



# RISING SUN ENERGY CENTER

Building Healthy Communities through Climate Solutions and Green Career Pathways

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

## CALIFORNIA YOUTH ENERGY SERVICES

### ANTIOCH and SURROUNDING AREA (Oakley, Brentwood, Bay Point) - 2012 CYES SUMMARY

In 2012, Rising Sun Energy Center offered residences free energy conservation services and hardware by running the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program in the Antioch area for its first year. CYES hires and trains local youth to provide free in-home energy education and hardware installation to homeowners and renters.

The CYES program demonstrated high success in the summer of 2012 in the Antioch area by:

- Providing employment and training to **9** youth, ages 15-22
- Providing **303** households with energy saving hardware and information



**INSTALLED MATERIALS:** Energy Specialists installed the following materials in Antioch area homes at no cost:

- **2,787** Compact fluorescent lamps
- **229** Efficient-flow showerheads & aerators
- **57** Retractable clotheslines
- **175** CFL torchiere lamps
- **243** Powerstrips
- **64** Feet of water heater pipe insulation

#### HOUSEHOLDS SERVED IN ANTIOCH AREA:

- **59%** were renters
- **87%** were low-moderate income households
- **27%** were primarily non-English speaking

Antioch Area Client Demographics			
Language		Ethnicity	
English	73%	Caucasian	30%
Spanish	12%	African American	28%
Japanese	3%	Hispanic/Latino	25%
Other	12%	Asian/Pacific Islander	13%
		Other	4%
Home Information		Additional Information	
Average Square Footage	1,320	Persons with Disabilities	24%
Average Household Size	3	Senior Citizens	21%

#### ENERGY AND WATER SAVINGS

The installation of these measures resulted in an annual reduction of **183,702** kWh, **1,890** therms, and **224** gallons of water per minute, thereby reducing **136.5** metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. This is equivalent to **one** of the following CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from **15,303** gallons of gasoline
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from **317** barrels of oil consumed
- Carbon sequestered annually from **29.1** acres of pine or fir forests

<sup>1</sup> Calculated using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CYES provides services to all community members regardless of income. However, it was designed to serve hard-to-reach residents including renters, low-moderate income households, and non-English speaking households, who often miss out on services due to language barriers. CYES brings services directly to these households via bilingual Energy Specialists and renter-specific marketing. Since Energy Specialists are hired directly from the communities they serve, their language skills mirror the community itself and allow increased access to non-English speaking households.

We place primary importance on connecting with each client, and providing reliable, trustworthy, and relevant information, so that clients gain a new level of access to efficiency information. In order to market the CYES program and recruit clients for its free service, CYES staff target local community-based organizations, neighborhood and housing associations, and community events, therefore engaging the community on a variety of levels.



**Major Activities:** In 2012, CYES staff successfully recruited clients and promoted the program in the Antioch area through a variety of outreach activities. Residents learned about the service through community events, media, presentations, referrals, and door-to-door canvassing. The following activities were season highlights: City of Antioch Earth Day, Antioch Clean-Up Day, Antioch Farmer's Markets, Antioch Kaiser Farmer's Markets, Kiwanis Club meeting, Booster Club meeting, Pool Safety Day, Fire Department Torchiere Swap event, and articles in the Contra Costa Times and San Jose Mercury News.

## ENERGY AND WATER EDUCATION

Energy Specialists provided energy and water savings tips at the end of each CYES audit. Clients received customized recommendations for further energy and water savings through a report delivered via email or standard mail. These recommendations included both behavioral changes and additional home upgrades. The results from a basic client survey on energy and water saving behaviors are reported below.

Did you know it saves energy to:	Knew prior to CYES audit	Now informed through CYES
Run the dishwasher and clotheswasher with full loads at off-peak hours?	62%	100%
Clean refrigerator coils once a year?	39%	100%
Change A/C and/or furnace filter yearly?	66%	100%
Turn off heat/AC when not home?	89%	100%
Turn off water heater or set to vacation mode when you leave town?	51%	100%
Air dry clothes on a clothesline?	90%	100%
Defrost fridge and freezers before ice build up reaches 1/4 inch thick?	64%	100%
Install adequate insulation?	80%	100%

## CLIENT FEEDBACK

At each Green House Call, a pre-stamped client feedback card is left to solicit client feedback and referrals. In 2012, **100%** of Antioch area clients who responded rated the overall program quality as good or excellent. See a sample of the client feedback below:

*"I think this is a good program for the youth and it also educates the public on how to save energy. I appreciate your help. The Energy Specialists were very professional."*

*"The two youth represented your organization in the most professional manner. They were courteous and respectful to our house rules. They were very knowledgeable of the programs goals and answered all questions we had."*

*"Very courteous and respectful. Did an outstanding job!"*