

Home Energy Link Program

HELP Plus and HELP H2O



Progress Report for the City of Fort Bragg
Funded by Community Development Block Grant
Keith Rutledge, REDI Director



October 23, 2017

HELP Plus - Energy and Water Efficiency

- ▶ Original HELP services included home energy efficiency and utility payment assistance targeted to low-income households
- ▶ HELP Plus adds renewable energy and water conservation services
- ▶ HELP leverages existing program funding by assisting HELP clients to access all available programs



North Coast Energy Services



Energy Savings
.....
Assistance Program



HELP H2O - Water Conservation and Water Utility Payment Assistance

- ▶ HELP H2O is designed to provide education for all Fort Bragg residents on how to reduce water consumption through practices and improvements
- ▶ Served 155 income eligible water customers with an average of about \$100 to pay 50% of past due water bills providing \$15,000 for the Water fund
- ▶ Additional water supply from Rainwater Catchment and Greywater Recycling
- ▶ Water audits teach residents about water usage and identifies areas for conserving water and allows tracking usage to monitor outcomes
- ▶ The Fort Bragg Bucket Brigade enlisted over a hundred Fort Bragg households in pledging to conserve water by installing water efficiency devices

HELP Program Links

- ▶ North Coast Energy Services
 - ▶ Utility payment Assistance / Weatherization / Appliance Replacement
- ▶ Pacific Gas and Electric / SALCO
 - ▶ CARE, FERA & Medical Rate Tariffs / Weatherization / Energy Upgrade / Financing
- ▶ GRID Alternatives
 - ▶ Photovoltaic System installed at no cost to Fort Bragg resident
- ▶ Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE)
 - ▶ Energy and water efficiency financing
- ▶ ACWA Save Our Water
 - ▶ Toilet and Turf Replacement

HELP Local Partners

- ▶ Mendo Mill and Rossi offered Energy and Water Savings Products



HELP Office

- ▶ HELP Staff - Susan Kelley / Shelley Coben / Loreto Rojas / Ron O'Brien and numerous Volunteers worked at Fort Bragg and Willits REDI offices



HELP Volunteers



Georgia Ann Gregory, Christina Martin, Irene Malone
Ian Fox, Dorrit Effinger and many others



HELP Outreach

- ▶ Tabling at regular events
 - ▶ Farmer's Market
 - ▶ Chamber of Commerce Meetings



Brochures are displayed at the following locations in Fort Bragg:

- Home Supportive Services, Mendocino
- County
- Fort Bragg Library
- Mendocino County Social Services Departments, including Adult Protective Services
- Child Protective Services
- CalWorks Job Services Supplemental Food Assistance Programs
- Mendocino Coast
- Chamber of Commerce
- Redwood Senior Center
- Mendo Mill
- Rossi's Building Materials
- Fort Bragg City Hall
- Fort Bragg Food Bank
- Amerigas
- Safe Passage
- Mendo Lake Credit Union
- Ruby's Laundrymat
- Cypress Apartments

HELP Media

HOME+GARDEN

Thursday, September 17, 2015 • MORE AT FACEBOOK.COM/FORTBRAGGADVOCATENWS

CONSERVATION

HELP program offers a toolkit of home savings

Staff reports

As state government mandates a 25 percent reduction in California's water use, and the coming winter up heating costs, a local program is building an array of energy and water efficiency programs available to all Fort Bragg residents and they are looking for ways to increase their reach.

Local resident Susan Kelley is working with the City of Fort Bragg on the Home Energy Link Program (HELP) to boost participation in a range of conservation efforts, from storm-water catchment and gray-water systems, to an array of existing energy-saving services, rebates, financing and upgrade programs.

Among energy programs, Kelley said, efforts are being made now to recruit income-eligible residents for North Coast Energy Services' free HEAP utility payment assistance as well as LIHEAP home weatherization and help replacing old refrigerators and other household appliances.

While the HEAP program is designed with income restrictions, PG&E's Energy Upgrade California is available regardless of income. Energy Upgrade takes a "whole house" approach to energy conservation by encouraging residents to evaluate a range of energy-saving solutions as well as offering generous rebates on many of these solutions up to \$4,000.

