COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
GENERAL SERVICES

# Santa Barbara County

# Energy Program Update

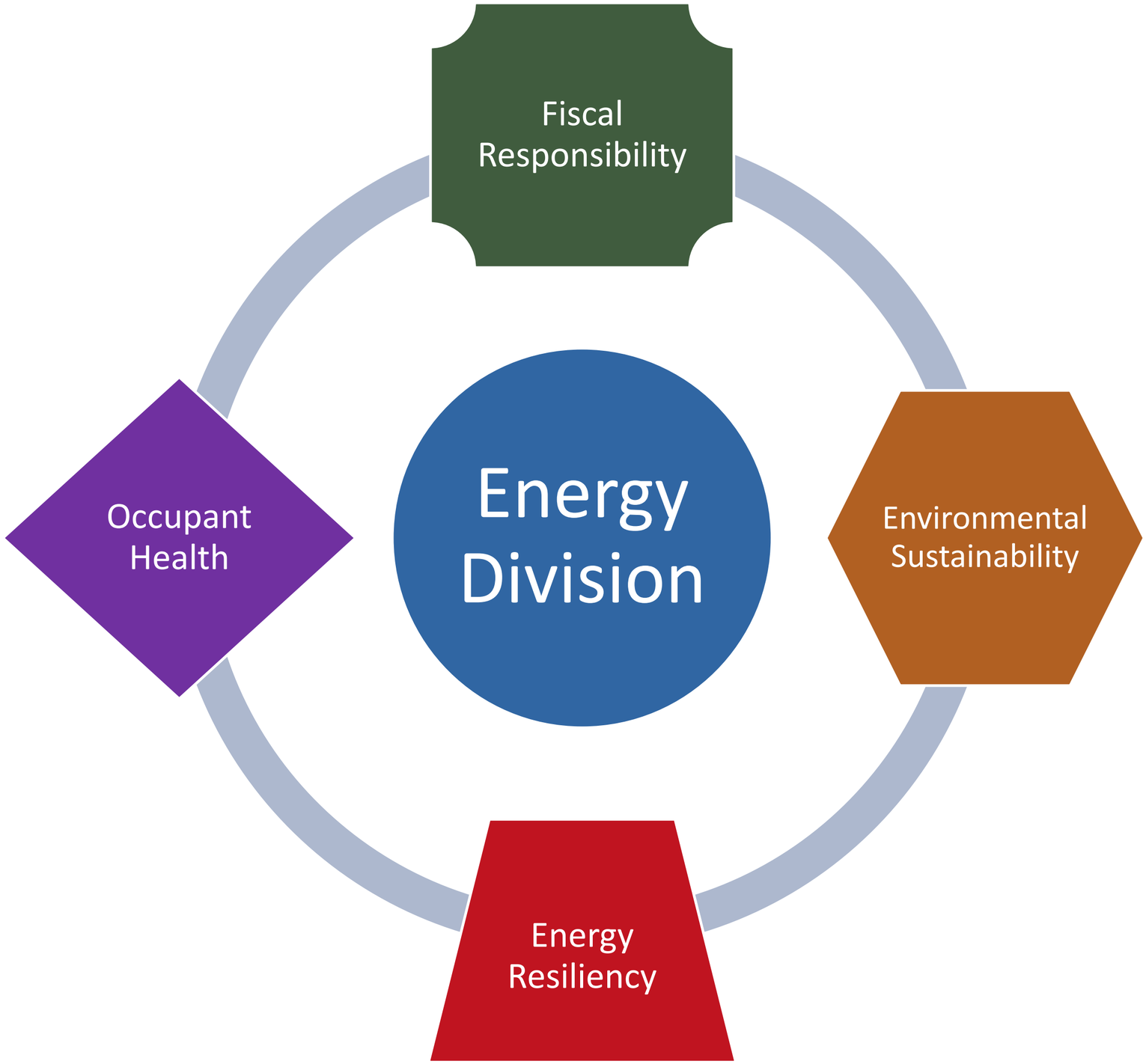
January 2026

# Presentation Summary

- Introduction
- Key Achievements (FY 24-25)
- Energy Use & Cost Trends
- Renewable Energy
- Looking Forward

