California Local Energy Assurance Planning Project

The goal of the California Energy Commission (CEC)-sponsored California Local Energy Assurance Planning (CaLEAP) project is to assist local governments with generating plans to become more energy resilient; ensuring energy supply to "key assets." The emphasis of "*key assets*" is to ensure functionality of essential services, thus protecting safety and public health, and minimizing economic loss. Meeting this goal will help local governments *prepare for*, *respond to*, *recover from* and *mitigate against* potential emergencies that impact energy.

CaLEAP will outline a planning process, and offer Technical Assistance, to assist local governments to build local energy expertise and awareness of impacts and interdependencies; help them identify deficiencies and vulnerabilities, and explore energy choices, including alternative resources, that are reliable, safe, diverse, affordable and environmentally acceptable. The project will also develop a web-based tool to assist with the implementation of the planning process.

Despite many years of energy assurance funding directed to State governments from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the concept did not filter down to local governments until recently. The CaLEAP project is designed to leverage DOE's efforts and build a similar process and capabilities for California local governments. The CaLEAP project is currently funded through March 2013.

CaLEAP Objectives

✳ Demonstrate how to prepare Energy Assurance Plans or incorporate energy assurance in other planning efforts
✳ Present new and evolving energy technologies
✳ Build local energy awareness/expertise (i.e. interdependencies)

CaLEAP Importance

✳ Aging energy infrastructure
✳ Increase in frequency, duration, and impact of energy disruptions

CaLEAP Deliverables

✳ California-specific Energy Assurance methodology
✳ Methodology implementation tool (web-based)
✳ Technical support (i.e., new and evolving energy, planning, other)

Why Local Governments

Local governments are the first line of defense when it comes to emergency response. Local governments have devoted significant time and effort planning for emergencies, but have spent very little time specifically addressing the loss of energy and energy interdependencies. Going through the CaLEAP methodology will help local governments better understand existing energy conditions, analyze potential energy impacts, and identify potential solutions to reduce or eliminate the impact from the loss of energy.

Components of an Energy Assurance Plan

An Energy Assurance Plan (EAP) is an emergency management plan that focuses on energy and the functionality of "*key assets*" within the community. The EAPs should incorporate an all-hazards approach, meaning that

impacts from all potential disasters — manmade incidents (equipment failures, terrorism, sabotage) and natural events (earthquakes, wildfires, floods) — should be considered when analyzing the impacts of energy loss. A comprehensive EAP should identify:

* Energy roles and responsibilities
* Sources and usage of energy
* Energy interdependencies

* Essential services "*key assets*"
* Vulnerabilities of "*key assets*" from various disaster events
* Solutions to reduce and/or eliminate the impacts on key assets
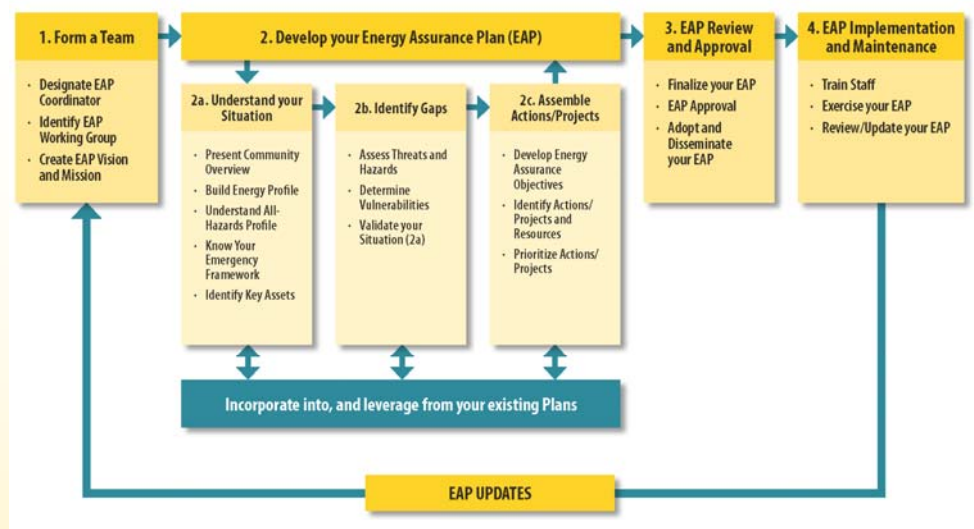
Benefits of Preparing an EAP

Developing an EAP will help local governments *prepare for*, *respond to*, *recover from* and *mitigate against* potential emergencies that impact energy. An EAP will help build vital relationships and partnerships; relationships that will be critical after a disaster event. By going through the energy assurance planning process local governments will build expertise on energy-related issues.

Anticipated Level of Effort

The exact staff level of effort will be dictated by the weight your local government places on energy assurance and the availability of information. A rough estimate of the time required to develop an EAP is a three (3) month period for data collection and analysis, and followed by another two (2) month period to finalize your plan.

