



20
24 | Annual
Report





Your Local Champion for Equitable Access to Energy Resources

Our mission is to build a stronger clean energy economy and community throughout California's Inland Empire by connecting residents, businesses, and local governments to a wide range of energy efficiency resources. Together, we will empower local governments to practice energy efficiency; support workforce education and training in our region; and enable code compliance in the building industry.

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Executive Summary



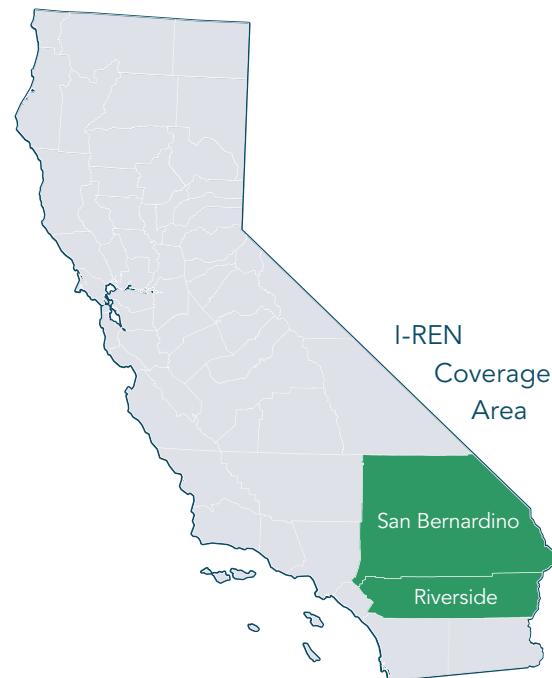
I-REN Overview

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is a consortium of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG), and Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) that serve the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino. These partners initially began collaborating in 2019 with a shared vision to establish locally administered, designed, and delivered energy efficiency (EE) programs.

Historically, the Inland Empire has faced challenges in receiving equitable opportunities to participate in EE and advanced energy. As dedicated representatives of local government, the I-REN consortium members bring established connections from their work serving this region to support filling gaps in existing EE services. The establishment of a Regional Energy Network (REN) in the Inland Empire region offers equitable opportunities for ratepayers in these communities to be engaged and active participants in meeting California's EE goals.

In February 2021, I-REN applied for REN portfolio administrator (PA) status to offer a portfolio of programs serving the Public Sector, Codes & Standards (C&S), and Workforce Education & Training (WE&T), with governance from WRCOG as the administrative lead agency, as well as SBCOG and CVAG. I-REN was authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) in Decision (D.) 21-11-013 Approval of Inland Regional Energy Network Energy Efficiency Business Plan, which funded I-REN to offer EE services through program year 2027.

As directed in D.21-11-013, I-REN plans to make a new portfolio filing in 2026 along with other PAs for program year 2028 and beyond.



2024: Driving Equitable EE and Resiliency in the Inland Empire

2024 was a year of significant milestones and growth across I-REN's portfolio. After launching select quick-start activities in the latter half of 2023, I-REN embarked on its first full year of those programs' operations in 2024 and saw participation increase across its portfolio. In parallel, I-REN initiated other program activities in close coordination with local, regional, and statewide stakeholders.

*As envisioned in its Business Plan, I-REN's portfolio is now **delivering tangible, cross-cutting public interest impacts and increasing equitable access to EE in the Inland Empire region.***

- I-REN's Energy Fellowship workforce initiative provides **job opportunities and experiential energy education** to participants who are placed at local jurisdictions to support energy projects. By funding the Energy Fellows, I-REN has **increased local agencies' capacity** to pursue energy efficiency, and I-REN's public sector pipeline now has **26 projects in progress where I-REN Energy Fellows have direct involvement** in supporting project completion.
- The first I-REN public sector Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) project completed construction in 2024 and is set to deliver **energy and bill savings for public facilities serving equity communities**. All projects in the I-REN public sector pipeline serve equity communities, and energy roadmapping and benchmarking services provided in 2024 were for **100% equity community-serving public facilities**.
- I-REN is leading the way with equitable Energy Code training for public sector and private sector building professionals, having hosted **the state's first REN-led, no-cost, multilingual technical training on the Energy Code**—a four-part module on air conditioning and heat pumps in Spanish.

I-REN continues to be guided by input from its communities and stakeholders. In the past year I-REN further expanded opportunities for community and industry input to its program designs and operations by convening stakeholders in all sectors of its portfolio through roundtables, working groups, energy forums, and more.

In 2024 I-REN also coordinated closely with its Fellow PAs to fulfill regulatory obligations as well as to enhance program offerings and ensure judicious use of ratepayer funds. When the Commission approved portfolios in D.23-06-055, it ordered that the PAs work together to examine various topics and submit joint advice letters. I-REN has been a diligent contributor to those efforts, embracing the opportunity to work collaboratively with Fellow PAs and advocate for equity and the value that RENs bring to the EE landscape. I-REN also worked closely with Fellow PAs in the region to avoid program overlap and to collaborate in ways that bring added value to participants.

Going into 2025, I-REN is continuing to expand program activities and deliver tangible benefits for not only program participants but also the region as a whole. While driving outcomes in its current portfolio, I-REN will also look to the future. I-REN's 2028–2035 portfolio application will be developed using insights gained from early program implementation, along with feedback from stakeholders regarding the energy efficiency and resilience needs of the Inland Empire.

I-REN Accomplishments From Business Plan Approval to Present



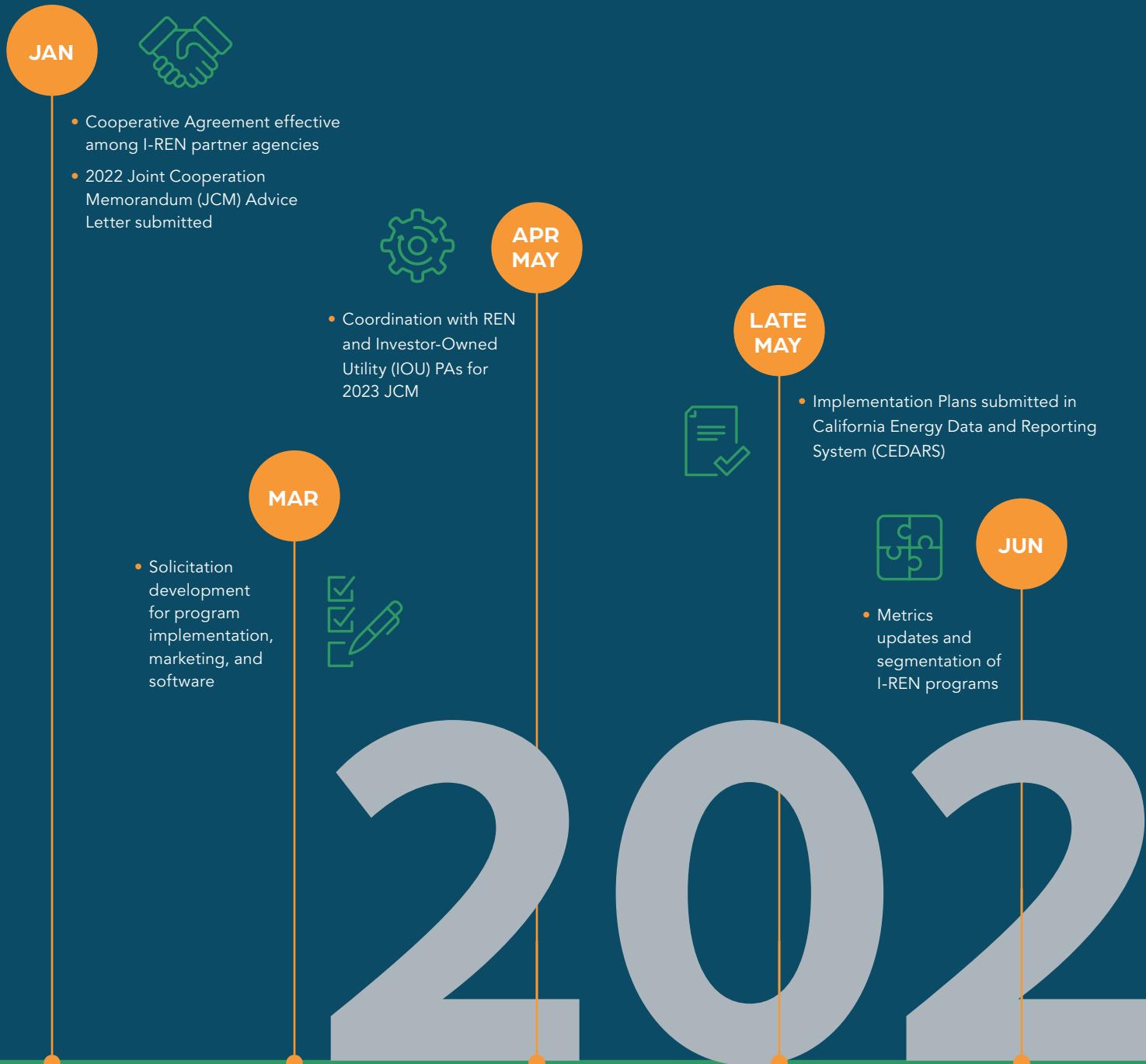
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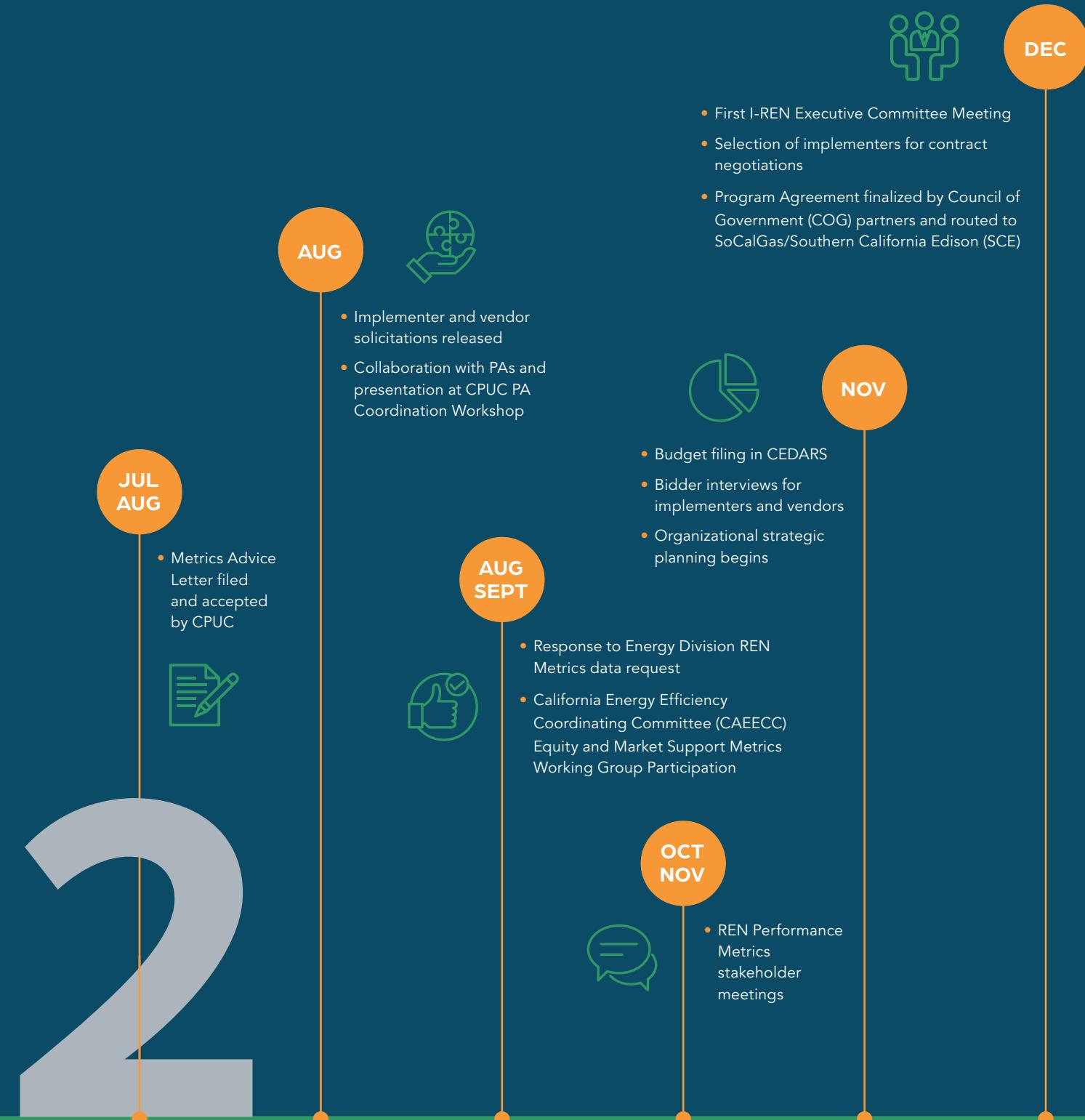


- Business Plan approved in D.21-11-013
- Building I-REN contacts list for local governments, tribes, and other stakeholders
- Began working with SoCalGas on Program Agreement
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and I-REN Governance and Operations Rules in development between I-REN partner agencies