# Introduction

# GENERAL SERVICES ENERGY DIVISION



# GENERAL SERVICES ENERGY DIVISION

- **Energy & Utility Management**
  - Analyze monthly and annual energy and water utilization reports
  - Investigate and resolve energy performance issues
  - Perform energy audits and conduct economic impact analysis

- **Zero Net Energy (ZNE)**
  - Support design efforts for new construction projects
  - Determine best candidates for electrification through retrofits
  - Identify and develop best sites for renewable energy infrastructure

- **Energy Efficiency**
  - Coordinate with Facilities Maintenance to prioritize audits for facilities with aging equipment, in areas of high utility rates.
  - Identify project funding sources, design projects, support implementation

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**
  - Coordinate with Fleet Division to site and develop EVSE projects

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# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (FY 24-25)

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1. Awarded nine (9) solar Power Purchase Agreements. Expected to provide $57M in net savings over 30-years.

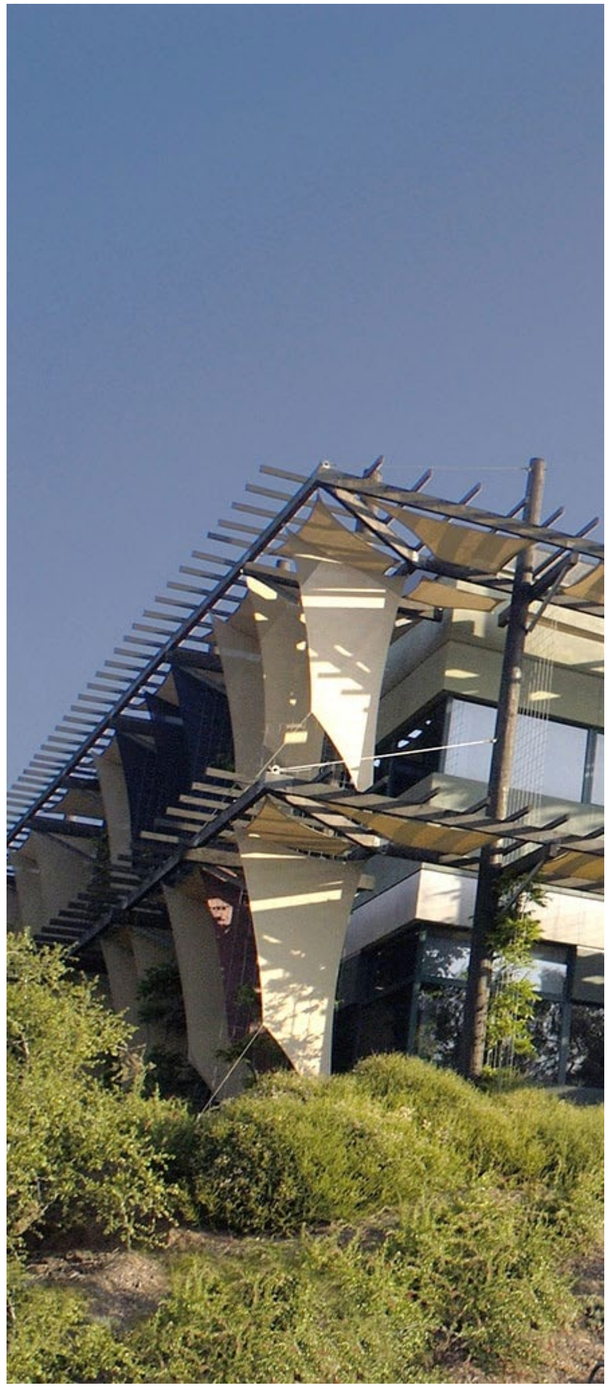
2. Initiated designs to install 150 EV Charging stations throughout the County for California Energy Commission grant.

3. Successfully began operations of the RFCC 250 kW solar array, which is expected to offset 100% of the RFCC & EOC electricity consumption.

