Making a Difference

Smaller California **Cities Collaborate for Energy Savings**



Beginning in 2007,

Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI) partnered with several small cities in the San Francisco Bay Area on an EPA-backed initiative, the Small Cities Climate Action Partnership (ScCAP).

The project

Greenhouse Gas

Emissions

was designed to discover how small cities with limited resources could find energy solutions by collaborating with one another.



The cities of the ScCAP

wanted to reduce their energy use, in part from a desire to make a difference in a state that is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some cities are developing Climate Action Plans (CAPs) to determine if they are on track.

The SEI team helped identify opportunities for savings and organize/assess the energy data of

Bay Area Cities:











All ScCAP participants needed

- convenient energy data input
- access and archiving options
- intuitive database navigation features
- powerful benchmarking and reporting tools

SEI introduced the web-based version of EnergyCAP.

It provided these functionalities at a price amenable to program participants.

> ScCAP energy managers used EnergyCAP's Dashboard to quickly get an overview of their managed facilities, identify energy intensive facilities, and to spot billing irregularities.

Benicia used EnergyCAP to discover opportunities for rate optimization for six facilities, saving the city **\$3000** per year with optimized electricity rates.

The ScCAP used EnergyCAP to generate custon to quickly visualize raw data into easily-grasped charts, tables, and graphs. Based on the visualizations, the cities identified potential energy savings projects.

San Pablo found that one of the Administration buildings had erratic energy usage.

The energy data prompted a building audit, the city maintenanced the building, and is moving forward on a \$42,000

weatherization project expected to pay for itself





SEI advised cities to develop "Reinvestment Mechanisms" to funnel savings from one energy project into future projects. EnergyCAP can provide the measurement and verification tools to help quantify these savings.

El Cerrito implemented lighting retrofits at most of its facilities as part of a Public Works program that reinvests dollar savings resulting from efficiency projects back into new energy and water efficiency projects.



By using EnergyCAP, El Cerrito staff has been able to demonstrate savings from cost avoidance based on their retrofits with hard numbers. The total comes to more than **\$20,000** in annual avoided costs

Using EnergyCAP, ScCAP participants were able to share their work, processes, and best practices to develop and/or implement their Climate Action Plans.



In addition, several of the ScCAP partners have initiated a state-wide network of small cities whose stakeholders communicate regularly about energy and climate issues for small cities.