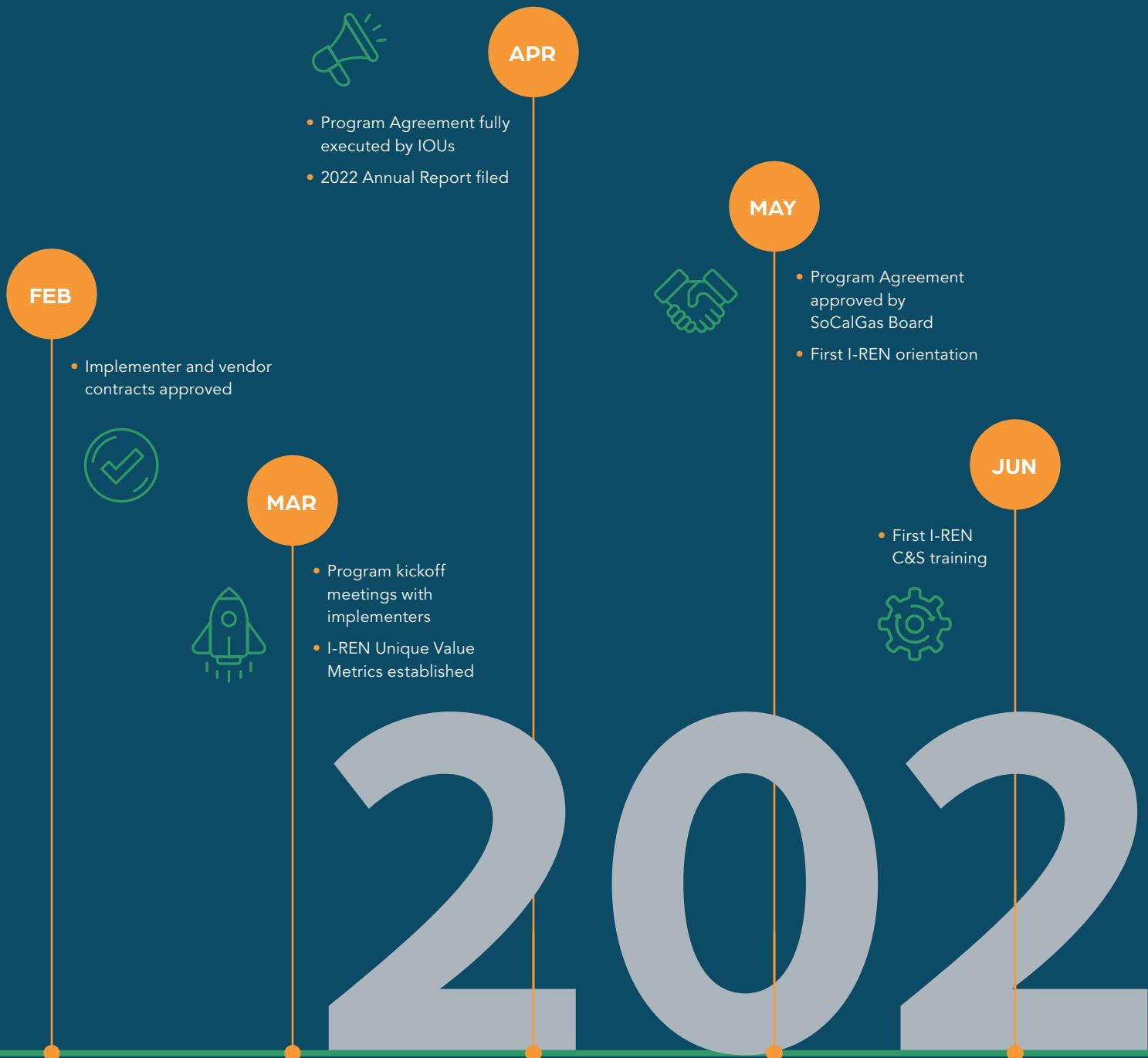
2021

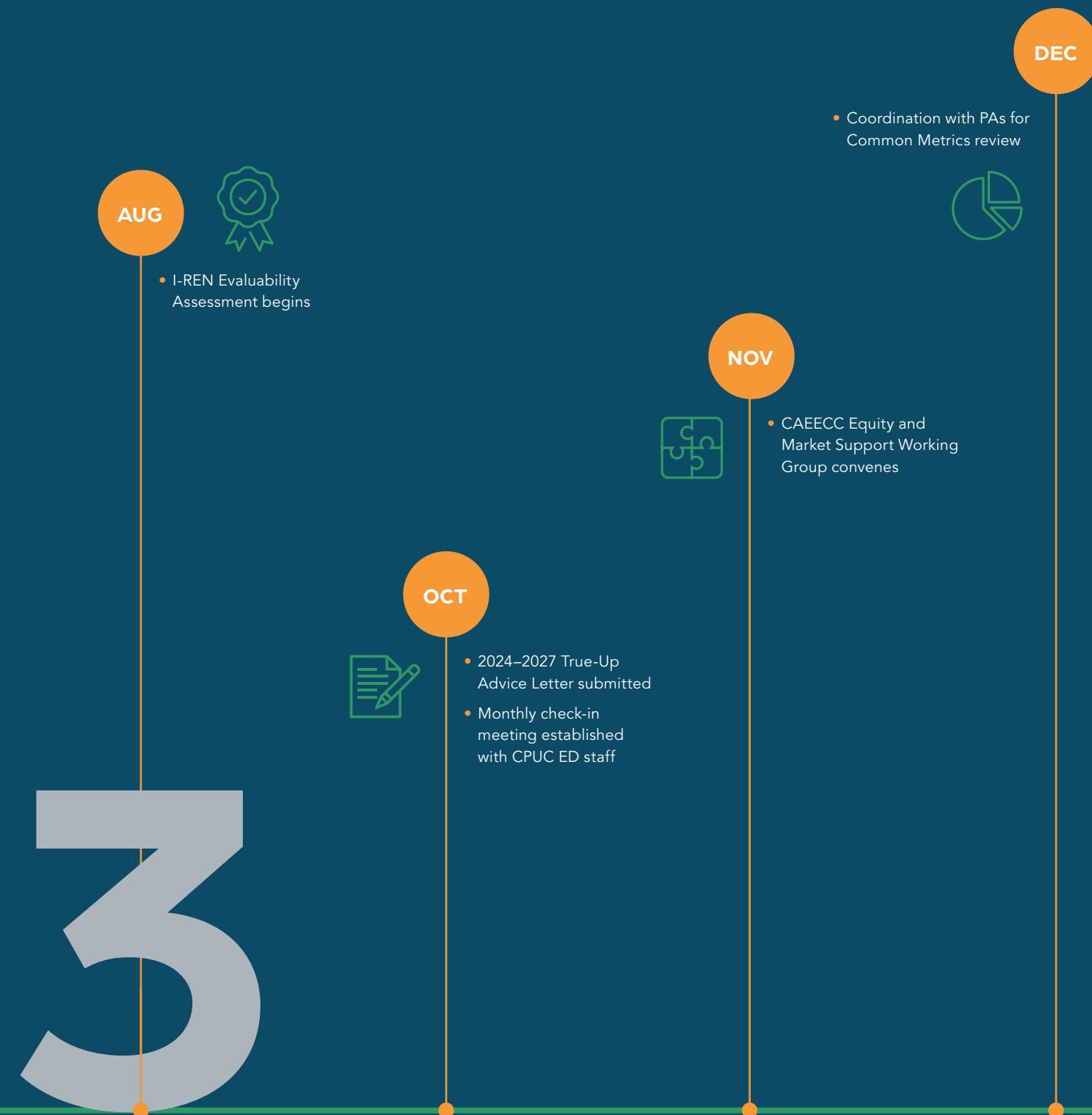
I-REN Accomplishments



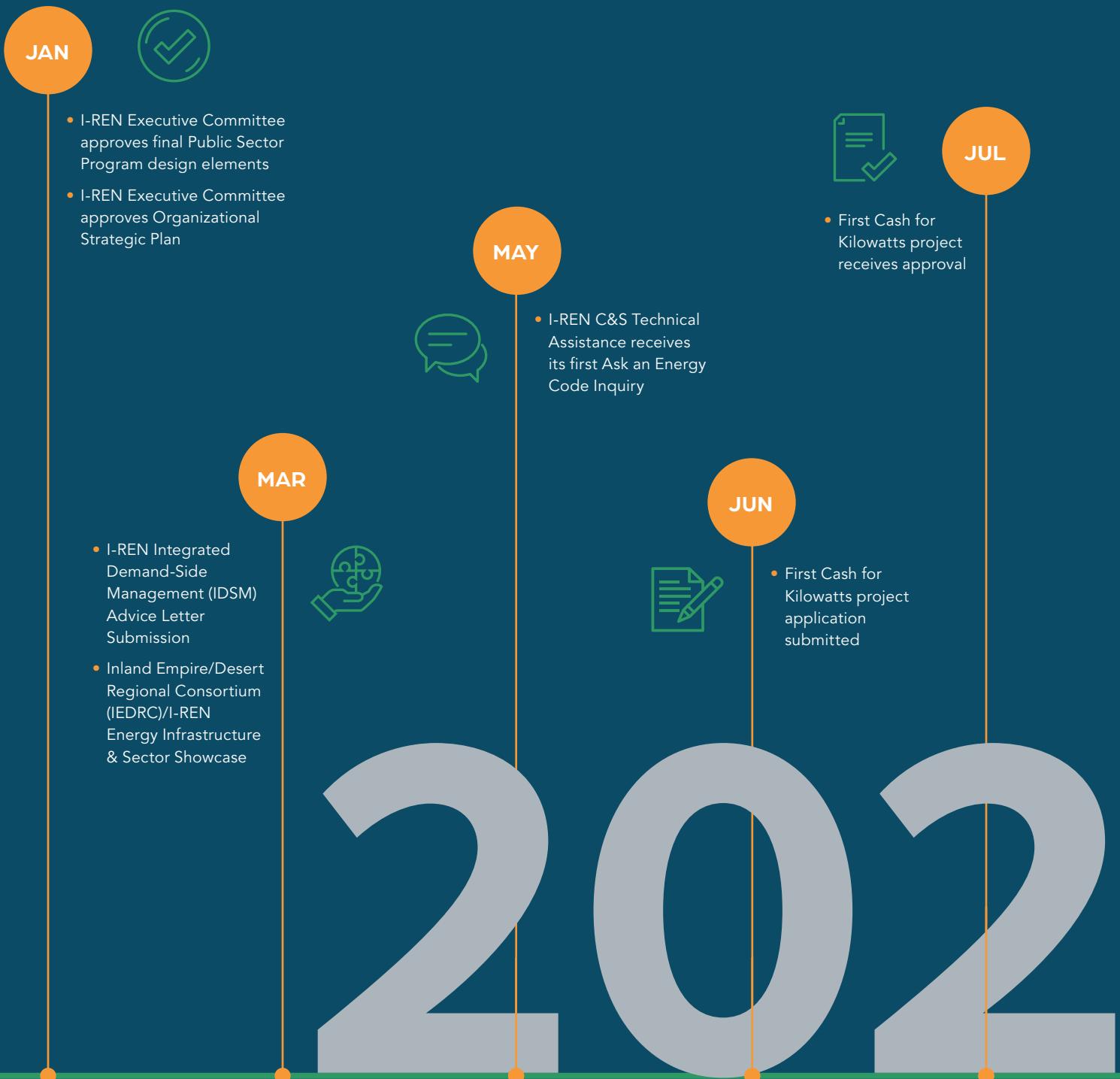


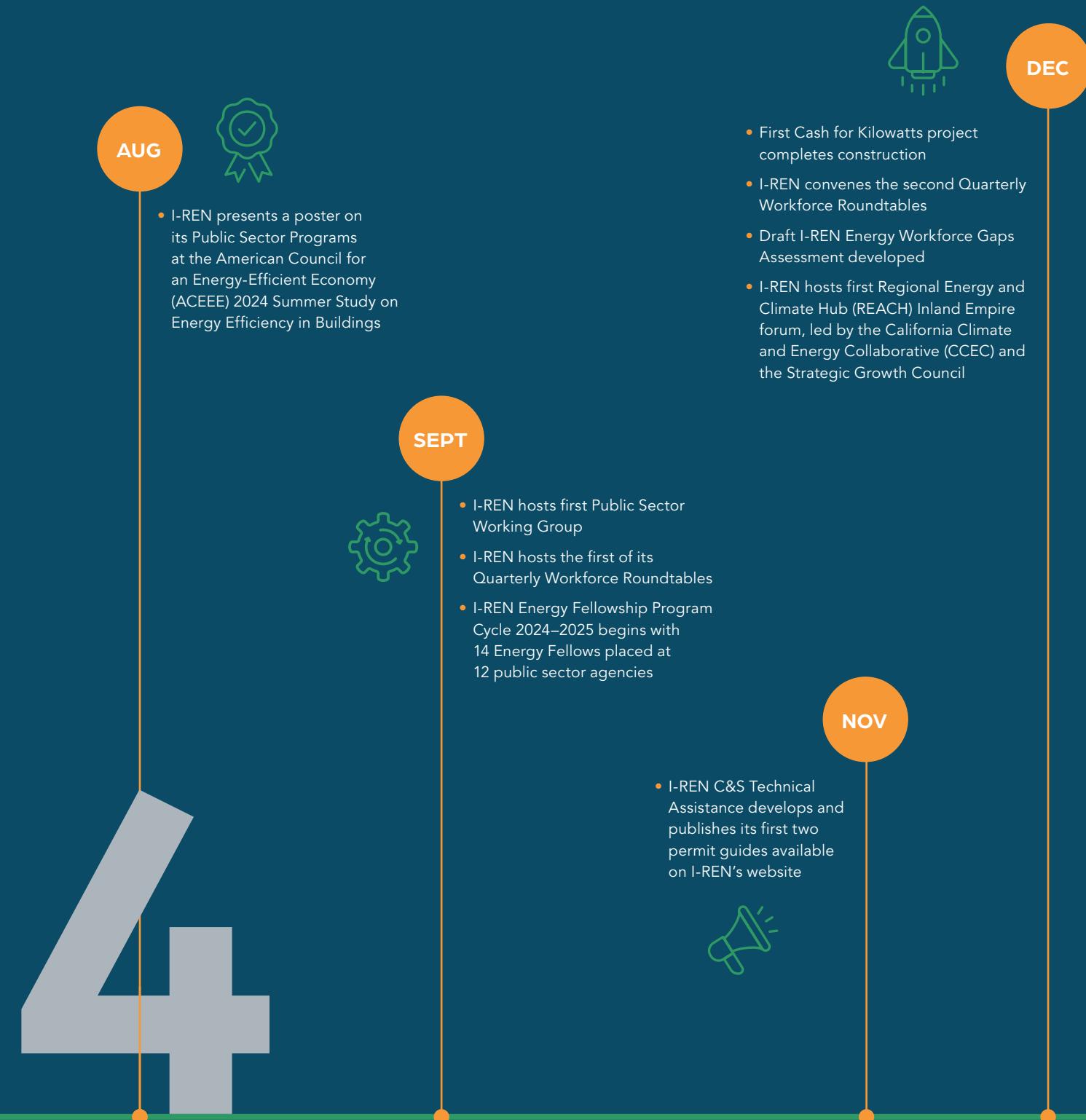
I-REN Accomplishments





I-REN Accomplishments







Public Sector Summary

I-REN's Public Sector Programs help public agencies complete energy efficiency projects.