HELP is also looking for contractors on the Mendocino Coast to par-



Susan Kelley is heading up efforts to promote the HELP program. She can be reached at skelley@rednet.org

ticipate in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, in which households can get financing for things like a new roof, windows, improved heater, weatherization and solar, which also includes a 30 percent tax credit incentive.

Funding for the PACE program comes in the form of low-interest assessments that can be paid back as part of property tax bills over five to 30 years, depending upon the improvements. Kelley said qualifying for PACE is not income-dependent and does not require qualifying with a bank, but simply having at least 15 percent equity in the home.

Saving water

While energy-saving programs focus on conservation, water conservation programs tend toward the do-it-yourself.

There are many small steps to water conservation:

- Installing aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets can save more than a gallon per person per day per fixture.
- Fixing a leaky toilet can save 30 to 60 gallons per day.
- Installing a water-efficient showerhead saves 1.2 gallons per minute.
- Running a full, rather than half-full dishwasher, can save 6 to 15 gallons per load.

• Many gallons can be saved by putting a water-filled plastic bag or bottle in the toilet tank, reducing the volume of each flush.

Household tips like these are gathered on the City of Fort Bragg's water conservation web page: <http://city.fortbragg.com/474/Water-Conservation>.

Catching the storm

The next step beyond making current systems more efficient is adapting household water systems to move long-term water-savings. Two relatively inexpensive additions to home water systems are currently being encouraged throughout California and are part of HELP's offerings.

HOME



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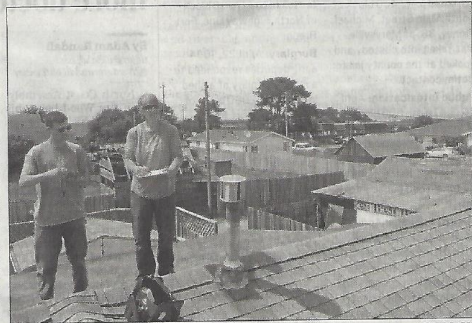
WATER • PAGE 3

Solar installation window closes June 30

From the Home Energy Link Program

Site visits for the first few of several dozen installations of subsidized solar systems expected for City of Fort Bragg residents have begun. GRID Alternatives is a non-profit organization that brings the benefits of solar technology to families that need the financial savings most, while giving volunteers and job trainees hands-on solar installation experience.

Natalie Henderson, the first homeowner to apply to the program said, "I am always looking for ways to lessen the impacts that my family has on the environment and teach those values to my children by example. The solar panel program will allow me to not only save money on my electric bill, but teach my children the importance of understanding our own consumption of energy and our direct impacts on the environment. Susan Kelley at the HELP office, which is funded by a block grant from the Renewable Energy Development Institute through the City of Fort Bragg, has been wonderful in linking me with the program. The program staff at GRID Alternatives are great people to work with and truly believe in their mission to bring clean, renewable energy to underserved communities like our own.



Wyatt Atkinson, SolarCorps Construction Fellow, and Cora Saxton, Construction Manager, evaluate space for an installation of solar panels in Fort Bragg.

wards sustainable. To be eligible to apply to this program, a homeowner must live within a census tract that has been designated as "low-income" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In Fort Bragg, census tract 06045010500, the southern half of the city, has that designation. Essentially, the qualified tract is bordered on the north by Oak St., on the south by South Harbor Dr/Hare Creek, and on the west by S. Main St., and on the east by Lyta Way. HUD's designation of this tract will expire on June 30 of this year.

maximum annual gross income requirement to qualify. It is based on income and household size.

The job-training component of GRID's program is an exciting opportunity for Fort Bragg. GRID Alternatives uses volunteers, friends, family, neighbors, and others interested in learning about installation of solar systems in order to reduce the cost of the installation and give participants the opportunity to learn about a fast growing job market. There will be a number of installations in Fort Bragg over the next

few months, giving trainees a chance to develop marketable skills.

