

New Cuyama Residential Energy Study

Problem Statement: Residents of the rural community of New Cuyama, California overwhelmingly live in homes that were built in the early 1950s with little insulation and in need of repair. Residents have expressed strong interest in home upgrades and funding to support these upgrades, but face significant challenges finding contractors that are interested in working in the remote location that don't charge exorbitant prices.

Proposed Solution: We will establish a partnership between:

- ***The Blue Sky Center***- a trusted local non-profit focused on economic development and rural resilience
- ***The County of Santa Barbara's Sustainability Division***- an experienced staff of energy and climate change professionals that run energy efficiency programs through the Tri-County Regional Energy Network

to study the residential energy landscape, and support future project implementation.

Partnership Research:

- Survey 100 homeowners on their home upgrade needs and desires
- Conduct energy audits on 20 homes
- Conduct survey of 20 contractors on the barriers and opportunities of working in the Cuyama Valley

Partnership Goals:

- Increase Cuyama Valley homeowner awareness of home energy upgrade opportunities and benefits
- Enhance project team understanding of barriers that contractors face in completing home energy upgrades in the Cuyama Valley
- Build community capacity to support future home energy upgrades and potentially other local clean energy projects

With Phase Two Prize Funding: The team will organize a group buying opportunity (or a similar approach) for interested homeowners, and buy down a portion of the homeowner costs with prize money.