I-REN offers a comprehensive suite of no-cost services and support, from project identification to completion, including cash incentives. I-REN helps identify energy-saving measures and then works alongside agency staff to fund and install them. In 2024, I-REN's Public Sector Programs received final approval from its Executive Committee on various program design elements, which paved the way for full program service delivery. I-REN focused on regional engagement and marketing campaigns to spread the word about programs and services. More than 50 agencies leveraged Public Sector Program offerings in 2024, and more than 70 attendees participated in I-REN's first Public Sector Working Group. I-REN helped agencies benchmark over 4.8 million square feet in 2024 through its strategic energy planning offerings, including the Building Upgrade Concierge. Through its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) initiative, I-REN helped agencies secure over \$1.8 million in funding. I-REN also conducted audits at 44 facilities and saw construction completion of its first Cash for Kilowatts project. In alignment with equity program objectives, the majority of agencies served by I-REN's Public Sector Programs were equity communities.

Additionally, 100% of facilities benchmarked, 100% of energy audits performed, and 100% of savings achieved were in underserved and/or hard-to-reach (HTR) communities.

In 2025, I-REN will focus on continued outreach and engagement with new agencies in the region; education and celebrations of success; and turning identified projects into tangible results throughout the I-REN territory, with a priority on equity communities.

50+

Agencies leveraged
Public Sector Program
offerings

70+

Attendees participated in
I-REN's first Public Sector
Working Group

\$1.8M

Funding for agencies
secured by I-REN



Codes & Standards Summary

I-REN's Codes & Standards (C&S) Programs provide training and technical support to increase understanding of the building Energy Code, with services tailored for public and private sector building professionals.

The I-REN C&S Training and Education Program offered 13 trainings and two forums in 2024. I-REN became the state's first REN to offer a C&S training series in Spanish, part of the C&S training program's efforts to reach more equity participants. In accordance with the results of 2023's Market Assessment Survey, I-REN introduced new training topics in 2024, including Accessory Dwelling Units, Solar PV & Battery, and Single-family Lighting. I-REN also extended its trainer base through collaboration with SCE and Energy Code Ace, and deepened its relationship with the California Energy Commission (CEC), which led two trainings in partnership with I-REN. I-REN plans to continue expanding its trainer base and training topics in 2025.

13

Trainings offered

2

Forums offered

60%

Increase in training registrants from 2023



Workforce Education & Training Summary

I-REN's workforce offerings include an Energy Fellowship initiative that provides job opportunities in local jurisdictions to support public sector energy efficiency projects.

In 2024 I-REN increased the number of Energy Fellows it placed, and those Fellows began making direct contributions to support the implementation of projects through I-REN's Public Sector Programs. Also in 2024 I-REN conducted an energy workforce assessment to identify workforce needs and opportunities in the region. The assessment included surveying employers to learn more about their hiring and job skill needs related to energy efficiency. In 2025 I-REN will continue to grow the number of Energy Fellows it places at local jurisdictions, and provide additional experiential learning opportunities for the Fellows. I-REN will also work to implement program plans based on results of the market assessment.

385

Local employers surveyed for market assessment

14

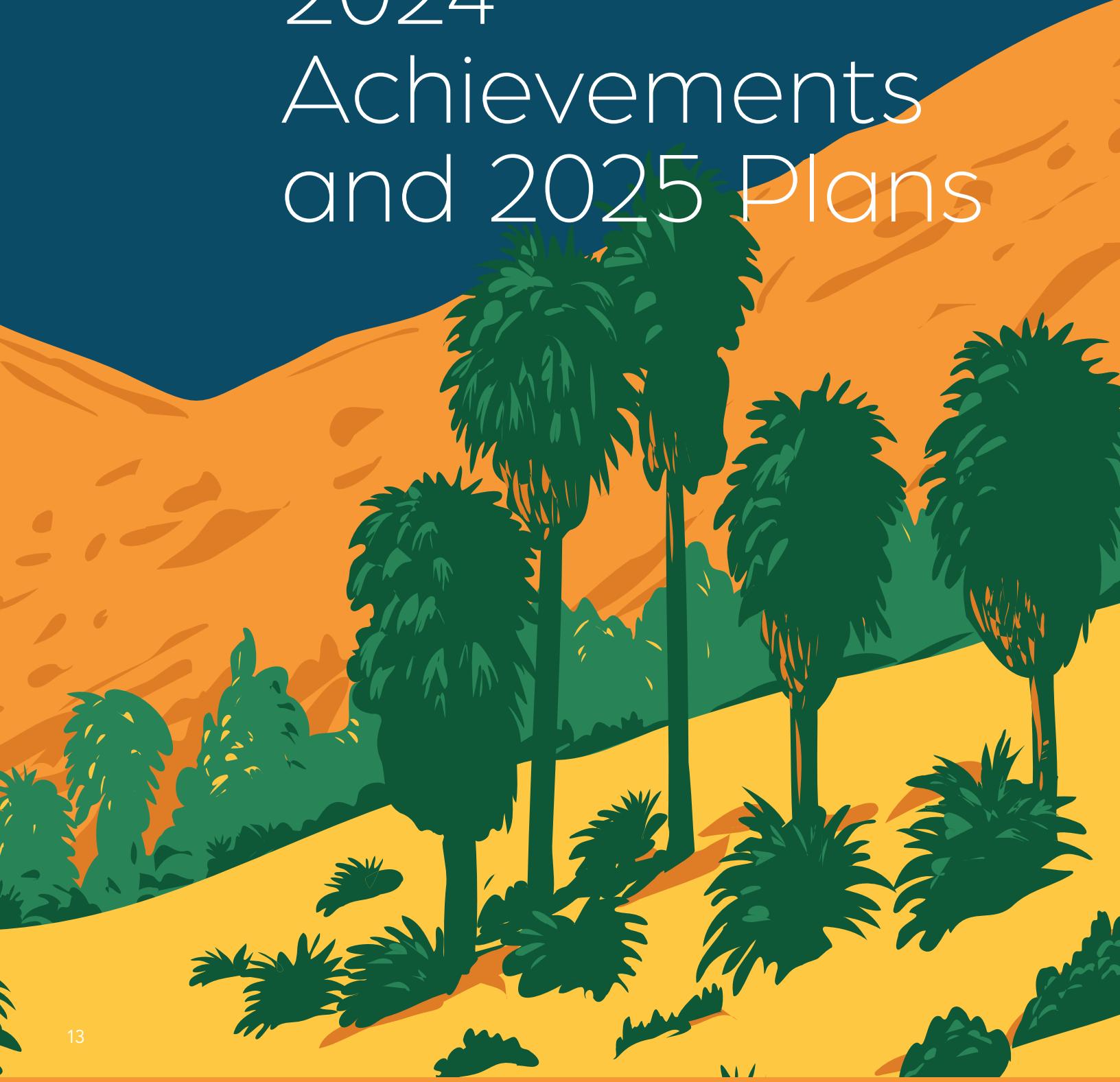
I-REN energy Fellows placed at local agencies

26

Public sector EE projects supported by I-REN Fellows

02.

—
2024
Achievements
and 2025 Plans



Introduction

I-REN's EE program portfolio consists of six programs in three sectors: Public Sector, C&S, and WE&T.

The primary purpose of I-REN's Public Sector Programs is equity—to improve access to EE for HTR, underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). The Public Sector Programs support the advancement of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)'s Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan.¹ The program also provides corollary benefits such as increased comfort and safety, improved indoor air quality, and more affordable utility bills, consistent with Goals 1, 2, and 5 in the ESJ Action Plan. One of I-REN's equity segment programs is a resource program that will deliver savings via projects in public sector facilities.

The primary purpose of I-REN's WE&T sector is to provide market support to assist in the long-term success of the EE market by educating customers, training contractors, and building partnerships. C&S programs are considered separately from other segments, as directed in D.21-05-031.² I-REN's C&S programs are focused on training, outreach, and technical assistance to support private and public sector building professionals in understanding and complying with building Energy Codes.

I-REN's programs and 2024 activities are detailed in the pages that follow, along with a look ahead to I-REN opportunities in 2025 and beyond.



Public Sector

- Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program
- Normalized Metered Energy Consumption Program



Codes & Standards

- Training and Education Program
- Technical Support Program



Workforce Education & Training

- Training and Education Program
- Workforce Development Program

¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/esjactionplan/>

² D.21-05-031 at 16.



Public Sector

I-REN's Public Sector Programs deliver customized technical assistance and provide monetary incentives for energy projects at publicly owned facilities in the I-REN service territory.

Through these programs, I-REN is increasing underserved and HTR agency access to EE and resiliency within the region. Public sector services include energy use evaluation, facility benchmarking, and targeted project development in line with regional climate and/or energy action plans. Eligible public agencies include:

- Cities and townships
- Counties
- Tribes
- K-12 school districts
- Special districts
- Water and wastewater agencies/districts
- Higher education institutions
- Other public agencies

I-REN's current Public Sector Programs are the Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program (TA Program) and the Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption Program (NMEC Program), publicly known as Cash for Kilowatts. I-REN agencies can access both programs simultaneously to maximize energy and resilience outcomes while minimizing their out-of-pocket project costs.

27,263
Square miles

11%
of California's population

3
COGs

2
Counties

52
Cities

13
Tribal nations

215
Special districts

I-REN-PUBL-001: Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I-REN's Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program (TA Program) offers energy planning and project development support throughout the lifecycle of EE projects. The program reduces the confusion and administrative burden of public sector EE projects, such as funding/financing and reporting requirements, by delivering no-cost services tailored to each agency's unique goals and needs.

This program offers several energy data collection and analysis services to equip agencies to make informed decisions about their energy future. For example, it offers facility benchmarking in I-REN's Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) software and strategic energy and resilience planning through customized Energy Resilience Roadmaps.

Participating agencies receive a high level of technical and financial assistance for their EE projects. After determining an agency's energy and resilience goals, I-REN helps agencies identify EE projects and secure funding and financing to implement them. The program then guides agencies through applicable energy programs (including I-REN offerings and those of other PAs, including SoCalREN, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company), helping build capacity and easing the administrative burden of participating in energy programs. I-REN helps agencies use a variety of financing mechanisms available to them for their energy upgrade projects, including through other PAs and non-ratepayer-funded offerings (e.g., IOU financing, third-party program incentives, grants).

The TA Program has the following objectives:

- **PROVIDE** local governments with support and resources to develop and implement their strategic energy plans and EE projects, with a focus on prioritizing equity communities or facilities that serve underserved and HTR regions in the Inland Empire.
- **HELP** local governments afford and finance a range of EE upgrades.
- **ESTABLISH** one-on-one support for local governments' EE projects.
- **DEVELOP** or enhance strategic energy plans to connect local government goals related to climate, resilience, and economic development to EE programs and adoption.
- **CREATE** resources for the public sector to tap into EE and distributed energy resources programs offered by other providers, including IOUs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, I-REN continued to build on its accomplishments and groundwork laid in 2023 during the program design and launch phases. In January, key Public Sector Program design elements were approved by the I-REN Executive Committee, which allowed the public sector team to finalize remaining program tools and templates. The Executive Committee provided guidance on parameters for resource allocation and determined a policy for providing project support throughout the region. This resource allocation policy allows a maximum of two energy efficiency projects per agency at a time (four for counties) and reserves funding for all eligible agencies.

I-REN continued to focus on regional engagement and hosted its first public sector working group with in-person and virtual participation in September 2024. During the working group meeting, the I-REN team answered questions about program offerings, and I-REN agencies shared case studies of how I-REN has helped them identify projects, save energy, and save money. Attendees also participated in a collaborative activity facilitated by Angie Hacker, Statewide Best Practices Coordinator at the California Climate and Energy Collaborative. The working group was attended by more than 70 participants, including 41 in-person attendees across three locations and representatives from 29 underserved and/or HTR agencies. As a result of the working group, I-REN agencies were able to connect with other local governments in their network and share best practices and lessons learned. During the working group meeting, I-REN learned that agencies are leveraging I-REN's Portfolio Energy Analysis services to prioritize facilities for upgrades, and are aligning I-REN projects and program services with local, state, and federal mandates. The working group provided insights into the region's needs and where future energy-related support within the Inland Empire is needed most.

Local government staff participate in group activity during Public Sector Working Group meeting



Case studies highlighted during the Public Sector Working Group meeting

Check out how your neighbors are getting the most out of I-REN!