GRID Alternatives is offering an Applicant Workshop on Wednesday, May 4 5:30-7 p.m., at the Fort Bragg Public Library. They are offering a Volunteer/Job Trainee Workshop Wednesday, May 18, 6-7 p.m., also in the Fort Bragg library.

Contact the Fort Bragg Home Energy Link Program (HELP) office at 119 N. Franklin St. or 707-962-3070 to find out if you might be eligible to participate or are interesting in finding out more.

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Thursday, April 7, 2016

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ENVIRONMENT

Fort Bragg recognizes World Wide Water Day

From the Home Energy Link Program

Members of the City of Fort Bragg, local landscape and water contractors, and area residents held a Water Saver workshop in recognition of World Wide Water Day March 22.

Teri Jo Barber, Fort Bragg Water Projects Coordinator, kicked off the three-hour meeting (<http://city.fortbragg.com/501/Council-Meeting-Live-Stream>) reviewing the agenda which included an update from the City on the current drought and water supplies for summer 2016 and beyond, educational presentations on rainwater and graywater system designs, local drought tolerant plants for replacing water consuming landscaping and how the City's Home Energy Link Program (HELP) assists residents with water and energy efficiency improvements.

Tom Varga, Fort Bragg Public Works Director, reviewed Fort Bragg's current drought situation and plans for additional water capacity. A range of options including new groundwater wells, a new off-channel surface water reservoir, and potential desalination of brackish water. Water conservation continues to be encouraged. The City is developing a graywater "Laundry to Landscape" application process to make it easy and safe for residents to use laundry water for landscape irrigation. The good news is that the rains have rejuvenated river flows for now but there is still a need to be aware of water use and to continue conserving this coming summer.

Alternative sources of landscape water through rainwater catchment and storage and through use of graywater for landscape and other home uses was the topic of Anna Birkas' educational presentation from Village Ecosystems. She stressed that considering the big picture, an overall site's water flow needs, begins with measuring existing water use, conserving the biggest end uses, and a detailed system design for capturing rainwater for many other uses results in an optimized water environment for that site. Anna

Birkas, rebates for new toilets and lawn conversions, and many other incentive programs are available for Fort Bragg residents. Shelley Cohen and Susan Kelley are available for water and energy efficiency HELP at the office, 119 N. Franklin, or call 962-3070 and email HELP@rednet.org.

Local landscape contractors and nursery managers spoke in a round table discussion about the wide variety of native and other plants that can be water saving alternatives to thirsty lawns and water intensive plants. Antonio Olvera of Olvera Landscaping expressed interest in incorporating gray water and rainwater systems into landscape design.

SAL'S NISTRO
at the
Senior Center
SATURDAY APRIL

HELP Events

- ▶ 2016 and 2017 Earth Day
- ▶ Bucket Brigade with 100 Pledges



Presentations

► Chamber of Commerce - Buy Local



Saturday, July 25th—Noyo Center Seal Articulation Workshop

Sunday, September 13th—Mexican Independence Day Fiesta in Bainbridge Park, Fort Bragg

Friday, October 23rd—Rainbow Farm at Redwood School Rainwater Catchment Workshop.

Friday, October 23rd—Redwood School Harvest Festival

November 2nd—Redwood Senior Center

December 13—Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce Showcase Mixer at The Company Store.

Schools and Students

- ▶ Dana Grey - Drama Llama puppet show for Earthday
- ▶ Pam Huntley - PG&E's Energenius program



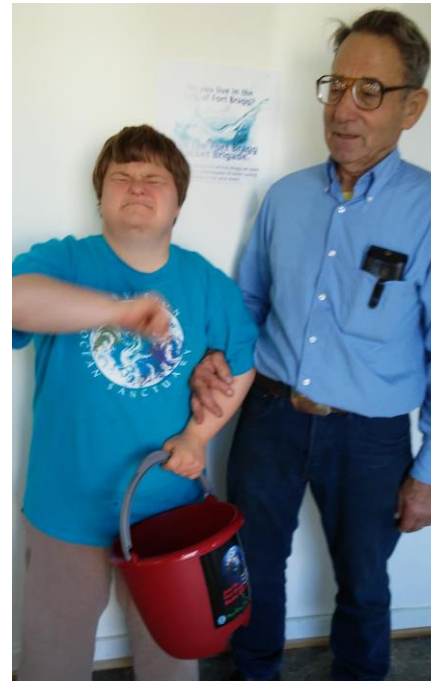
Energenius®

Outreach to Hispanic Community

- ▶ Loreto Rojas - translator and community organizer
- ▶ Club de la Lengua - HELP program education for bilingual class



