

## San Bernardino hosts Green Jobs Summit

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SAN BERNARDINO - Forecasts of ever-increasing energy demands and decreasing fuel supplies are not exactly the most encouraging of topics, but the idea behind the Sustainable San Bernardino summit held Wednesday is that energy problems could create business opportunities for those working on solving them.

"We borrow billions. We send billions to other countries. We bring back what we bought and then we burn it," said Devon Hartman, president of a Corona-based energy efficiency company called Every Watt Matters.

Hartman delivered his views on energy-related problems and potential solution Wednesday afternoon at a green jobs summit held at Inland Regional Center. The event attracted more than 100 guests, many of whom included building contractors and job trainers.

East Valley officials have lately backed plans that could lead to government support of energy-related home improvements, but those plans are on hold after federal housing officials raised objections to financing plans.

Besides contractors and government people, job

seekers also attended Wednesday's event. Fred Mulipola, of Redlands, said he and his 21- and 20-year-old sons attended in search of potential job opportunities.

"I think that's where the future is," Mulipola said.

Energy problems are frequently discussed in terms of automobiles and gasoline consumption, but Hartman's data included the statistic that 48 percent of the United States' energy consumption

happens inside buildings.

When it comes to electricity, 76 percent of power usage happens in structures, Hartman said.

Hartman's reasoning leads to the conclusion that energy efficient building plans are necessary to protect the environment and Americans' finances.

Potential solutions - what he called "Big Hairy Ambitious Goals," like energy retrofits for some 128 million American homes.

Officials in San Bernardino, along with Redlands and San Bernardino County, have had their own ambitious goal of forming a special agency that could make loans for energy-related home improvements, such as conservation projects or solar panels.

If established, the agency would be called the San Bernardino Valley Clean Energy District.

That agency could have been created in time for

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Wednesday's summit, things stalled after July when the Federal Housing Finance Agency raised warnings that the energy efficiency loans could put mortgage lenders at risk.

Casey Dailey, an aide to San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris, said Wednesday that plans to create the loan-making agency or on held pending federal legislation and state Attorney General Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown's lawsuit that could remove the federal block.

"All that kind of drama at the federal and state level has put us on a pause," Dailey said.

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