4. Completed Foster Road LED Retrofit for 11 facilities. Expected to realize net savings of $750k over 15-year period.

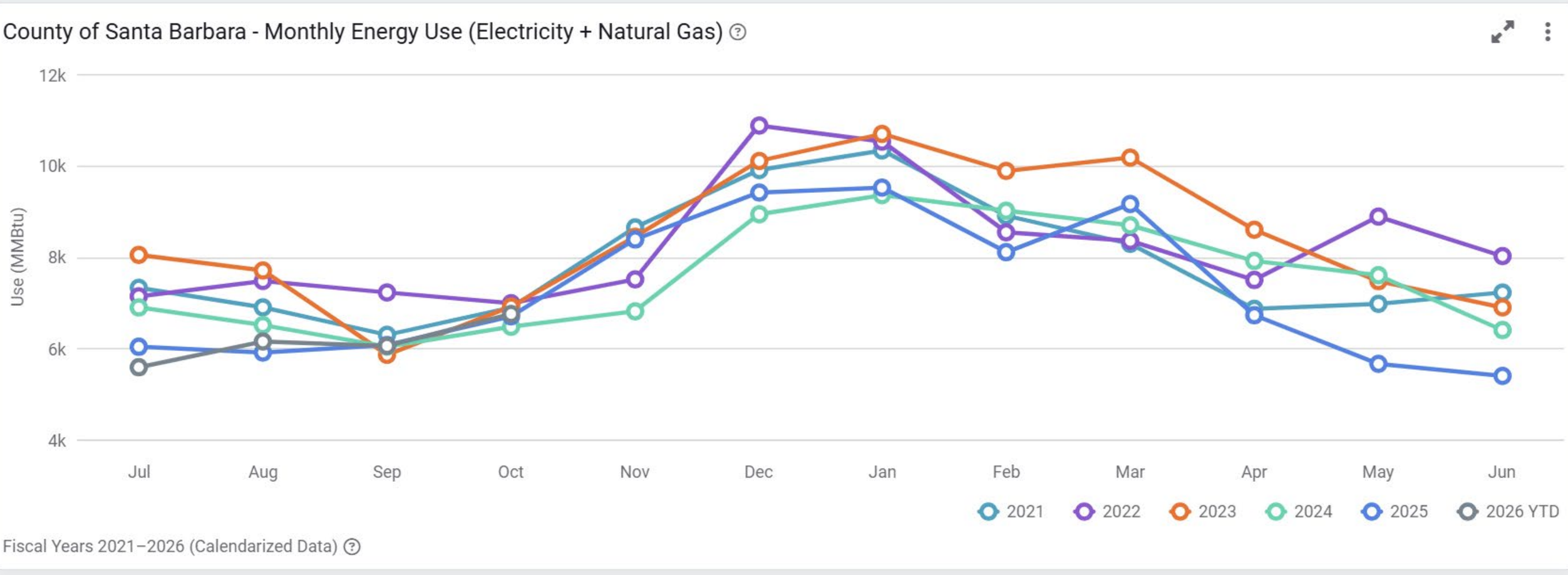
5. Completed HVAC and Building Energy Management System Designs for six Countywide facilities.