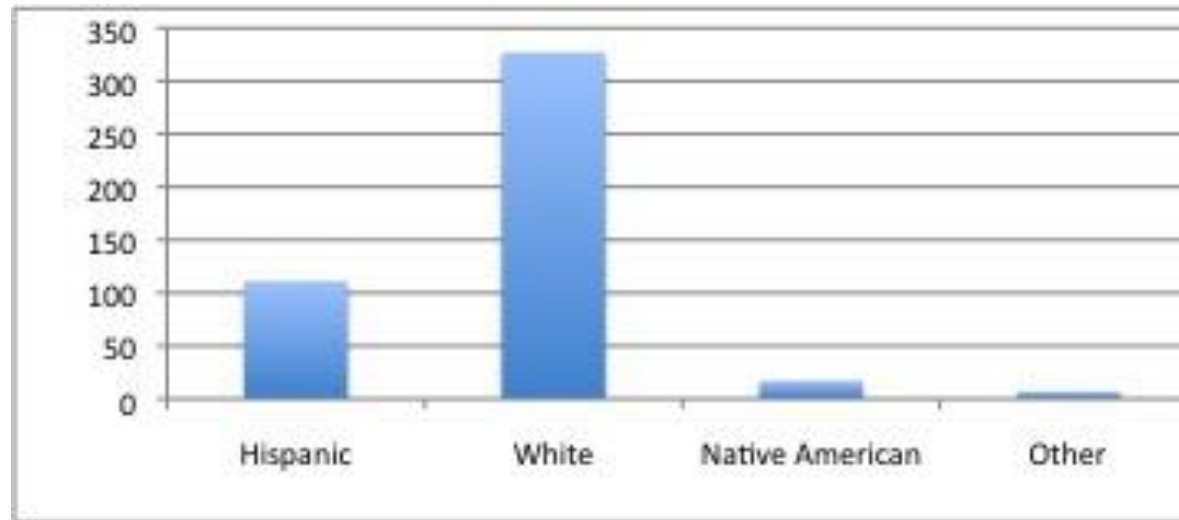
HELP Families



Sept 21st 2017
 Help kept the lights on in my home. this was appreciated thanks so much for all your help.
 ~Rebecca Pateyten♡

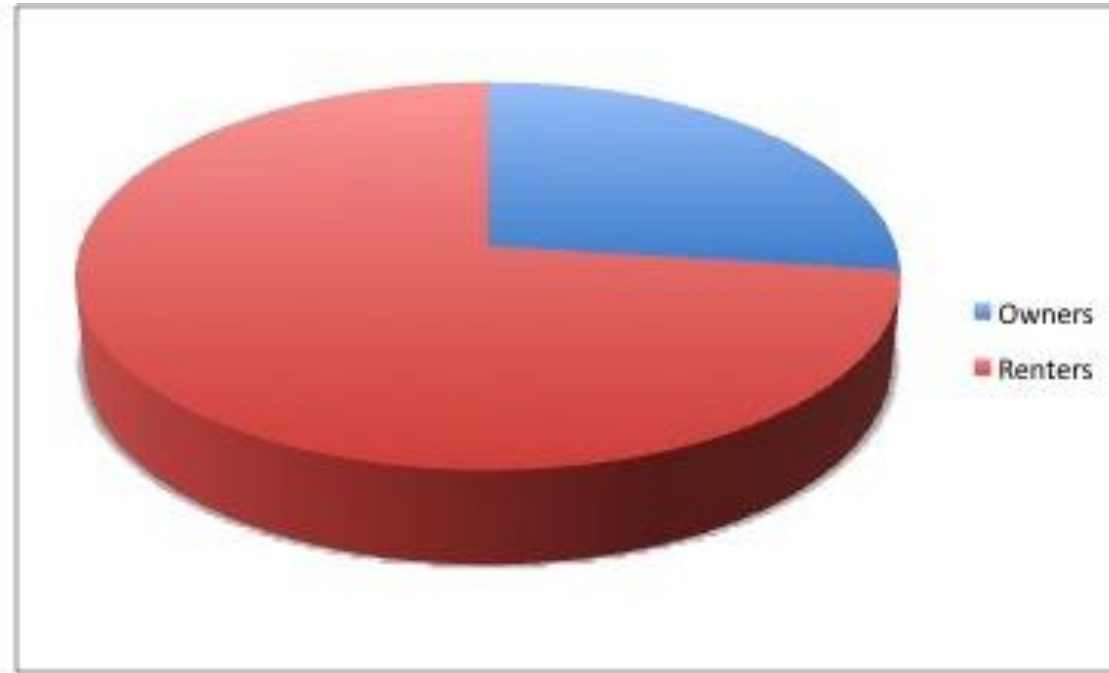
Sept 21, 2017
 Since the first day I walked into the HELP office I have received great service. Not only to get signed up for programs but I've learned so much about ways to Lower my power usage. I was informed about programs I had no knowledge of. I appreciate all these women have been wonderful. & They know their business. Thank you for helping me!

