

Energy efficiency program for manufacturers announced in Pomona

By Andrew Edwards, Staff Writer
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POMONA - A federally supported consulting program designed to promote environmentally friendly and cost-effective business practices is now available to California manufacturers.

Called the E3 Initiative - the three E's are economy, energy and environment - the California version of the program has support from multiple federal agencies, Southern California Gas Co. and a nonprofit called California Manufacturing Technology Consulting.



Participants formally announced the E3's expansion to California on Thursday during the SoCalGas Business Expo at Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center.

As described by its supporters, the E3 Initiative would enable interested factory managers to open their facilities to consultants who would later prepare a list of recommendations to reduce environmental impacts and production costs.

"This E3 Initiative is basically taking all these folks that are rowing in the same direction ... and bringing them together to help them tune up their factories," senior EPA policy counsel Matt Bogoshian said.

California is the 16th state where the E3 Initiative is in place, Bogoshian said.

The EPA reports that surveys of 10 San Antonio plants conducted in 2009 led to the discovery of opportunities to save 2.9 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is about enough power to supply 3,200 homes in one month.

In dollar terms, the surveys found potential yearly savings of roughly \$300,000, according to the EPA.

Many of the consulting services that can be obtained through the E3 initiative can be provided free of charge, said Hal Snyder, the Gas Company's vice president of customer solutions.

E3 evaluations can include assessments of a manufacturers' natural gas consumption, as well as electricity use, toxic substances controls and wastewater discharge, Snyder said.

"It brings the whole package of energy into one opportunity," he said.

The EPA is not the only federal agency involved in E3. The Commerce, Energy and Labor departments and U.S. Small Business Association is also involved.

Information: www.e3.gov.