



RISING SUN ENERGY CENTER

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Bay Area Youth Tackle the Drought and Climate Change through a No-Cost Energy and Water Efficiency Program

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In August 2015, Rising Sun Energy Center's California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program completed its 16th summer providing valuable energy and water conservation services to local residents at no cost, through a partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), local municipalities, and local water districts.

This summer, CYES surpassed its goal of serving 5,000 households by serving 5,704 homes—a CYES record, and hired 180 youth, ages 15-24. In just six weeks, CYES youth installed almost 57,000 energy and water saving measures, reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 153 cars off the road in one year, and saving residents nearly \$1.48 million in lifetime energy dollars.

CYES trained, employed, and empowered local youth as Energy Specialists, providing their city's residents with the no-cost Green House Call (GHC) service. The youth actively improved the energy and water efficiency of their communities through the installations of equipment such as efficient light bulbs, showerheads, and faucet aerators, and by providing residents with tips on how they can save even more. While the youth provided this important service, they also earned a paycheck and gained important job and life skills. The program deeply invests in professional development for its youth employees, focusing on career planning, basic job skills, and soft skills such as leadership and communication.

CYES youth and clients rave about the program:

"This was definitely the highlight of my summer. I met some awesome people and acquired a set of handy skills that can be put to use on a moment's notice, thanks to the excellent training we received in this program." – Rico, Energy Specialist

"It was an honor and privilege working for CYES as my first job. I look forward to applying for next year." – Akashdeep, Energy Specialist

"This is a fantastic service. I was so impressed with these two young men. They were very well-spoken and had the answers to all my questions. A pleasure to deal with them. Thank you!" – GHC Client

CYES provides services to all community members regardless of income, with a focus on serving hard-to-reach residents, including renters, low-to-moderate income households, seniors, and non-English speaking households. CYES served more than 250 households in each of the following communities: Antioch, Dublin, Fairfield, Fremont, Hayward, Lafayette-Moraga-Orinda, Manteca, Marin County, Martinez, Oakland, Richmond, Santa Rosa, South Stockton-Lathrop-French Camp, Stockton, Suisun, Tracy, Vacaville, Vallejo and Walnut Creek.

<http://www.risingsunenergy.org/content/greencall.html>.

For more information about Rising Sun and its programs, visit www.risingsunenergy.org