CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Doing What MATTERS™
FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Teachable Moments Related to Prop 39

Considerations for IOUs working within the K-14 Environment

The Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) can help the Local Education Agencies[1] (LEAs) maximize the educational impact of Prop 39 capital infrastructure projects by helping develop programs along these lines.

Leveraging Contractor Relationships

LEAs can require their contractors to integrate selected services into academic and career technical education programs as a condition of Prop 39 capital infrastructure contracts. IOUs can educate the LEAs on a range of possibilities to negotiate with contractors:

- Making available subject matter experts and training materials for use in the classroom to impart new knowledge to students.
  - What will this capital improvement accomplish in terms of carbon reduction, energy savings, and financial benefits?
  - What is the technology designed to do and how does it work?
  - What jobs do the workers carry out in completing this project – describing the spectrum of occupations from design to installation to operations and maintenance?
  - What education and training do the workers need, and what are typical incomes for the various occupations?
  - Why would students want to pursue a career in energy efficiency?
- Conducting guided tours of construction sites so students, faculty, and the public can get a real-world feel for the work being done.
- Facilitating upgrades in faculty knowledge and skills.
  - Convening professional development sessions for faculty.
  - Assisting with integration of subject matter into mainstream coursework, e.g.
- Holding assemblies and distributing awareness material.
  - Educating the student body on benefits of energy efficiency.
  - Educating the public on the benefits of energy efficiency.
- Making financial contributions to educational programs.
  - Equipment
  - Paid internships
  - Scholarships for summer camps

[1] K-12 school districts and community colleges are LEAs

Upgrading Building Operations and Maintenance

IOUs could help assure sustainable performance by making Building Operator Certification (BOC) training available to the LEAs' facilities operations and maintenance personnel.

- BOC training is a standard offering at the IOUs' Energy Centers.
- Regional delivery of BOC training could be accomplished with IOU personnel delivering the course at selected LEAs across the service territory.
- Community college instructors could deliver BOC training regionally based on the IOU providing a train-the-trainer class.
- Longer term, BOC training could be delivered electronically or in a hybrid online/classroom format.

Building a Cadre of Ambassadors

IOUs can help inspire students to choose carbon reduction/energy efficiency as a preferred lifestyle and to inspire others via community action. In so doing, students may elect to pursue careers in carbon reduction/energy efficiency.

- An individual school or LEA can develop a community action program that engages students as ambassadors.
- Energy and environment career partnership academies, where they exist, could be the nucleus for a school or LEA program.
- Regional programs could be organized by a community college and surrounding school districts.
- Events, contests, and community campaigns can be developed to add excitement to the municipal Climate Action Plan.

Broadening the Impact of Teachable Moments

Multiple Prop 39 infrastructure projects will happen within an LEA and among the LEAs within a subregion. This wide range of business models, technologies, and projected outcomes offers opportunities for increasing the number of teachable moments. For example, projects in the Elk Grove LEA can become subject matter for courses in Sacramento Unified and all four colleges in the Los Rios Community College District. The number of teachable moments can be greatly multiplied through IOU facilitation of regional collaboration.

Living Laboratories

IOUs may want to consider helping develop a living laboratory at one or more sites. Choosing a site among the Energy and Environment Career Partnership Academies would be a logical place to begin thinking about this possibility. Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) such as Chevron Energy Solutions and Siemens may be willing to supply systems and expertise to crate these living laboratories. While important, physical equipment may be less impactful than the opportunities for visualization and analysis afforded by Energy Management Systems.