The City of Palm Springs worked with 

Case Study: Colton Joint Unified School District

Interior LED Lighting Retrofit

2023 CJUSD Joins Forces with I-REN

After an introduction at Riverside County Office of Education, CJUSD began working with I-REN on benchmarking and AB802 compliance.

Case Study: City of Palm Springs

Whole Building Fire Station Audits

2024 Palm Springs Connects With I-REN

City of Palm Springs staff works with I-REN to collect energy data to help identify top

Case Study: City of Corona Strategic Energy Planning

2023 Corona Connects With I-REN

City of Corona staff attend regional orientation and participate in onboarding meeting

Q2 Corona Receives Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap

2024 I-REN presents the city's highest energy-using facilities and regional vulnerabilities to staff and energy fellow

Q4 I-REN to Prepare Final Energy Resilience Roadmap

Corona elected to move forward with collecting additional facility and community data to better target priority facilities for energy audits

I-REN's Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap will act as a guide for Corona's strategic energy planning

I-REN discussed potential program overlap, synergies for collaboration, and how to prevent duplication of services and double dipping with stakeholders locally and statewide. I-REN established coordination protocols and set up bimonthly meetings with Los Angeles County—the PA for the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN)—to discuss high-level project development among agencies enrolled in both regional energy networks. I-REN also coordinated with PAs across the state in a series of program overlap risk discussions to identify potential program overlap and strategies to minimize duplication of services.³ Discussions have also started with various municipal-owned utilities to explore opportunities for memorandums of understanding to provide comprehensive I-REN services for agencies only served by Southern California Edison (SCE) or Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas).

TA FUNDING AND FINANCING SUPPORT

In line with the public sector objective to help local governments afford and finance a range of EE upgrades, I-REN helped agencies to pursue Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding offered through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). I-REN's support included facilitating the application processes, providing sample applications, offering technical assistance and guidance, hosting information sessions, coordinating with the DOE and the CEC, navigating funding options, and enhancing community energy strategies.

I-REN helped 12 agencies (100% of which were underserved and/or HTR agencies) secure over \$1.8 million in EEGCBG funding through targeted support during the application process, which amounted to approximately 30% of all EEGCBG funds allocated to I-REN member agencies. The agencies I-REN worked with were able to leverage the TA Program services to identify facilities and include high-level project measure overviews to strengthen their applications.

Breakdown of member agency EEGCBG funding allocations secured with I-REN support

Member Agencies Supported

City of Adelanto: \$76,240	City of Hemet: \$141,750	City of San Bernardino: \$249,590
City of Chino Hills: \$131,350	City of Highland: \$115,100	City of Victorville: \$173,590
City of Eastvale: \$123,670	City of Ontario: \$218,330	City of Yucaipa: \$113,510
City of Fontana: \$230,640	City of Redlands: \$133,300	Town of Apple Valley: \$130,740

Types of projects: Battery systems, streetlights, building retrofits, solar charging station, HVAC and lighting controls, EV charging stations, solar poles.

Over \$1.8 MILLION secured!

³ D.23-06-055 Ordering Paragraph 32 directed PAs to jointly submit an advice letter addressing program overlap and risk mitigation.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

I-REN's 2024 public sector marketing focused on eligible public agencies in the Inland Empire and elected officials in the Inland Empire (e.g., COG executive committees and boards) to bolster community leaders' support for I-REN's efforts.

I-REN 2024 public sector marketing objectives were as follows:

- **BUILD** awareness of I-REN public sector services within target audiences.
- **HIGHLIGHT** program successes to encourage agency participation.
- **DEVELOP** remaining program implementation templates in line with I-REN brand guidelines.

The table below summarizes I-REN's 2024 metrics/targets and results.

I-REN Public Sector 2024 Marketing Metrics/Targets And Results

Metric/Target	Result
Publish 12+ public sector-focused social media posts across platforms.	8/12 (67%) I-REN set this target based on the assumption of one public sector post per month. Since accounts did not launch until Q2, I-REN still managed to come close to its target, posting frequency.
Contribute content highlighting public sector services, project successes, and/or educational content for 100% of I-REN-wide email campaigns.	4/4 (100%) I-REN featured public sector content in each quarterly REN-wide email campaign and sent nine email campaigns to I-REN's public sector email contacts.
Develop 6+ "evergreen" program success outreach materials that can be used in a variety of mediums to showcase I-REN public sector success.	7/6 (116%) I-REN exceeded its goal, developing seven marketing resources (e.g., videos, fact sheets, sample project deliverables) that can be used regularly in outreach.

I-REN began email marketing outreach in 2024. Nine email campaigns were sent to public sector contacts. The table below summarizes the results of these campaigns.

I-REN Public Sector Outreach Campaign Results

Campaign	Open Rate Percentage of emails opened by recipients	Click Rate Percentage of emails that registered at least one click
Public Sector 2024 email average	50.0%	12.9%
I-REN overall 2024 email average	43.2%	8.2%
MailChimp government email benchmark	40.55%	4.58%

EVENTS/CONFERENCES

I-REN had public sector participation/representation at the following events in 2024: the Tribal Clean Energy Summit, 15th Annual CCEC Forum, ACEEE 2024 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings, WRCOG General Assembly, the Public Sector Working Group Kick-off Meeting (hosted by I-REN), and REACH IE. These successful events allowed I-REN to spread awareness about its relatively new programs for the region.

I-REN poster presentation at American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Summer Study

Scaling Energy Efficiency in the Inland Empire:

An Innovative Incentive Strategy Designed by and for the Inland Empire

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) connects local governments, workers, and community partners with energy efficiency resources, education, and funding through no-cost programs. I-REN supports agencies served by Southern California Edison and/or SoCalGas within San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

I-REN Sectors

- Public
- Workforce education & training
- Codes & standards

I-REN's Public Sector Goals

- Help public agencies:
- Build capacity and knowledge
- Save energy and money
- Address climate-related risks such as extreme heat
- Improve their aging infrastructure

I-REN's Public Sector Services

- Customized project management, technical assistance, strategic energy planning, facility benchmarking, funding assistance, and cash incentives for holistic energy efficiency projects

How I-REN public agencies designed their own incentive program to address community needs

GOAL: Develop an incentive structure for the I-REN's normalized metered energy consumption (NMEC) program (publicly known as Cash for Kilowatts) that reflects the priorities and values of its member agencies.

Feedback

After I-REN program orientations, member agencies completed surveys with several questions related to funding and financing prioritization. Based on 81 survey responses, member agencies opted for monetary incentives to prioritize reducing overall energy consumption, replacing equipment at community cooling centers or resiliency centers, and achieving a higher percentage of energy savings.

Incentives / Funds for EE Projects

Which of the following variants additional incentives?

Incentives / Funds for EE Projects

What should monetary incentives prioritize?

Incentive Structure

Projects are incentivized based on claimable energy savings achieved. Tiered kWh incentive "kickers" are also available to encourage deep energy savings (over 15% total savings at the meter) and holistic projects. kWh incentives are doubled for projects that occur at a critical, cooling, or resilience center.

Energy Savings	Base Incentive Rate	Total Savings Percentage*	Incentive Rate	Critical/Cooling/Resiliency/Center Rate
kWh	\$0.50	Up to 15%	\$0.50/kWh	\$1.00/kWh
kW	\$200.00	16-30%	\$0.60/kWh	\$1.20/kWh
therms	\$1.00	31-50%	\$0.70/kWh	\$1.40/kWh
		Over 50%	\$1.00/kWh	\$2.00/kWh

*Total project savings will have to pass eligibility criteria per the NMEC Rulebook

I-REN Timeline: From Launch to Design

- 2019**
 - I-REN coalition formed
 - I-REN is a consortium of three councils of government.
- 2021**
 - I-REN Business Plan approved by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
 - Includes no-cost programs in three sectors: public, workforce education & training, and codes & standards.
- 2023**
 - Region-wide orientations and surveys
 - I-REN conducted 18 orientations throughout the region. Feedback was collected from member agencies on program design and approved by the I-REN Executive Committee.
- 2024+**
 - Project identification and implementation
 - Member agencies are working with I-REN to identify and implement holistic projects that will result in deep emissions reductions at critical, cooling, or resilience center facilities.

I-REN was formed as a partnership based on CVAG, SBCOG, and WRCOG's shared belief in saving energy and increasing equity throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Benjamin Druyon presenting for I-REN

20

ONBOARDING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

2024 was a busy year for the TA Program. The I-REN team onboarded an additional 30 agencies, largely based on referrals from satisfied program participants, and 29 of which serve underserved and/or HTR communities. Many of I-REN's word-of-mouth referrals to participate in its programs turned into opportunities for project exploration and development. Numerous non-member agencies began to leverage I-REN's Public Sector Program offerings in 2025, and I-REN saw a rise in the participation of educational institutions and the first tribal governments. These agencies will bolster I-REN's growing project pipeline in 2025 and beyond.

I-REN conducted no-cost audits for 19 agencies at 44 facilities in the territory. I-REN identified potential lifetime savings of over 35 million kWh and 12,500 therms, as well as \$8.5 million in utility bill savings and over \$2.8 million in incentives for agencies within the region. The project pipeline I-REN built will channel projects into I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts program and other programming offered in SCE and SoCalGas territory, including third-party EE programs such as SoCalREN resource acquisition programs. In 2024, I-REN saw its first project complete construction with a lighting project at a Colton Joint Unified School District middle school, which serves an underserved community.

100% of I-REN's current project pipeline will benefit equity communities.⁴

All facilities that received no-cost audits in 2024 were located in underserved and/or HTR ZIP codes, or the public agency was designated as underserved per CPUC guidelines.

30

New agencies onboarded

29

Underserved and/or HTR communities

Potential Lifetime Savings

35M+

kWh

12,500+

therms

\$8.5M

Utility bill savings

\$2.8M+

Incentives

⁴ Forty-three of the 44 facilities that received energy audits are located in underserved or HTR zip codes. One facility audited in Rancho Cucamonga is not located in an equity zip code, but the city is considered an equity customer per CPUC guidelines.

Highlights of facility audits completed in 2024



City of Ontario Toyota Arena



City of Highland Sam J. Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center



City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1



City of Murrieta City Hall



City of San Bernardino Norman F. Feldheim Public Library

Program Services Overview

Activity	Count	% Equity
Orientations delivered ⁵	1	100%
Onboarding meetings held	30	97%
Site visits performed	44	100%
Initial Measures Lists developed	37	100%
Project Intent forms received	10	100%
Incentive applications submitted	1	100%
Incentive applications approved	1	100%
Projects completed construction	1	100%

STRATEGIC ENERGY PLANNING

Energy Resilience Roadmap

I-REN developed an innovative report, the Energy Resilience Roadmap, to help agencies improve their energy efficiency and climate resilience.

Sample Energy Resilience Roadmap Highlight



The Preliminary Energy Resilience Roadmap examines an agency's climate plans, energy goals, community vulnerabilities, and energy performance across its portfolio. It also identifies energy-intensive buildings and pumping sites for potential energy efficiency and resilience upgrades. While presenting the preliminary roadmap, I-REN invites agency stakeholders to share their energy goal progress and priorities, identify critical facility needs, and collaborate on actionable next steps to build energy resilience in their community. In Q2 2024, I-REN updated the "Next Steps" section of the preliminary roadmap to include two "Option" slides. These slides allow agencies to choose between a Final Energy Resilience Roadmap that provides high-level energy efficiency, resilience, and EV project recommendations at up to three sites, and jump into facility energy audits if the agencies are confident in the facilities they want to prioritize. Presenting two "Next Steps" options at the end of the preliminary roadmap presentation gives the agency a clear framework for decision making, streamlining the process. It also increases engagement by offering clear and actionable next steps.

“These [climate and energy goal] metrics will help guide our CAP development efforts.”

—City of Chino Hills

Developed in Q1–Q2 2024, the Final Energy Resilience Roadmap builds upon the preliminary roadmap and offers tailored recommendations for up to three priority facilities. These recommendations include potential measure-level energy efficiency upgrades, energy resilience additions (such as solar and battery storage systems), and additional clean energy site improvements, such as electric vehicle infrastructure. Energy efficiency project recommendations are either supplied by AESC's Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) tool (for facilities that have not yet had a facility audit), or from completed initial measures lists (developed after a facility audit). This approach allows the final roadmap to incorporate the most accurate available energy savings estimates. Final roadmaps commonly possess a hybrid of previously audited and yet-to-be-audited facilities, which provides a holistic view of potential project opportunities at all priority facilities. High-level energy resilience recommendations are generated through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's REopt tool. The REopt tool utilizes a facility's annual energy consumption, building type, location, utility rate, and more to generate solar and battery sizing recommendations.

The final roadmap concludes with practical next steps, such as facility energy audits or pump tests, to seamlessly incorporate recommendations into an agency's current and future energy plans. This ensures that agency stakeholders and decision-makers are well prepared to tackle and enhance energy resilience in their community. Once specific measures are selected, I-REN supports the agency with applying for funding/financing, and with developing and submitting incentive applications to make the projects a reality.

2024 Energy Resilience Roadmap Development

	PRELIMINARY Energy Resilience Roadmaps	FINAL Energy Resilience Roadmaps
Presented	31*	4
Awaiting Presentation	3	
Developed	32	4
In Progress		4

*Two developed in Q4 2023

100% of Energy Resilience Roadmaps I-REN provided in 2024 went to agencies that serve underserved and/or HTR communities.

Energy Benchmarking

I-REN helps agencies add their building portfolio to ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® (ESPM), an online management tool created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ESPM allows building owners and facility managers to track and assess energy use. I-REN ESPM benchmarking services include creating new portfolios or updating existing portfolios with facility characteristics like square footage and year built, as well as automating the upload of monthly energy consumption from on-site utility meters. I-REN helps agencies determine if their facilities require California AB 802 building benchmarking compliance and guides agencies that meet the compliance requirements through the submittal process.