# ZERO NET ENERGY PROGRAM

# ENERGY USE & COST TRENDS

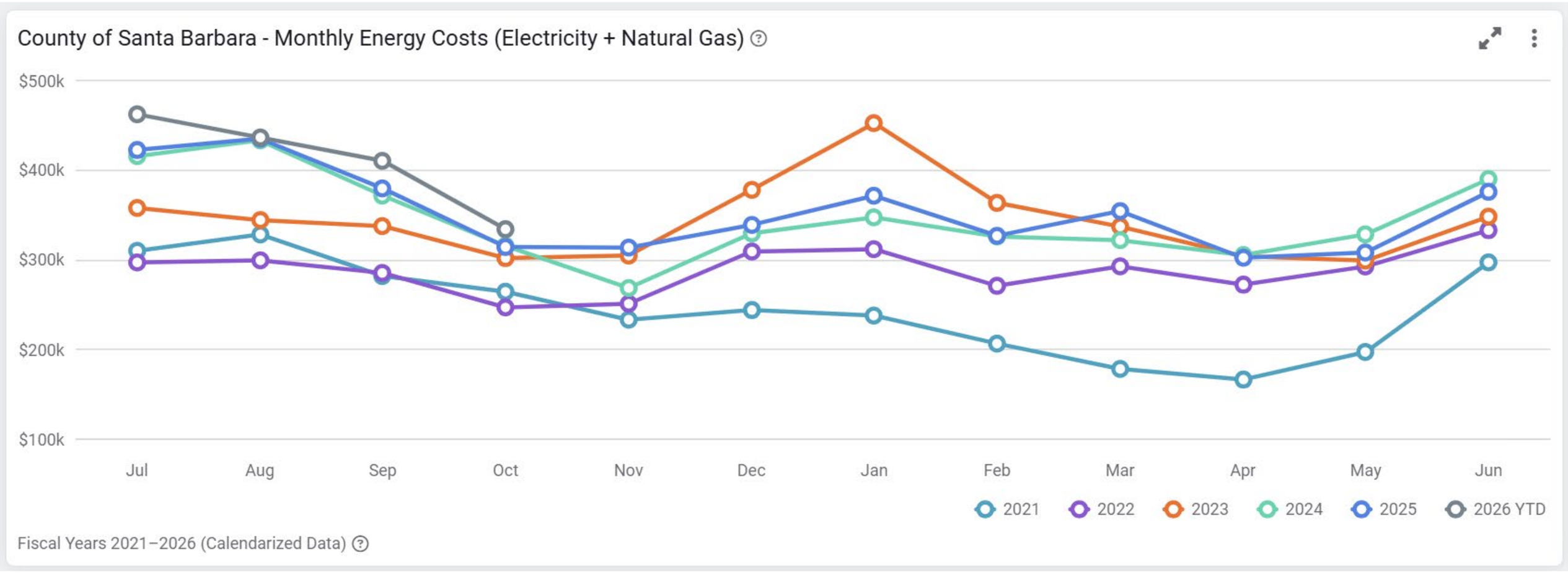
# TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (MMbtu)




*The last fiscal year (navy blue) was the lowest energy-intensive year in recent history (4% reduction in total energy use vs. FY '23-'24 and 10% lower than the average).*

