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## **SBCCOG ANNOUNCES SOLAR PROGRAM RENEWABLE SOUTH BAY**

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) is pleased to announce a new program, Renewable South Bay, that aims to help more homeowners go solar, improving their homes and contributing to a cleaner, greener environment for the whole region. Our partner in Renewable South Bay is Renovate America's HERO Program, the nation's largest residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. The HERO Program pairs an innovative financing solution with industry-leading consumer safeguards throughout every step of a project, making solar panels on homes much more achievable. All residents of cities and unincorporated areas within the SBCCOG are eligible to participate.

In accordance with state law, through PACE programs such as HERO, property owners can receive 100% financing for energy efficiency or water conservation projects. Upon installation, they start receiving the financial benefit right away. The property owner pays for the project as a property tax assessment over time, and should the property ownership transfer, the assessment stays with the property. State law also includes consumer protections.

While solar panels are one of the most popular programs, there are over 50 types of home performance projects that qualify for the PACE Programs. Other types of improvements that can be financed include heating and air conditioning, windows and doors, roofing, artificial turf, and more that help save energy or water.

PACE financing programs are a "win-win" situation not only for an individual property owner, but also for the participating cities and the larger South Bay community. Property owners have the immediate benefit of reduced utility bills and increased property value. PACE programs also economically benefit owners by enabling the financing of energy and water efficiency improvements up front with no money down, with a fixed rate property assessment that can be amortized over time (up to 20 years). The individual participating cities benefit from increased sales tax and construction permit fee revenues which are a result of the construction and improvement work that is involved. PACE also benefits cities by providing an additional tool or strategy that can be incorporated into a Climate Action Plan, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and advancing environmental goals of AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006).

Renewable South Bay and the HERO Program offer an easy way to install solar and take control of your utility costs. They have already helped thousands of homeowners save energy, water, and money. Visit [www.southbaycities.org/programs/renewable-south-bay](http://www.southbaycities.org/programs/renewable-south-bay) for more information, or call 855-HERO-411.

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