2024 Energy Benchmarking Facility Support

New ESPM Portfolio Development	41	Facilities completed
Existing ESPM Portfolio Refresh	32	Facilities completed
AB 802 Compliance Support	53	Facilities completed

100% of the benchmarking support I-REN provided in 2024 focused on facilities that are owned or operated by public agencies serving underserved and/or HTR communities.

Building Upgrade Concierge (BUC) Software

The Building Upgrade Concierge tool is a web-based solution offering advanced analytics, modeling, and measurement and verification. In 2024, the tool was fully integrated into I-REN's Public Sector Programs, facilitating benchmarking and project development for local governments, special districts, and tribal communities. BUC leverages site-specific parameters to identify and display energy-saving opportunities in a measures list, providing agencies with high-level recommendations.

Portfolio Development and Analysis

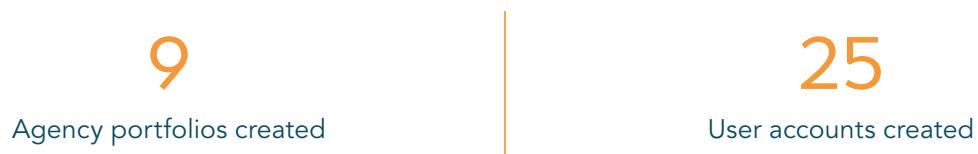
In 2024, I-REN developed nine agency portfolios in the BUC platform and conducted detailed energy analyses for seven portfolios. This effort provided actionable insights into energy-saving opportunities tailored to each agency's building portfolio.

Training and Capacity Building

I-REN conducted specialized BUC-focused training sessions for the I-REN Energy Fellows, equipping them with the knowledge to support portfolio management and optimization for member agencies. I-REN also hosted orientation meetings throughout 2024 to introduce the BUC tool to its public sector partners. These sessions provided a high-level overview of BUC's capabilities, including:

- Portfolio management and dashboard configuration
- Benchmarking and utility bill analysis charts
- Measure savings reports and customized recommendations

2024 BUC Portfolio Development



100% of the BUC support I-REN provided in 2024 went to facilities that are owned or operated by agencies serving underserved and/or HTR communities.

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2025, I-REN will identify new and fresh avenues to educate and engage public agencies in the region to encourage participation in I-REN's services. Leveraging the project identification and development work in 2024, I-REN will focus on project implementation, helping agencies realize energy and cost savings. I-REN will highlight successes via engagement opportunities and new marketing materials that can be used to secure agency buy-in during various stages of the project implementation lifecycle.

Through internal discussions across sectors, I-REN identified the opportunity to leverage synergies among WE&T Fellows, potential project opportunities, and relationship-building. Many agencies that I-REN currently works with throughout the territory host a Fellow, and they are actively engaged in facilitating Public Sector Program services within their host sites.

City of Ontario Fellow attending the Toyota Arena facility audit. The Fellow will support project implementation at this facility in 2025.



In early 2025, I-REN hosted a workshop on Community Resilience Centers with the California Strategic Growth Council, highlighting available no-cost resources and sharing regional and statewide opportunities for support. This workshop was the Public Sector Programs' first opportunity of the year to provide in-person education and energy insights. Additionally, I-REN intends to build public sector representation at industry events through event sponsorship, poster presentations, and panel discussions. I-REN will continue to run targeted marketing campaigns relevant to agencies in the region. Lastly, to enhance pipeline development and support, the program will utilize additional non-ratepayer-funded incentives, such as incentives offered through TECH Clean CA, that can be combined with I-REN's incentives.

BENCHMARKING SUPPORT AND TRAINING RESOURCES

The I-REN team is creating a comprehensive series of training videos to guide users through the benchmarking process so they can more effectively track and manage their energy data. This multi-part video series will provide step-by-step instructions on how to navigate and utilize the ESPM tool. Each video will focus on a specific aspect of benchmarking, offering clear guidance to ensure viewers can confidently apply what they learn.

The training series is expected to launch in the first quarter of 2025 and will help agencies achieve greater efficiency and accuracy in their energy management efforts. The videos will cover:

- **ESPM BENCHMARKING:** Detailed guidance on using ESPM for tracking and managing building energy use effectively
- **BUC TOOL FEATURES:** Tutorials on navigating key functionalities, including the BUC Dashboard, Analytics Charts, Analytics Reports, and Opportunity Register

I-REN will also develop a Benchmarking Services One-Pager, which will summarize all available I-REN benchmarking support opportunities. This user-friendly guide will enable local governments, special districts, and tribal communities to understand, access, and leverage I-REN's benchmarking tools and services.

INTEGRATED DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT (IDSM)

D.23-06-055 allows PAs to set aside up to 2.5% or \$4 million of their EE budgets to provide an operational complement for integrated demand-side management (IDSM) in program years 2024–2027. I-REN submitted a Tier 3 Advice Letter detailing its plans for expanding its public sector offerings to include IDSM technical assistance. Upon California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approval, I-REN will utilize these funds to provide a distributed energy resources (DER) component to audits to identify resilience opportunities for agencies, such as renewable energy, battery storage, and microgrids. I-REN will allocate resources to conduct DER audits, offering agencies technical assistance to achieve their resilience and climate goals. In 2025, I-REN anticipates that the CPUC will approve its IDSM Advice Letter, at which time I-REN will focus on program design elements to add DER components to its technical assistance offerings.

I-REN-PUBL-002: Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I-REN's Public Buildings Normalized Metered Energy Consumption (NMEC) Program, publicly known as Cash for Kilowatts, provides technical support—such as eligibility screening, and measurement and verification (M&V)—and incentives for meter-based energy savings. The program uses an NMEC approach to measure energy savings at the meter, incentivizing savings that have historically been excluded from EE programs or from technologies that are considered industry standard practice. The program places a special focus on whole building improvements to community-serving buildings by offering enhanced incentives for deep energy savings at critical facilities, cooling centers, and resilience centers.

Cash for Kilowatts has the following objectives:

- **SUPPORT** comprehensive lighting and whole building projects to improve the comfort and safety of vulnerable populations. The program will focus on critical facilities and emergency or cooling centers.
- **DELIVER** deep energy savings to public agencies at high visibility locations, positioning local governments as EE leaders within their communities and helping to meet local and state EE and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- **PROVIDE** technical expertise and training to facility personnel to maximize the persistence of energy and bill savings. The program will deliver savings reports to public agencies to monitor and communicate post-project energy usage.

Using an NMEC approach to calculate energy savings will protect agencies from a mismatch between forecasted and actual savings. Combined with technical assistance and reinforcement of operations and management best practices, Cash for Kilowatts will maximize public agencies' savings for their communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, Cash for Kilowatts focused on building a robust project pipeline. The program shifted its approach of offering a tiered incentive structure and introduced a \$2/kWh temporary enhanced incentive rate to encourage project application development in 2024. As a result, one project received full application approval and two more secured the enhanced rate. Additionally, over 20 internal and external program tools and templates were developed to support effective program delivery. Of the 37 initial measures lists developed in 2024 through the TA Program, 25 facilities were eligible for the Cash for Kilowatts program, 68% were at emergency operations, resilience, or cooling centers, and 100% were in underserved and/or HTR communities.

Forecasted Savings and Incentive Reservation Metrics*

173,656	14.7	-735	\$220,872
kWh savings 100% equity	kW savings 100% equity	Therms savings 100% equity	Funds reserved 100% equity

NMEC Program Pipeline Developed for Future Years*

Metric	Potential Savings	% Equity
First Year Net kWh	2,720,019	100%
First Year Net kW	409	100%
First Year Net Therms	33,595	100%

*Savings are based on forecasted construction completion timelines. Pipeline includes total savings projected for 2025 and beyond.

NMEC Project Details

Metric	Number of Projects	% Equity
Projects Installed	1	100%
Projects Approved	1	100%
Projects in Pipeline: Application Submittal	2	100%
Projects in Pipeline: Pre-Application Submittal	27	100%

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

Building on the successes of 2024, Cash for Kilowatts will continue to expand its pipeline by extending the \$2/kWh incentive rate for project applications submitted in 2025, with a stronger emphasis on emergency, resilience, and cooling center projects, especially in equity communities. Additionally, the program will explore opportunities to support projects in recently submetered facilities, often found on campuses. These facilities are typically unable to participate in other NMEC programs due to the absence of full 12-month baseline energy use data. To address this, Cash for Kilowatts will assess the potential of using alternative 9-month periods throughout the year to see if this approach offers favorable results for the predictability analysis.

Following EE project implementation, I-REN will collaborate with contractors to provide operations and maintenance training for agency staff, if needed, to ensure the persistence of savings throughout the monitoring period. I-REN will also partner with local governments to obtain monthly utility data and will use the BUC tool to track realized energy savings from completed projects. Local governments will be able to view their building portfolio dashboard, identify projects not meeting energy savings projections, and make necessary adjustments to their EE upgrades. The I-REN public sector team will use BUC to generate reports and provide supporting data to the third-party evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) contractor for Cash for Kilowatts. BUC will be the main resource for NMEC project and data tracking.



Codes & Standards

I-REN's service territory includes many Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) that face significant challenges in enforcing the Energy Code with their current resources and capacity.

These jurisdictions are small in population size, geographically dispersed, challenged by extreme climate conditions, and disadvantaged by pollution and other factors. I-REN has significant opportunity to support compliance and enforcement, and to ensure building department knowledge, awareness, and realization of energy-savings measures.

I-REN's C&S initiatives offer locally focused training, education, and tools to support C&S implementation, gap filling, Energy Code enforcement, and compliance activities. Training and educational resources are informed by and targeted specifically to address the needs of jurisdictions in the region. To ensure statewide consistency in compliance improvement support, I-REN coordinates and collaborates with the statewide C&S team and meets with the California Energy Commission (CEC) on a quarterly basis.

IREN-CS-001: C&S Training and Education Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I-REN's C&S Training and Education Program tailors its offerings to support building professionals working with the California's Energy Code, Title 24 Part 6. Trainings, webinars, and forums are held year round with varying topics that are tailored to the region's climate zones and needs.

Outreach for this program consists of promoting training through I-REN governing agencies' existing communication channels, through local government partnerships, and through building industry communication networks. I-REN is collaborating with statewide industry leaders, codes experts, and local governments to design and deliver effective messaging during code updates and transitions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Growth in Participation

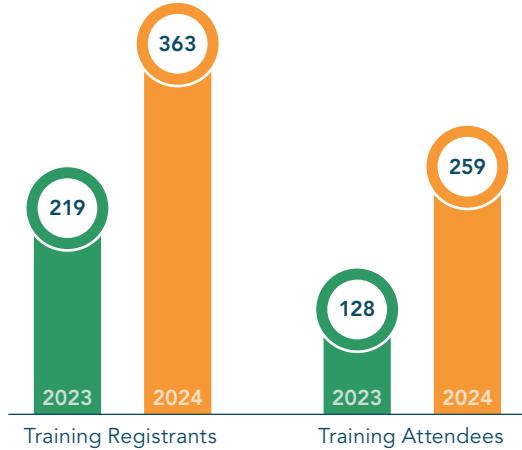
The program increased registration and attendance rates from 2023 while maintaining a high quality of delivery. In 2024, 363 people registered for thirteen unique C&S trainings, a 60% increase from 2023. Among registrants, there were 71 people who registered for more than one training in 2024, and one person who signed up for 10 trainings, illustrating the value that attendees found in the trainings and their interest in pursuing further training opportunities from I-REN. Additionally, 259 of the total registrants followed through with attending the trainings, a 61% increase in attendance compared to 2023. This represents a 67.3% registered versus attended ratio for 2024. Of the 259 training attendees in 2024, there were 157 attendees who received continuing education credit (CEU) certificates, indicating that they stayed for at least 60 minutes of the training. This is a 94% increase in CEUs issued compared to 2023.

363
People registered

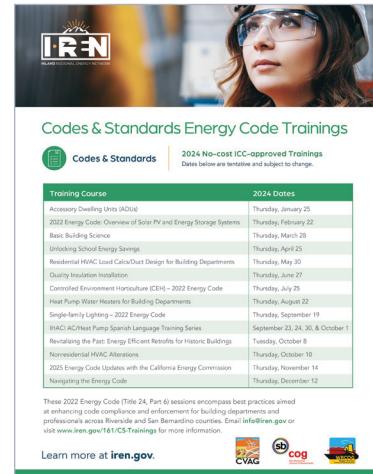
259
Attended trainings

157
Attendees received
CEU certificates

**I-REN C&S Training Registration and
Attendance, 2023 versus 2024**



I-REN C&S 2024 Trainings Flyer



Increased Energy Code Knowledge

I-REN conducts surveys following C&S training to support CPUC metrics reporting and inform continuous improvement in program offerings. In 2024 there were 109 post-training evaluation surveys completed by attendees, and 99% of respondents indicated an increased knowledge of the Energy Code—a very significant indicator that I-REN C&S trainings are providing new and relevant content to enrich participants' understanding of Energy Codes and standards. Based on survey results, 54% of participants "strongly agreed" that the trainings met metrics of satisfaction, including the knowledgeability of the trainer, relevancy and helpfulness of training materials and handouts, and high quality of instruction. One committed participant, who attended six trainings in 2024, noted at the end of the October 2024 Nonresidential HVAC Alterations training:

“Great class as always. Thank you. Great work.”