*FY '25-'26 is currently on pace with this trend.*

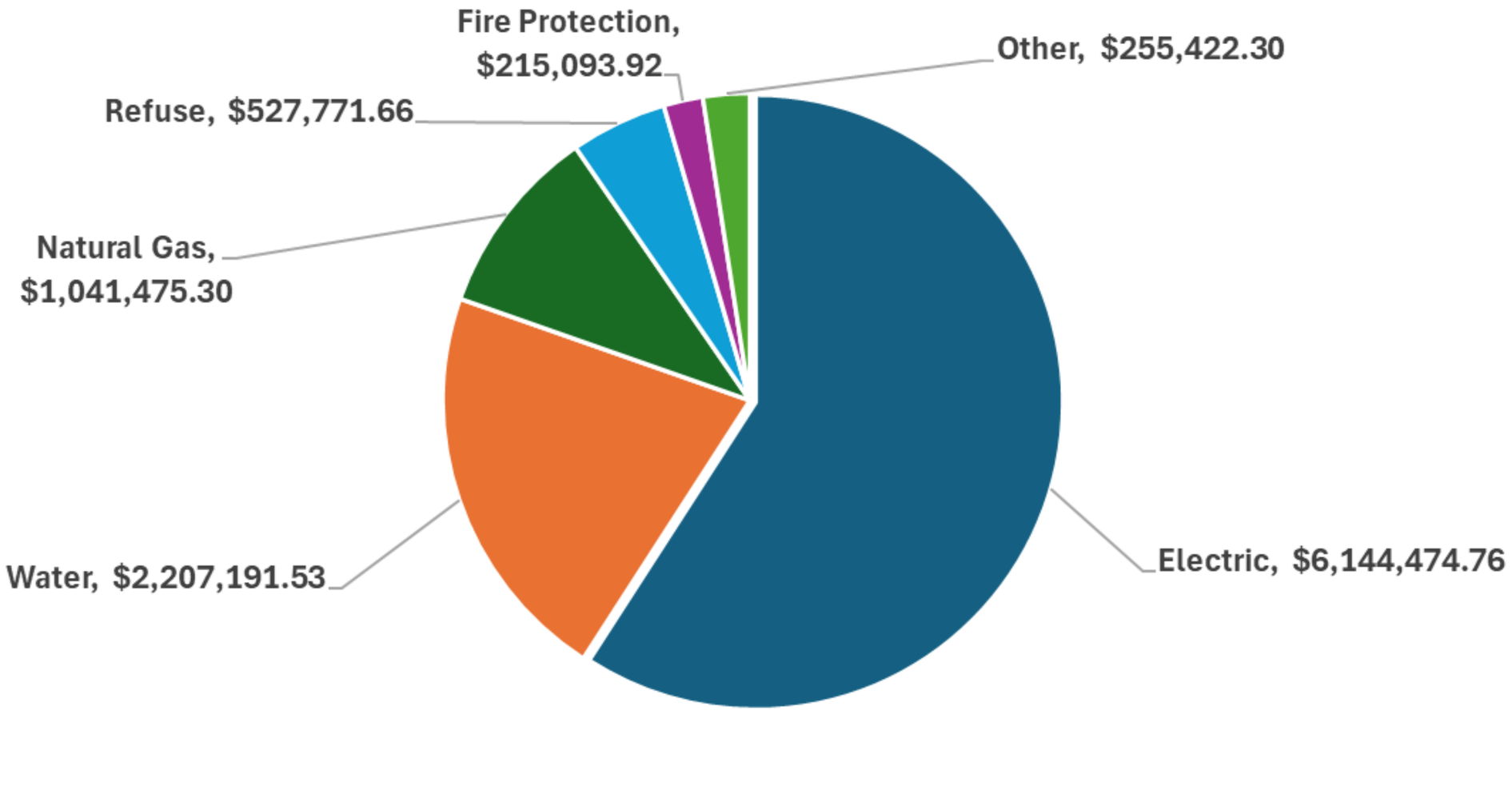
# TOTAL ENERGY COST ($)




*Total Energy Costs continue to climb, aside from efforts to reduce energy use and deploy renewable energy resources.*

*July 2025 total energy consumption was 25% lower than July 2022, but total costs were 50% higher.*

# TOTAL UTILITY COSTS ($)




*Total Utility Costs for FY 2024-2025 are $10,391,429. The County saves over $1.3M annually from the energy production from existing solar infrastructure.*

# IMPACTS ON COSTS OF ENERGY

- **Wildfire Risk & Liability:** Utilities face billions in wildfire mitigation and settlement costs, which are passed through to ratepayers.

- **Fixed Costs:** Even as efficiency and rooftop solar flatten demand, utilities must recover fixed infrastructure costs.

- **Natural Gas Volatility:** Electricity prices remain heavily tied to natural gas, which is affected by supply chains, extreme weather, pipeline limits, and global markets.

- **Grid Modernization:** Upgraded transmission lines for AI data centers, energy storage, electrification, renewable energy and resiliency are capital intensive in the near-term.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY

# CALLE REAL SOLAR ARRAY

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- The **1MW** solar array at the Calle Real campus was constructed in Q1 2012.
- The array has produced a total of **25 million kWh,** which is roughly 1.5x what the entire County building portfolio consumes in a normal year.
- To date, we have **saved $4.2M** and with a net **capital cost of $3.8M,** total savings has exceeded initial investment well before its 15-year loan timeframe.
- Staff expect to capture an additional **$8M in value over the next 15 years.**