HELP Clients by Ethnicity



Hispanic	111
White	327
Native American	17
Other	7

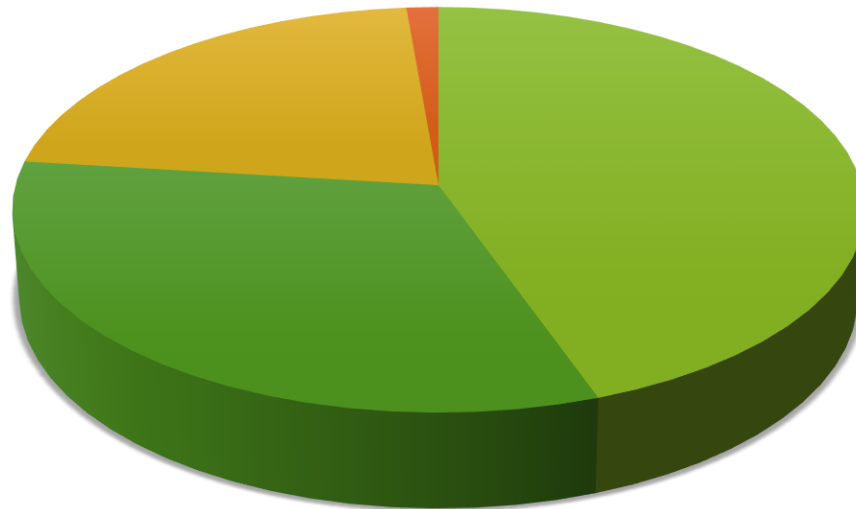
HELP Clients - Rent vs Own



► Owners 27% and Renters 73%

HELP Clients - Income

extremely low income	45%	197
low income	32%	143
moderate income	22%	96
over income	1%	6
Total Clients by Income		442