Improved Equity Data Collection Practices

I-REN updated its standard event registration form to enable improved tracking of equity participant types. I-REN evaluates participants for the following:

- Disadvantaged Worker, defined in D.18-10-008
- Disadvantaged Community (DAC), defined by Senate Bill (SB) 350, discussed in D.18-05-041, and measured using the California Environmental Protection Agency [CalEnviroScreen](#) analytical tool
- Hard-to-reach (HTR), as defined by the CPUC and most recently modified in D.23-06-055
- Underserved Community, defined by the CPUC in D.23-06-055

Equity participant data is required by the CPUC for energy efficiency program metrics and indicators. Moreover, it is a priority of I-REN to increase equity in its program offerings, and this data allows I-REN program teams to ensure they are serving those communities. However, this often necessitates requesting sensitive information like home address, phone number, household size, household income, and language most frequently spoken at home. For programs such as I-REN C&S Training and Education, gathering equity information on event registrations from individual members of the public has posed a barrier to participation in trainings and forums. In 2024 the C&S Training and Education Program received multiple complaints or opt-outs due to the length of registration forms and invasiveness of information requested to verify equity participation.

In early 2024 I-REN's C&S program team undertook an effort to streamline the registration form and provide context for equity-related questions. Launched in July 2024, the updated form includes simplified fields, plus an "Equity Tracking Disclaimer and Acknowledgment" that informs registrants of why they are being asked the following questions and assures that their data will not be shared other than as required for reporting by the CPUC. Doing so has reduced complaints, increased registration counts, and enabled I-REN to definitively measure equity participation.

From July through December 2024, 23% of training attendees qualified as equity participants under one or more of the above definitions. By enabling better data collection related to equity criteria, I-REN can be responsive to CPUC equity metrics and indicators and assess its performance over time in expanding participation by equity customers.

Launch of Multilingual Offerings

The 2020 census identified Hispanic Californians as the largest ethnic group, making up 39.4% of the state population. In the Inland Empire alone, the Hispanic population comprises a majority of the region at 51.5%, amounting to around 2.37 million people (University of California Riverside⁶). Available code and technical training offerings are largely conducted in English, but may not be accessible to contractors who primarily speak Spanish. Statewide, these contractors are crucial in meeting California's energy efficiency goals, especially its goal of installing 6 million heat pumps by 2030.

⁶ <https://socialinnovation.ucr.edu/aqui-estamos>

In fall 2024, I-REN partnered with the Institute of Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. (IHACI) to offer a four-part training module on Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps in Spanish. This made I-REN the first REN in California to offer a no-cost, CEU-offering, multilingual technical training. One company, which directed several employees to take the training, said:

“The I-REN Spanish training is fulfilling an important role in reaching key workers who are often left out of training opportunities.”

Cross-promotion was carried out with IHACI, the TECH Clean California program, and Quality Residential HVAC Services program, resulting in 50 registrants. There were 21 unique attendees, with 11 full-course attendees who received CEUs.

Forums

After focusing on launching trainings in 2023, I-REN expanded the program to host two virtual forums in 2024. The first, held in spring 2024, was titled Demystifying the Energy Code: How and Why to Comply. This focused on a general introduction to the Energy Code and how various professions interact with it locally. The forum featured a diverse panel of speakers ranging from a facilities superintendent to a sustainability director to an architect. There were 28 attendees, representing 11 I-REN AHJs, along with several private sector organizations.

The second forum, held in fall 2024, focused on energy efficiency in historic buildings, due to the large number of buildings on the National Registry of Historic Places in I-REN territory. The keynote speaker detailed the role of energy efficiency and the Energy Code in his firm's restoration project of Palm Springs' historic Bank of America building. This building won the 2024 Commercial Restoration Award for retaining its original character while meeting current California energy efficiency standards, making it an ideal case study for the region.

I-REN C&S 2024 Fall Energy Code Forum Flyer



The C&S training program intends to host two forums again in 2025, one on the new 2025 Energy Code, and another on resiliency in a changing energy landscape.

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2025, the C&S training program will diversify its training event topics and increase training accessibility, with a focus on reaching equity and private sector participants. As part of this effort, I-REN plans to partner with contractor organizations for two events and engage in general cross-promotion with regional contractor organizations. More trainings will be offered in Spanish, utilizing lessons learned to reach a larger audience and increase the participation rate in these trainings.

Of particular focus in 2025 will be preparing the I-REN region for the 2025 Energy Code, which comes into effect on January 1, 2026. One forum, as well as a series of trainings, will be focused on different aspects of the 2025 Energy Code, from a deep dive on the biggest changes to updates on CalGREEN. The C&S training program intends to equip the region with the information needed for a smooth transition to the new standards on January 1, 2026.

IREN-CS-002: C&S Technical Support Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I-REN's C&S Technical Support Program is a non-resource program designed to develop technical assistance tools and resources to assist building departments and the building industry with understanding, evaluating, and permitting the Energy Code to support improved enforcement and compliance. A priority is customizing code support specific to I-REN jurisdictional needs.

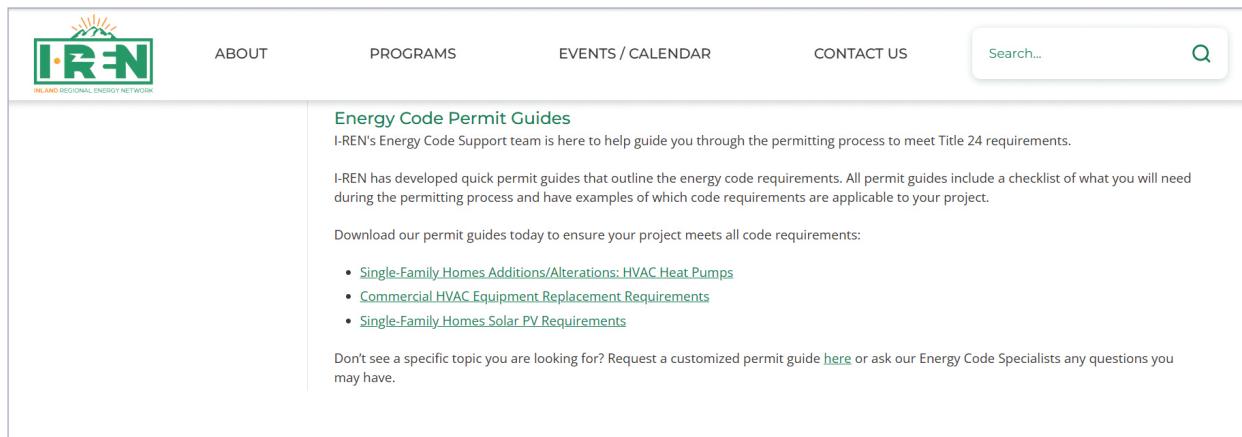
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Energy Code Support

In 2024, I-REN's "Ask an Energy Code Question" resource received its first request since the resource launch, for a total of three requests in 2024, with questions from San Bernardino County and Riverside County. This service allows individuals from the building industry to request code support specific to their project and receive personalized support from I-REN's Energy Code Specialists. Our Energy Code Specialists answered each question with tailored assistance and additional resources.

I-REN also launched online permit guides, which are quick reference sheets for particular code topics specific to I-REN's jurisdictions. These permit guides outline Energy Code requirements for I-REN's climate zones, broken down by project type. The two permit guides currently available are 1) Single-Family Homes Additions/Alterations: HVAC Heat Pumps and 2) Commercial HVAC Equipment Replacement Requirements.

I-REN C&S Online Permit Guides



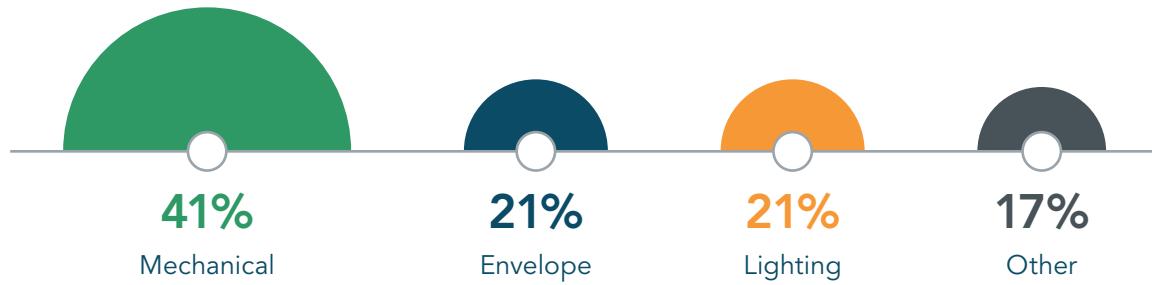
The screenshot shows the I-REN website with the following layout:

- Header:** I-REN logo, ABOUT, PROGRAMS, EVENTS / CALENDAR, CONTACT US, Search bar, and a magnifying glass icon.
- Section:** Energy Code Permit Guides
- Text:** I-REN's Energy Code Support team is here to help guide you through the permitting process to meet Title 24 requirements. I-REN has developed quick permit guides that outline the energy code requirements. All permit guides include a checklist of what you will need during the permitting process and have examples of which code requirements are applicable to your project. Download our permit guides today to ensure your project meets all code requirements.
- Links:** Single-Family Homes Additions/Alterations: HVAC Heat Pumps, Commercial HVAC Equipment Replacement Requirements, Single-Family Homes Solar PV Requirements
- Text:** Don't see a specific topic you are looking for? Request a customized permit guide [here](#) or ask our Energy Code Specialists any questions you may have.

Outreach

I-REN's technical support team leveraged results from the 2023 Market Assessment Survey to conduct outreach to jurisdictions that indicated they would like additional code assistance or were open to developing reach codes. I-REN offered tailored support and used this as an opportunity to better understand how I-REN can help improve their Energy Code experience.

Results from the 2023 Market Assessment Survey to inform Technical Assistance Resources



Reach Codes

I-REN continues to support the City of Palm Springs with its reach codes for two in-progress ordinances:

- Supporting the early adoption of 2025 Code Controlled Environment Horticulture lighting efficiency measures
- Supporting enhancing the existing home EE requirements, based on an updated 2023 cost effectiveness study for home EE

Palm Springs' ordinances were approved by the Sustainability Commission in 2024 and are expected to be approved by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Council in Q1 of 2025.

I-REN is also supporting Rancho Mirage implementation incentive programs that are influenced by I-REN's reach code efforts. I-REN provides technical support with the Cost-Effectiveness Explorer for Rancho Mirage's incentive programs, including its Residential Energy Efficiency Program.

The 2023 Market Assessment Survey revealed that the following jurisdictions are interested in reach code support:

- Canyon Lake
- Chino Hills
- Colton
- Grand Terrace
- Lake Elsinore
- Ontario
- Perris
- Rancho Cucamonga
- Redlands
- Riverside (County)
- San Bernardino (City)
- Temecula
- Twentynine Palms
- Upland
- Wildomar

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2025, program activities will focus on:

- **FINALIZING** reach codes in progress for Palm Springs
- **OFFERING** one-on-one meetings with key jurisdiction contacts to 1) establish "code champions" and engage these champions in improving permit processing methods, 2) develop tailored resources, and 3) invite them to new biannual code support charettes
- **ENLISTING** an additional program partner to redesign, promote, and provide responses for the "Energy Code Specialist" service
- **INCREASING** the number of jurisdictions leveraging technical assistance or training resources
- **DEVELOPING** additional Energy Code Permit Guides to offer a library of guides online



Workforce Education & Training

Through its WE&T cross-cutting sector programs, I-REN will serve as a vital link between workforce skills and training providers (such as community colleges and employers) to build a more robust market and increase the number of skilled EE contractors in the Inland Empire.

These activities will promote job market recovery and progress toward statewide goals regarding EE, air quality, and support for HTR, underserved, rural, tribal, and disadvantaged communities. Both SB 350 and SB 535 prioritize these communities for initiatives to improve air quality, increase EE, and address economic conditions. SB 350 emphasizes workforce development and increased project penetration in underserved communities. I-REN has an opportunity to support these goals through its WE&T initiatives.

IREN-WET-001: WE&T Training and Education Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Through its WE&T Training and Education Program, I-REN will assess the current training marketplace in the Inland Empire and work with local providers—including higher education providers, high schools, adult schools, and professional training companies—to tailor content to be relevant to the region's needs and ensure that DACs are a focus. I-REN will collaborate with training providers to improve access to a broad spectrum of training opportunities in person, online, and in the field.

The Training and Education Program creates a robust local network of training programs that increase capacity and knowledge related to EE in the building industry. I-REN focuses largely on entry-level offerings in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. I-REN and these offerings raise the value of EE training and career paths within high schools, community colleges, and universities, encouraging more people to enter an industry involving or relating to EE.

I-REN WE&T Training & Education Program Overview



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Help diverse job seekers find employment opportunities.



NO-COST TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Energy efficiency topics and trends.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Create job pathways to local companies.



BENEFIT

Improve access to training opportunities in person, online, and in the field.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Workforce Market Assessment

Between February and November 2024, I-REN conducted an energy workforce assessment, analyzing energy workforce gaps, employer needs, and existing training opportunities in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Findings from the assessment highlight significant energy job growth (25% by the year 2030), high retirement rates and transfer rates (75%), and skill gaps among job seekers, emphasizing the need for training in clean energy technologies and equitable access to programs. Released in December 2024, the assessment recommends to:

- **CONNECT** job seekers to training
- **ENHANCE** support services
- **STRENGTHEN** the education-to-career pipeline
- **FOSTER** collaboration between employers and training providers to meet the region's growing energy workforce demands

Local Energy Employer Survey

I-REN surveyed local energy employers to collect local stakeholder feedback on energy employers' hiring/training needs and challenges. I-REN received input from 385 local energy employers. Key findings of the survey included:

- **HIRING AND RETENTION CHALLENGES:** Employers indicated difficulties with hiring and retention due to limited financial and career growth opportunities, skill gaps, competitive labor market, and retirements.