Getting Started

The first step is to determine if a standalone EAP is going to be developed or the energy assurance methodology will be incorporated into an existing process (i.e., Emergency Operations Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, General Plan). Next, the CaLEAP Methodology flowchart should be reviewed to obtain a better sense of the stages and subsequent steps under each stage needed to carry out to complete an EAP.

The CaLEAP Project Team is also available to assist local governments to begin the process and to work through the different stages of the CaLEAP project. Additionally, CaLEAP is developing a Methodology Guidance document and web tool to assist local governments through the EAP process.

A project website has also been established to present more project information, to assist local governments to get started and to provide contact information. The project website is www.CaLEAP.org.

Contact Us

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    …or visit the project website (www.CaLEAP.org).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What Is Energy Assurance?

Energy assurance is about making "*key assets*" more resilient to disruptions within your energy supplies during an emergency. The emphasis of "*key assets*" is to ensure functionality of essential services, thus protecting safety and public health, and minimizing economic loss. Ensuring "*key assets*" are functional will help local governments *prepare for*, *respond to*, *recover from*, and *mitigate against* potential emergencies that impact energy.

What Is an Energy Assurance Plan (EAP)?

An Energy Assurance Plan (EAP) is an emergency management plan that focuses on energy and the functionality of "*key assets*" within the community. The EAPs should incorporate an all-hazards approach, meaning that impacts from all potential disasters - manmade incidents (equipment failures, terrorism, sabotage) and natural events (earthquakes, wildfires, floods) - should be considered when analyzing the impacts of energy loss. A comprehensive EAP should identify:

* Energy roles and responsibilities
* Sources and usage of energy
* Energy interdependencies
* Essential services "*key assets*"
* Vulnerabilities of "*key assets*" from various disaster events
* Solutions to reduce and/or eliminate the impacts on key assets

What Is CaLEAP?

The California Local Energy Assurance Planning (CaLEAP) project was implemented to assist California local governments with preparing EAPs and/or incorporate energy assurance into existing planning efforts. This project will outline a planning process and offer Technical Assistance to assist local governments to build local energy expertise and awareness of impacts and interdependencies; to help them identify deficiencies and vulnerabilities and explore energy choices, including alternative resources, that are reliable, safe, diverse, affordable and environmentally acceptable. The project will also develop a web-based tool to assist with the implementation of the planning process.

Who Is Funding CaLEAP?

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is sponsoring the CaLEAP project, with funding through the Department of Energy (DOE).

What Is the Timeframe of CaLEAP?

The CaLEAP project started in late 2011 and will run through March 2013. CEC is exploring options to fund this effort beyond March 2013, so stay tuned!

What Are the Benefits of Creating an EAP?

Developing an EAP will help local governments *prepare for*, *respond to*, *recover from* and *mitigate against* potential emergencies that impact energy. An EAP will help build vital relationships and partnerships; relationships that will be critical after a disaster event. The energy assurance planning process will also build local expertise on energy-related issues. All of this is vitally important since the frequency and duration of energy emergencies are increasing.

Is There Funding Available to Help Develop an EAP?

There is no direct funding currently available to assist with developing an EAP. However, the CaLEAP project does provide technical support to assist local governments to begin the process and work through the different stages of the CaLEAP project.

What Kind of Technical Support Is Available?

The CaLEAP project can provide technical support in several key areas: project management, emergency management, current and evolving energy technologies, risk assessment, and quality assurance/quality control. This assistance can involve on-site and/or remote support.

Are There Examples of Energy Assurance Plans?

Currently, 43 cities across the United States are assembling formal EAPs, including Chula Vista, San Jose, and Visalia in California. However, at this point in time, very few EAPs can be shared. As EAPs are finalized, the CaLEAP project will make every attempt to obtain copies. For a list of these 43 cities please see www.energyassurance.us.

Can We Incorporate the Energy Assurance Plan with Other Plans?

Yes, the CaLEAP Methodology is designed to help develop EAPs and demonstrate how to incorporate energy assurance into other planning efforts (i.e., Emergency Operations Plan, General Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Sustainability Plan, Community Energy Efficiency Plan, Climate Action Plan, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan). In some cases it may make more sense to design a stand-alone EAP, while in others it will be more practical to incorporate an EAP into an existing plan. It is your decision.

How Do I Get Started?

First determine if you are going to develop an EAP or incorporate energy assurance into an existing process. Next, review the CaLEAP Methodology flowchart to get a better sense of the stages and subsequent steps under each stage. The CaLEAP project is developing a Methodology Guidance document and web tool to assist local governments through the EAP process.

How Can I Find More Information About CaLEAP?

A project website (www.CaLEAP.org) has also been established to present more project information, assist local governments with getting started, and provide contact information.

Who Can I Contact About CaLEAP?

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