



April – May 2011 News and Events

Learn How Solar Can Be a Part of Energy Upgrade California Successful Solar Fair Hosted by Southern California Edison

The South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), in conjunction with Southern California Edison (SCE) hosted a FREE Solar Fair in Torrance on Thursday, March 24th. Over 75 homeowners were in attendance. Lots of good information was presented by SCE and there was the opportunity for attendees to talk with six different licensed solar contractors to have specific questions answered. Attendees were able to schedule appointments with contractors to assess their home's potential for a solar energy system; learn about existing financial options for solar; and receive up-to-date California Solar Initiative (CSI) and SCE energy efficiency rebate information.

One message that was repeated throughout the presentation was the importance of making certain your home is as energy efficient as possible **BEFORE** selecting a solar system. Ask your participating Energy Upgrade CA contractor how you can apply for the "enhanced" package. You may be eligible to participate in the Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County program for energy efficient upgrades to your home that may result in receiving up to \$4,500 in incentives from the utility companies and the County of Los Angeles. Call SBESC for more information. To find an EUC participating contractor, please go to the following website: EnergyUpgradeCA.org. Once you type in Los Angeles County, you can access the [Find a Contractor](#) page.

If you already work with a contractor who is NOT an EUC participating contractor, you may want to encourage your contractor to visit energyupgradeCA.org to find out how to become a [participating contractor](#).

Key points to remember:

- California Solar Initiative (CSI), along with the 3-% Federal Incentive Tax Credit, can reduce the cost of a solar system by as much as 45%.
- Make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible **BEFORE** selecting a solar system
- Get three bids before selecting a reliable contractor.
- Make sure you ask the cost per watt!! And verify the cost per watt *before* signing a contract.
- The average home requires a 2 kW to 6 kW solar system.
- Solar system must meet your specific needs; provide contractor with 12 month kWh consumption history (available through your utility company).
- Solar panels should be free of shade on a south- or southwest-facing roof.
- It is important to keep solar panels clean for optimum performance.

[California Solar Statistics](#) is the official public reporting site of the California Solar Initiative (CSI). This site allows you to find information on active solar contractors (who are participating in CSI) in your area, including contact information and completed project statistics (average system size, number of projects in the area, average cost per watt).