

BayREN: Advancing Energy Efficiency & Electrification

The Case for Energy Efficiency

California has set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change. Since buildings account for a significant share of energy use and emissions, reducing their reliance on fossil fuels by promoting efficiency and electrification is crucial to meeting those goals and transitioning to cleaner, more resilient buildings.

Local and regional efforts play an important role in helping the state to meet these targets and ensure that they are done equitably. The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is a coalition of the Bay Area's nine counties partnering to promote resource efficiency at the regional level, focusing on energy, water, and greenhouse gas reduction.

StopWaste's Role in BayREN

Established in 2013 under the California Public Utilities Commission, BayREN provides local governments access to utility ratepayer funding for energy efficiency programs while maintaining operational independence.

StopWaste represents Alameda County jurisdictions within BayREN, taking a leadership role by heading two regional initiatives: the BayREN Multifamily and Green Labeling programs, while supporting outreach for eight additional programs that address topics such as water efficiency, business assistance, and workforce training. StopWaste manages Alameda County's BayREN contract, budget, and reporting, ensuring local jurisdictions receive maximum benefits from these offerings.

Program Highlights

The **BayREN Multifamily program**, California's longest-running multifamily energy efficiency initiative, provides technical assistance and rebates for energy upgrades that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving resident safety and comfort. Two years ago, the program shifted to prioritize equity, focusing on smaller, deed-restricted and unsubsidized affordable housing properties in disadvantaged communities.

The **Green Labeling program** brings the U.S. Department of Energy's Home Energy Score to the Bay Area while providing valuable professional education to real estate professionals. Winner of a Department of Energy innovation award, this successful initiative will expand statewide in January 2026, becoming the first non-Investor-Owned Utility ratepayer funded program to operate at the state level.

For more information about BayREN, visit [BayREN.org](https://www.BayREN.org).



The Bay Area Regional Energy Network helps advance energy efficiency and building electrification through local government partnerships across nine Bay Area counties.

BayREN Multifamily Program

Making buildings cleaner, safer, and more comfortable for residents.

Program Achievements Since 2013:

- Nearly 700 properties served
- Over 45,000 housing units improved
- \$40+ million in incentives distributed
- Energy savings of 20 million kWh of electricity and 1.9 million therms of natural gas

2024 Equity & Electrification Focus:

- 84% of projects are equity-focused properties
- 89% of projects include electrification measures
- Higher incentives for buildings in disadvantaged communities

Green Labeling Program

Home Energy Scoring and real estate professional education advancing efficiency and electrification.

Achievements Since 2018:

- Over 27,000 Home Energy Scores across the Bay Area
- \$1.66 million in rebates distributed in Alameda County
- Department of Energy Innovation Award winner

Real Estate Professional Engagement:

- 116 trainings conducted across the Bay Area
- Over 1,500 real estate professionals trained
- 14 trainings specifically in Alameda County
- 235 Alameda County real estate professionals engaged