- **SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE GAPS:** Employers generally indicated that employees lack technical, workplace, and interpersonal skills equally, indicating need for a multifaceted approach to addressing skill gaps. Employers generally seek candidates with a balanced skillset of education, certifications, and hands-on experience.
- **BARRIERS TO ACCESSING TRAINING:** These challenges are mostly related to high training costs and limited access to or knowledge of programs.

I-REN 2024 Workforce Assessment



Q: What's driving employee retention challenges in the energy industry?

A:

- Limited financial and career growth opportunities
- Skill gaps
- Competitive labor market
- Retirements



Q: What's keeping employees and job seekers from accessing certifications/trainings?

A:

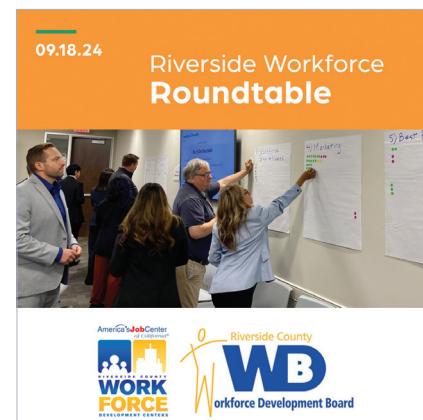
- High training costs
- Limited access to relevant programs
- Insufficient opportunities to address skill gaps

Quarterly Workforce Roundtables

In September and December 2024, I-REN hosted a total of six working group roundtables at each of the unique subregions of the I-REN subregion (Eastern Riverside County—Coachella Valley, Western Riverside County, and San Bernardino).

In September, the roundtables provided valuable insight that led to the development of the Energy Workforce Gaps Assessment. In December, the roundtables helped prioritize the key recommendations identified in the report. This prioritization of recommendations was affirmed by the I-REN Executive Committee in January 2025 and will inform the development or expansion of I-REN WE&T programming within the I-REN territory. The prioritization includes plans to:

- **FOSTER** collaboration between employers and training providers to meet the region's growing energy workforce demands
- **STRENGTHEN** the education-to-career pipeline
- **CONNECT** job seekers to training
- **ENHANCE** support services



Roundtable participation included 56 participants from 45 organizations. Organizations included cities, chambers of commerce, both I-REN counties' workforce departments, both counties' economic development departments, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, local educational institutions (both public and private), and various local workforce and training organizations.

I-REN Energy Science Fair Awards

In 2024, I-REN supported the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools by sponsoring the I-REN Energy Science Fair awards at the San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties Science and Engineering Fair, which is an annual competition of science projects from students who attend the schools in each county. I-REN evaluated projects in the energy category at the elementary, junior, and high school divisions. Evaluations included four projects in the elementary division, four projects in the junior division, and three projects in the senior division in the energy, sustainable materials, and design category.

- **ELEMENTARY DIVISION:** Which Energy Is Most Efficient for Cars?
- **JUNIOR DIVISION:** Can Electronics Use Plants as a Conduit?
- **SENIOR DIVISION:** Sand Battery

The aforementioned project teams received the I-REN Energy Science Fair Award and joined I-REN at the April 2024 I-REN Executive Committee where the students received recognition for the hard work and dedication on their projects in the field of energy. Furthermore, the senior division advanced to win a gold medal at the California Science and Engineering Fair, and was a finalist at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

I-REN Energy Science Fair Award Winners



I-REN WE&T Partnership Opportunities



EXPLORE resources and potential partnerships for K-12, community colleges, and universities for energy career pathways.



CREATE and provide job training, certifications, and innovations related to the energy field with industry stakeholders.



HOST an energy efficiency job fair.



DEVELOP a virtual training learning center for energy efficiency.

Inland Empire Desert Regional Consortium (IEDRC)/I-REN 2024 Energy Infrastructure and Section Showcase

In partnership and collaboration with the IEDRC, I-REN hosted an event with over 130 attendees. It was a one-stop shop within the energy workforce system that brought together Inland Empire community colleges, local agency staff, and workforce organizations. The participants focused on the issues, barriers, and resources to help connect, identify, and have conversations to further develop the local workforce training initiatives.

Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP)



10.10.24
Student STEP CON

STEP was developed 25 years ago to "inspire students to pursue careers in STEM" across the Inland Empire. In 2024, I-REN began supporting STEP programs as it looks to expand its offerings within the energy sector and to schools and areas considered to be more HTR or underserved. On March 7, 2024, I-REN received the exemplary STEP participation award from the STEP organization. Each year, STEP hosts three STEPcon events: one for students, one for educators, and one for counselors. In 2024, STEPcon reached and provided resources and services to 6,921 students (1,279 in person and 5,642 virtually), 153 educators, and 134 counselors.

Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition

The Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) is a statewide membership network representing local government interests related to EE, clean energy, and climate resilience to state regulatory agencies. Together, LGSEC members advance sustainable energy and climate solutions to meet California's decarbonization goals through knowledge exchange, targeted learning opportunities, and statewide collaboration. I-REN offers its member agencies a sponsored, one-year membership with the LGSEC. As of February 2025, I-REN has signed up 12 agencies for LGSEC membership and encourages their participation in the energy policy landscape. Participants include the Cities of Canyon Lake, Colton, Corona, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, San Jacinto, Temecula, Twentynine Palms, the County of Riverside, and the Town of Apple Valley.

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

Workforce Market Assessment (Implementation)

Based on the I-REN Workforce Roundtable and I-REN Executive Committee's prioritization of the recommendations identified in the I-REN Energy Workforce Gaps Assessment, staff will work to implement program development or enhancements that support in progressing education and training in energy pathways in the I-REN territory.

I-REN Implemented CPUC Supplier Diversity Workshop



In October 2024, I-REN participated in the CPUC's Supplier Diversity Expo and En Banc. Here staff met with CPUC and utility supplier diversity teams and learned about opportunities to engage local Inland Empire small and diverse businesses with supplier diversity program information. After further research, staff identified that fewer than 700 local businesses are certified in the CPUC Supplier Clearinghouse. In 2025, I-REN will be developing a workshop that brings speakers from the CPUC and utilities to share supplier diversity information with many of the local chambers of commerce and diverse businesses in the I-REN region. The goal is to engage more than 100 local businesses.

Focused Collaborations with Riverside and San Bernardino County Workforce Development Departments

I-REN staff has the opportunity to work with both County Workforce Development Departments to shape the training, education, and workforce development pathways of energy and green sector careers. I-REN has a guiding priority of key recommendations, and both counties have four-year development plans, each with shared visions that can lead to the collaboration and joint development of energy workforce development opportunities that have the potential to be significantly impactful.

I-REN-WET-002: WE&T Workforce Development Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

I-REN will convene and collaborate with state, regional, and local stakeholders—including workforce investment boards (WIBs) and economic development departments—to develop a unified mission around the region's EE workforce, highlighting pathways for job seekers to enter the green jobs market and to increase access for DACs. I-REN will facilitate identifying opportunities for employers and local workforce partners to network and connect.

With its governing agencies' existing networks of contractors and training providers, I-REN is well positioned to help bridge the gap between the energy industry and the workforce. I-REN is building partnerships with local community colleges, local universities, and local WIBs to establish a comprehensive network of WE&T offerings. I-REN also brings close connections with government planning and building departments across the region. I-REN's WE&T initiatives offer important opportunities for collaboration across other sectors through its work in the Public Sector and C&S—both of which are important drivers of EE and advanced energy activity and employment in the region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

I-REN Energy Fellowship

In 2024, the I-REN WE&T Program deployed 14 I-REN Energy Fellows with public sector agencies. Historically, public sector agencies in the I-REN region have lacked the capacity to track, monitor, implement, and comply with various energy and environmental statewide goals and requirements. The I-REN Fellows address this barrier by supporting and filling organizational capacity needs related to EE project identification; energy building identification and benchmarking; climate/energy action planning; outreach of workforce education & training into the communities; and other sustainability initiatives.

As of February 2025, there are 26 projects in I-REN's Public Sector Cash for Kilowatts incentive program queue from 12 agencies where an I-REN Energy Fellow has direct involvement in the project and process for completion. Four agencies that have retained a Fellow for a second year are moving forward with energy efficiency projects that their I-REN Energy Fellow is actively coordinating. These 26 projects amount to a total estimated annual energy bill savings of \$272,867, and an overall energy savings of 1,070,513 kWh/yr, and 5,329 therms/yr. The most impressive result of having Fellows working within the agencies is the incentive dollars they have been able to secure for their respective site hosts.

26
Projects from
12 agencies

\$272,867
Estimated annual
energy bill savings

1,070,513
kWh/year overall
energy savings

Currently **\$1,126,104 in savings** has been allocated to agencies for energy efficiency projects utilizing a Fellow.

That figure is expected to rise as seven of the projects are still in the initial project identified phase and incentive dollars have not been fully factored in yet. Currently, nearly 40% of all the incentive dollars within the public sector pipeline are allocated to projects utilizing an I-REN Energy Fellow. In line with that figure, 35% of the annual energy savings within the total public sector pipeline is tied to projects utilizing an I-REN Energy Fellow.

The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program is not only providing valuable support for agencies within the region, but it is also providing an avenue to increase energy savings and participation in I-REN's public sector project pipeline. The host sites are receiving no-cost project management as well as potential energy savings through their involvement in the public sector arm of I-REN. The I-REN Energy Fellowship Program was designed to place highly engaged individuals in public sector positions to gain experience and practice energy related work, but the end result has impacted the site agencies and the energy efficiency landscape much more significantly. The collaboration among sectors allows the Workforce Education & Training sector to directly support the realization of energy savings. This underscores the opportunity and need for more Fellows to be placed within the region, which is part of I-REN's workforce development plans for 2025.

I-REN WE&T Energy Fellowship Overview



Paid Local Fellowship

Jumpstart your career in the clean energy economy. In partnership with CivicSpark, an AmeriCorps program, the I-REN Energy Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for individuals passionate about energy, environmental sustainability, and community resilience to gain professional experience in the public sector through national service at the local level.

By building capacity for local public agencies to address emerging resilience challenges, I-REN Fellows create a lasting impact in local communities while building a robust statewide network of peers and gaining technical and leadership skills.

Benefits

- Living allowance of \$35,000 (before taxes)* in CA
- Educational awards (Segal Education and California For All Award) up to \$7,395 upon completion*
- Health insurance and childcare assistance for qualifying Fellows, paid to an eligible provider of your choice
- SNAP (food stamps) for eligible participants
- Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and payment of interest accrued during the service term
- Professional development training
- Network development with regional and statewide contacts in the community resilience industries
- Connection to the AmeriCorps network of alums

Requirements

- Minimum of a 2-year AA degree from an accredited college or university
- Commitment to the full term of service (11 months)
- Ability to work in a professional virtual/office setting
- Strong communication (both verbal and written) and teamwork skills
- Additional preferred qualifications are listed on our website

To learn more, visit iren.gov/energy-fellowship or scan the code.



*Pending state approval/spread evenly over 11 months



FELLOWSHIP PROJECT EXAMPLES:

- Facility Audits
- Billing Rate Analysis
- Community Outreach
- Energy Efficiency Facility Identification

Job Fairs

I-REN attended approximately 16 job fairs in 2024. Through these job fairs, the I-REN team collected 203 interested job seeker slips from individuals interested in the I-REN Energy Fellowship or hearing about I-REN workforce resources. Some of these job fairs were conducted in partnership with Energy is Everything. I-REN has a system to collect interested job seeker forms from prospective candidates. The information is compiled into a listserv. I-REN notifies the candidates registered in the listserv when the Energy Fellowship application is open, which may result in an Energy Fellow placement with a member agency.

I-REN WE&T Job Fair Events



04.02.24

University of California, Riverside
Spring Career and Internship Fair



06.29.24

Uplift San Bernardino
Youth Career & Trades Fair



OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025 AND BEYOND

In 2025, the I-REN WE&T team plans to expand opportunities for I-REN Energy Fellowships at public agencies in the region, to support the growing pipeline of public sector NMEC projects in the I-REN Cash for Kilowatts program. I-REN will also expand educational offerings for Energy Fellows.

Experiential Learning for I-REN Energy Fellows

After surveying the first-year I-REN Energy Fellows, I-REN identified an opportunity to enhance and support their development through experiential learning that would help advance their technical and project management skills in the industry. The current schedule of professional development tours and resources developed for the 2024–2025 Fellowship program year includes:

- December 2024: Regional Energy and Climate Hub (REACH) Inland Empire
- January 2025: I-REN Community Resilience Center Workshop
- February 2025: I-REN Energy Fellow ESRI Tour
- March 2025: IEDRC/I-REN Energy Infrastructure and Sector Showcase

- March 2025: I-REN Energy Fellow California Air Resources Board Tour
- April 2025: I-REN Energy Fellow CR&R Anaerobic Digester Tour
- May 2025: I-REN Energy Fellow Grid Alternative Tour
- June 2025: I-REN Energy Fellow Watt EV Tour
- July 2025: California Climate Energy Forum Fellowship participation opportunity

March 2025 Energy and Infrastructure Showcase Planned in Partnership with IEDRC

The purpose of the event is to be a one-stop energy workforce ecosystem that brings together Inland Empire community colleges, local agency staff, and workforce organizations. The participants will focus on the issues, barriers, and resources to help connect, identify, and have conversations to determine training opportunities to help develop a green energy pathway for job seekers in the region.

Sector-wide Workforce Collaborations

In alignment with I-REN's workforce objectives from its Business Plan, I-REN serves as a facilitator and convener, bringing together a wide variety of workforce development and educational providers in the region to address the region's workforce needs related to energy efficiency, decarbonization, and resiliency. I-REN workforce collaborations over the past two years are shown below.

