounted prices and reduced staff time. This program has been offered to other South Bay public agencies and SBESC is also inviting South Bay businesses to take advantage of it.

As part of a broader Public Agency Energy Efficiency Program (EE+) included within the SBESC's program offerings which include trainings and dissemination of information on energy savings, EE+ is designed to assist South Bay public agencies to achieve energy and cost savings through innovative approaches, such as joint procurement. The goal for the program is to complete energy efficiency projects that would deliver over 3 million kilowatt hours of energy savings. This would result in a cost savings of over \$2 million over five years, or about \$650,000 per year.

Our first initiative – the energy controller – focused on a relatively simple device. However, its ability to deliver substantial savings is powerful. Each controller can reduce over 1,000 kilowatt hours of energy use per vending machine, resulting in a savings that is three to four times the cost of the device.

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The Energy Controller Purchasing Initiative makes available several energy saving devices. The VendingMiser®, designed for use with refrigerated units, will power-down a machine after sensing 15 minutes of zero foot traffic in its vicinity.

“This first initiative was a successful demonstration of the power of cities working together through joint procurement,” said Susan Dever, SBCCOG Chairperson and Lomita City Councilmember. “We look forward to coordinating a great many more such initiatives to provide our cities with additional opportunities to save money and energy.” Additional initiatives with public agencies are planned to pursue energy efficient lighting retrofits, street and traffic lighting improvements, more energy efficient ball field lighting, upgrades to heating ventilation and air-conditioning systems, pumps, computer network energy management systems and solar photovoltaic systems.

This successful initiative shows that joint procurement works. Not only did this approach save the South Bay cities thousands of dollars in upfront costs, it simplified the processing of utility rebate applications via a single point of contact.

The second initiative is directed at energy savings on networked computers and will be kicked off at a meeting for City and School District personnel on June 14.

The program is open to school districts (El Segundo Unified School District is already participating) and businesses throughout the South Bay.

For more information on the VendingMiser® or other energy efficiency programs, call the SBESC at 310-543-3022.

The South Bay Energy Savings Center is funded by California ratepayers and administered by the Gas Company and Southern California Edison under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.