- extremely low income
- low income
- moderate income
- over income

HELP Plus Impacts

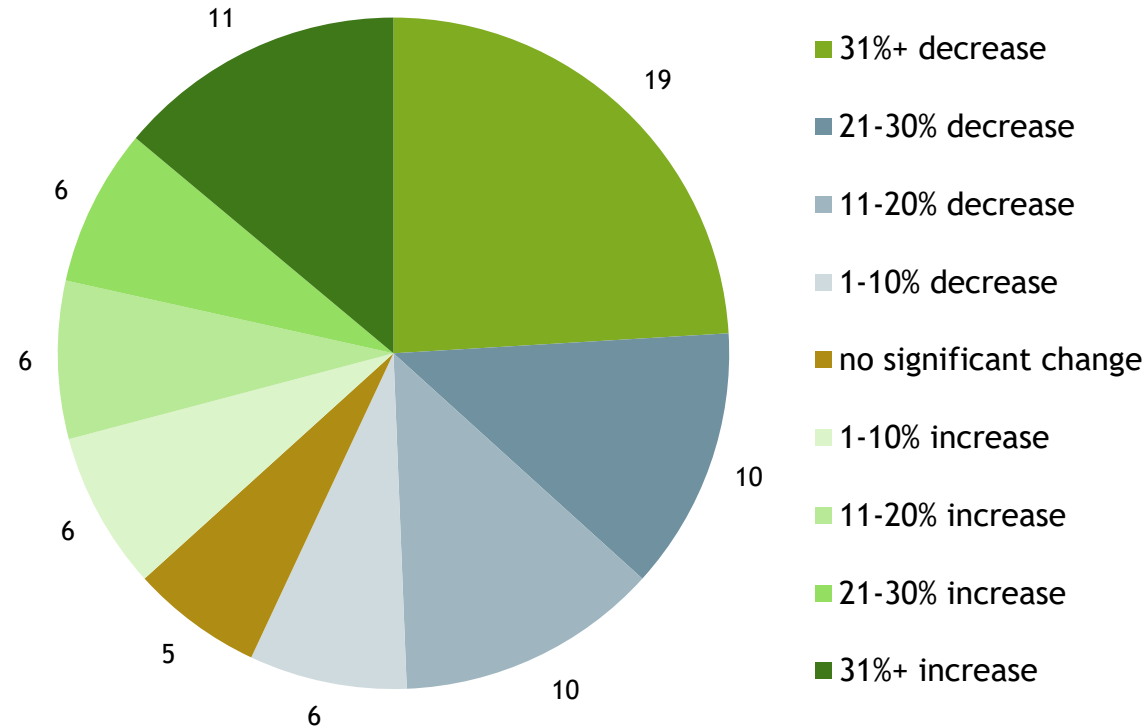
- ▶ 702 Total Inquiries from Fort Bragg households
- ▶ Over 1,800 Individual Services or Programs “Linked”
- ▶ 440 Utility Payment Assistance of over \$5,400
- ▶ 215 Weatherizations including appliance and heater replacements
- ▶ 346 Water Audits for Water Saver coupons and Bucket Brigade
- ▶ 143 Bucket Brigade pledges and Tracking Authorization
- ▶ 162 H2O Clients with 155 payment assistance funded at \$15,000
- ▶ 100 Workshop Participants for Rainwater, Laundry to Landscape and Events
- ▶ 121 CARE / FERA / Medical Rate Tariff discounts
- ▶ 39 GRID PV system applications with 13 completed to date
- ▶ Hundreds of event participants educated about energy and water efficiency
- ▶ 11 Fort Bragg Housing Rehabilitations

HELP H2O Impacts



Turf Replacement
with Low-water yard

Water Usage Change After Water Audit by Number of Households



45 households with significant decrease of water usage after taking the water audit
5 households with no significant change
29 households with increased usage

102,565.76 total gallons of water saved by these 79 households in one year, or
1298.3 gallons saved per year average by each household, or
108 gallons saved on average each monthly bill per client.

these 79 households had a total of 238 residents, or an average of 3.01 residents per household

430.95 gallons saved per year by each person
35.91 gallons saved each monthly bill per resident

Weatherizations

New Space Heater being installed
by NCES



New Refrigerator
From SALCO

Laundry to Landscape Workshop



Ian Fox / Lynne Baumgartner



Rainwater Catchment Workshop



Ana Birkas



Charles Bush
Redwood Senior Center



GRID Alternatives PV Systems

- ▶ 39 GRID applications with 13 completed systems
- ▶ 2.45 to 5.5 kW at cost of \$188,000 and 65,500 kWh / yr



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Housing stock condition
- ▶ Code issues
- ▶ Tenant Landlord Issues
- ▶ Water and Economics
- ▶ Water Usage Monitoring

Future HELP Activities

- ▶ HELP Plus III - New funding to continue HELP in Fort Bragg
- ▶ Housing Stock upgrade funding to improve ability to weatherize
- ▶ Heat Pump replacement program to access PG&E Program Funds