I-REN WE&T Sector-wide Collaborations

2023

- Associated Builders and Contractors Inland Empire Branch
- Barstow Community College
- California Baptist University
- CSUSB
- Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce
- CivicWell California Adaptation Forum
- Construction Trades Workforce Initiative
- Energy Code Ace
- Goodwill Career Resources Inland Empire
- Inland Empire Community Colleges Job Developers
- Inland Empire Desert Regional Consortium
- James Irvine Foundation
- LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
- Local Employment Development Department Veterans Division
- Mount San Jacinto College
- Riverside City College Guardian scholars
- Riverside County Office of Education
- San Bernardino City Unified School District
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- San Gorgonio High School (Jobs 4 California Graduates)
- Southern California Energy Innovation Network
- Time for Change Foundation
- Tomorrow's Talent
- Youth Action Project

2024

- California Employment Development Departments – Veterans Division
- California State University, San Bernardino
- Center for Employment Training
- College of the Desert
- Desert Valley Builders Association
- Eastvale Chamber of Commerce
- Energy is Everything
- Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce
- GRID Alternatives
- Inland Economic Growth & Opportunity
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership
- Inland Empire Labor Institute
- Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative
- Institute of Heating and Air Conditioning Industries
- Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition
- Norco College
- Public Health Institute/CivicSpark
- Redlands Chamber of Commerce
- Riverside County Office of Economic Development
- Riverside County Workforce Development
- San Bernardino County Economic Development
- San Bernardino Valley College
- San Bernardino Workforce Development Department
- Science and Technology Education Partnership
- Thrive Inland SoCal
- University of California, Riverside
- Uplift San Bernardino
- Victor Valley College CTE

03.

Total System
Benefit

04.

Savings by
End Use

05.

Environmental
Impacts

Total System Benefit

2024 Total System Benefit, Net First Year Savings & Goal Attainment

	Total System Benefit (TSB)	GWh	MW	MMTherms
	Portfolio - Non C&S	Codes & Standards (C&S)		
2024 TSB and Total Installed Portfolio Savings	\$101,864	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adopted 2024 Targets (D.23-08-005)	\$172,737	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage of goal attainment	59%	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024–2027 Cumulative TSB and Total Installed Portfolio Savings	\$101,864	n/a	n/a	n/a
Adopted 2024-2027 Goals (D.23-08-005)	\$2,442,661	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percentage of Progress Towards 4-year Goal	4%	n/a	n/a	n/a

Savings by End Use

2024 Annual Net Savings by End Use

End-use Category	kWh	Percentage of Total
Whole Building	156,290	100%
Total Portfolio Savings	156,290	100%

Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impact (Net Metric Tons of Avoided Emissions)

Annual CO ₂	Lifecycle CO ₂	Annual NO _x	Lifecycle NO _x	Annual PM10	Lifecycle PM10
49	711	0.004926261	0.024631306	0.004270159	0.021350796

06. Expenditures

I-REN's 2024 budget and expenditures are shown below.

I-REN 2024 Budget Forecast

Program ID	Program Name	2024 Budget
IREN-PUBL-001	Technical Assistance and Strategic Energy Planning Program	\$3,062,464.73
IREN-PUBL-002	Public Buildings NMEC Program	\$2,600,713.94
IREN-CS-001	C&S Training and Education Program	\$983,912.05
IREN-CS-002	Technical Support Program	\$652,782.63
IREN-WET-001	WE&T Training and Education Program	\$1,242,206.71
IREN-WET-002	Workforce Development Program	\$1,558,915.14
Program Subtotal		\$10,100,995.20
IDS M		\$243,000.00
Portfolio Support PA Costs		\$664,950.27
EM&V		\$458,706.06
Total I-REN 2024 Budget Forecast		\$11,467,651.53

I-REN 2024 Actuals

Program ID	Admin	Marketing & Outreach	Direct Implementation	Incentives	Total
IREN-PUBL-001	\$370,797.11	\$50,660.05	\$2,371,252.26	\$0.00	\$2,792,709.42
IREN-PUBL-002	\$275,684.89	\$31,727.83	\$1,378,221.93	\$0.00	\$1,685,634.65
IREN-CS-001	\$47,521.56	\$15,632.87	\$620,073.94	\$0.00	\$683,228.37
IREN-CS-002	\$40,903.10	\$11,449.61	\$199,321.72	\$0.00	\$251,674.43
IREN-WET-001	\$248,202.54	\$11,581.39	\$501,492.20	\$0.00	\$761,276.13
IREN-WET-002	\$98,917.59	\$11,581.39	\$384,616.34	\$0.00	\$495,115.32
IREN-EMV-001	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
IREN-MS-Portfolio Support	\$8,965.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,965.85
IREN-CS-Portfolio Support	\$8,965.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,965.85
IREN-IDS-M-Equity-001	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
IREN-Equity-Portfolio Support	\$35,863.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,863.53
I-REN Total	\$1,135,822.02	\$132,633.14	\$5,454,978.39	\$0.00	\$6,723,433.55

07.

—
Cost-
Effectiveness



California's statewide EE portfolio, which includes I-REN's programs, is cost-effective from an overall perspective as described recently by the CPUC's report⁷ in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-5-24.⁸

Within the overall EE portfolio, the CPUC has authorized I-REN and other RENs to offer EE programs that are not held to a cost-effectiveness threshold, "because the RENs are inherently designed to take on filling gaps in the other larger portfolios or serving the needs of HTR customer segments/markets that will be naturally less cost-effective to serve."⁹ Similarly, the IOU PAs and MCE are permitted to dedicate 30% of their budgets toward programs focused on advancing equitable access to EE and supporting the long-term growth of markets for EE—programs which are not subject to cost-effectiveness thresholds. RENs and the equity and market support segments of the portfolio were created in order to ensure that these policy priorities are advanced within the statewide EE portfolio, which is cost-effective on an overall basis.

While not subject to a cost-effectiveness threshold, I-REN strives to manage its portfolio "with an eye toward long-term cost-effectiveness," as encouraged by CPUC,¹⁰ as a good steward of ratepayer dollars. As noted in D.21-11-013, the CPUC decision approving I-REN's Business Plan, CPUC welcomes I-REN's focus on equity and serving disadvantaged and underserved communities, stating that:

*"Involving the types of customers and communities that I-REN's Business Plan will serve is important to help California meet its energy and climate goals."*¹¹

⁷ CPUC Response to Executive Order N-5-24. Table A-2. Program list.

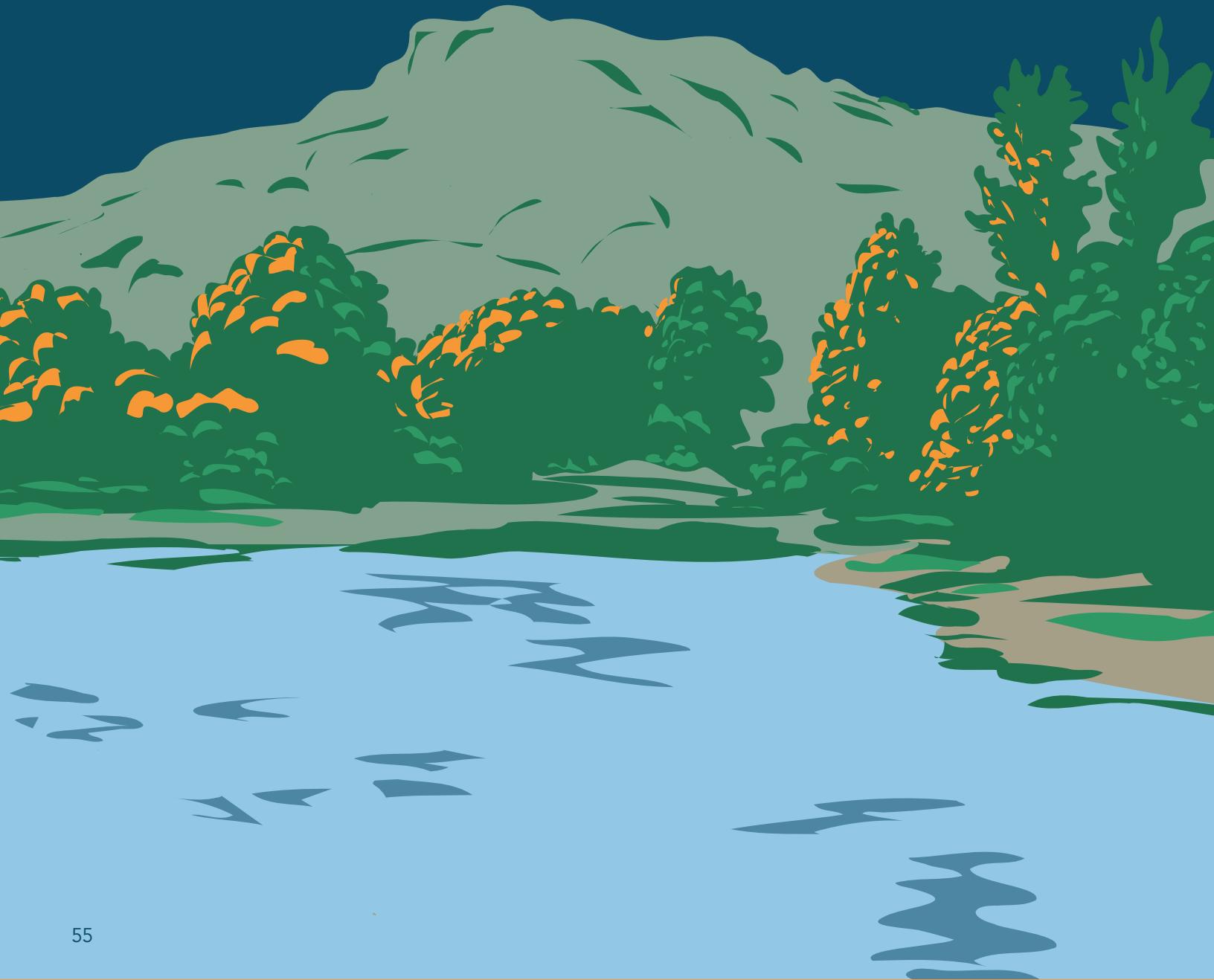
⁸ Executive Order N-5-24 (2024). <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/energy-EO-10-30-24.pdf>

⁹ D.19-12-021 at 37

¹⁰ D.16-08-019 at 12.

¹¹ D.21-11-013 Conclusions of Law 7 and 8.

08. — Metrics



Unique Value Metrics

D.19-12-021 directed proponent RENs to “demonstrate new and unique value toward California’s energy, climate, and equity goals”¹² and then file their progress toward their proposed unique value metrics once they were approved and operating.

I-REN Unique Value Metrics

Percentage of partner jurisdictions that use I-REN guides and tools for code compliance

Codes & Standards

One of I-REN’s key unique strengths is its relationships with local governments through the founding agencies’ work as councils/associations of governments. This metric is intended to show I-REN’s progress on leveraging those relationships to engage with jurisdictions on C&S permitting and code compliance.

Number of BUC registrations in partner jurisdictions (total users)

Public Sector

BUC registration is the entry point to accessing I-REN technical assistance services. The BUC portal allows for exploring possible savings opportunities for projects that Public Sector Program participants could pursue via I-REN NMEC program and/or other PAs’ programs. BUC also offers the ability to establish and maintain ongoing relationships and associated data.

Number of Fellows placed within partner jurisdictions

Workforce Education & Training

I-REN Fellowships are a crucial quick-start activity for WE&T and also provide cross-cutting benefits for Public Sector and C&S. Fellows play a role as EE champions at local jurisdictions to help advance EE projects in coordination with I-REN Public Sector technical assistance, such as benchmarking or strategic energy planning. Fellows can supplement staff capacity to take on NMEC or other incentive projects and support permitting and code compliance with I-REN C&S support.

¹² D.19-12-021 Conclusion of Law 9.

Equity and Market Support Indicators and Goals

D.23-06-055 adopted objectives and indicators for the equity and market support segments and designated how often indicators should be reported (quarterly or annually) and at what level (segment or whole portfolio). I-REN was an active participant in the Equity and Market Support Working Group formed by CAEECC to clarify the indicators through a stakeholder process, and joined with other PAs and stakeholders to draft the resulting May 1, 2024 joint PA advice letter (I-REN Advice Letter 5-E/5-G) as ordered in D.23-06-055 Ordering Paragraph 11. The joint PA advice letter clarified the equity and market support indicators; proposed modifications to the common metrics adopted in D.18-05-041; recommended a methodology to determine indicator baselines; and laid out a suggested schedule for tracking and reporting of equity and market support indicators and updated common metrics and indicators.

The resolution addressing the joint PAs' advice letter has not yet been issued. However, I-REN worked proactively in 2024 to adopt a framework—including methodology and data collection processes—to begin tracking these indicators in anticipation of the forthcoming resolution from CPUC and reporting requirements to follow. I-REN is well situated to fulfill its obligations to track progress toward the equity and market support indicators.

Relatedly, I-REN has also been an active participant in the joint PA effort to develop equity and market support goal constructs, as directed by D.23-06-055 Ordering Paragraph 25. This effort began in 2024 and continues in 2025.

D.18-05-041 Common Metrics

In addition to clarifying the adopted equity and market support indicators, D.23-06-055 Ordering Paragraph 11 also ordered PAs to examine the metrics and indicators adopted in D.18-05-041. I-REN participated in the joint advice letter process as described above, and was an active participant in proposing modifications to these metrics and indicators. While awaiting resolution of the joint advice letter, I-REN continued to track all relevant common metrics in 2024.

09. — Commitments

I-REN has planned and budgeted for funds to be committed to numerous activities to support its portfolio in 2025 and beyond, including contracts with implementers, consultants, and vendors.

A total of \$220,872.48 in incentives have been reserved in 2024 for disbursement in program years 2025–2026 for projects under I-REN's Cash for Kilowatts program.