# FUTURE SOLAR INFRASTRUCTURE

| Project Location | Solar Size (kW) | Cost per kWh | 30-yr Net Savings |
|---|---|---|---|
| Calle Real Campus (Expansion) | 1,401 | $ 0.1933 | $ 24,136,918 |
| Northern Branch Jail | 1,078 | $ 0.2415 | $ 12,241,871 |
| Foster Road Campus | 732 | $ 0.2940 | $ 6,499,795 |
| Lompoc Health Campus | 376 | $ 0.2955 | $ 4,566,098 |
| Santa Barbara Social Services | 270 | $ 0.2980 | $ 3,969,824 |
| Santa Maria Animal Shelter | 135 | $ 0.3275 | $ 2,408,743 |
| Casa Nueva | 113 | $ 0.3150 | $ 1,696,417 |
| Fire Station 34 | 70 | $ 0.3580 | $ 1,134,459 |
| New Cuyama Aquatics Center | 38 | $ 0.4290 | $ 421,797 |
| | **4,213** | **$ 0.3058** | **$ 57,075,922** |

*Future solar infrastructure will increase the County's renewable energy capacity from 3.4 MW to 7.6 MW.*

*In total, will meet 66% of the County's electricity needs.*

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# RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMARY

Total Energy = 243,000 MBTU

Equivalent to 7,000 homes

57% Electricity

43% Natural Gas

30% County-Owned Solar

36% Solar Power Purchase Agreements

32% Grid-Sourced Renewable Electricity

12% Non-Renewable

*Renewable Electricity = 88%*

*Renewable Energy = 50%*

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# LOOKING FORWARD

# PRIORITIES

1. Complete construction for Northern Branch Jail and Foster Road Campus Solar arrays (Net Energy Metering 2.0 projects).

2. Complete Zero Net Energy retrofits for Casa Nueva and Santa Maria Admin buildings.

3. Collaborate with Facilities Maintenance and Capital Projects to identify retrofits for gas-powered equipment where feasible and costs effective.

4. Execute installations of EV charging stations for CEC Grant.

5. Identify $1M+ in LED lighting projects and apply for On-Bill Financing.

6. Release RFQ for financing and implementing building upgrades through “Energy as a Service” contracts.

7. Assess feasibility of Battery Energy Storage System Land Use & Energy Resiliency Partnership Project at Tajiguas



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# SUMMARY

1. Making progress with energy efficiency and resiliency requires long-term planning and a network of expertise across the organization.

2. Focus on hiring technical experts and partnering with utility programs to support decision-making and project prioritization

3. Support for energy investments and sustainability goals at the leadership level is paramount in building momentum.

4. Targeting retrofits for aged gas-powered infrastructure and prioritizing renewable energy will lower operational costs while reducing emissions.

5. As utility costs increase, so does the return on investment of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

# THANK YOU

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# APPENDIX

# Proposed BESS Land Use & Energy Resilience Partnership Project

## ISSUES ADDRESSED

Local Grid Reliability & Energy Resilience

- Supports end-of-line 66 KV Distribution System in the event of 220 KV Line transmission outages

Strategic Land Use

- Minimize community and Environmental Impact
- Conformance with updated statewide BESS planning/siting goals

Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Response

- Helps avoid outages
- Continuity of operations
- Enhances readiness for events

State of the Art Technology

- Advanced fire protection & safety monitoring
- Newer & safer battery chemistry
- Outdoor enclosures -not a warehouse



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# Proposed BESS Land Use & Energy Resilience Partnership Project

## BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

Environmental -Climate & Sustainability

- Stores excess solar (green) energy for use later during non-solar, high-use periods
- Results in greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction by reducing use of natural-gas fueled electricity generation

Fiscal & Economic

- Est $1M to $2M in Revenue Annually
- Taxes, Fees, Lease Revenue, Community Benefit Agreement
- Jobs
- No County investment

Regional Leadership

- SB County leader in clean energy resilience
- Proactive planning as electrification demands grow

Alignment with State & Utility Planning

- Supports CAISO & SCE Efforts



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