



HERO is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program that is administered by the Western Riverside Council of Governments.

- HERO provides financing for energy efficient, water conservation, and renewable energy improvements to residential and commercial property owners.
- HERO promotes property-secured energy efficiency improvements without relying on public money.
- HERO stimulates the local economy, saves consumers money on their utility bills, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Energy efficiency improvements can improve a homeowner's comfort, lower utility bills, and boost property values.
- HERO makes it possible for property owners to make smart choices by installing the most energy-efficient improvements available.

The Program is voluntary. Interested residential and commercial property owners receive long term financing (up to 20 years) for these improvements, which is repaid through an assessment on their property taxes.

## RESULTS\*

### WRCOG Subregion (since 2011)

*18,000+ completed projects*

*\$358 million funded*

### Statewide Program (since 2013)

*319 Associate Members*

*25,000+ projects completed*

*\$562+ million funded*

# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Q: What is the HERO Program, and how does it work?**

A: The HERO Program is a financing mechanism that allows residential and commercial property owners to make energy efficient, water conservation, and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses and to pay for these investments over time through their property tax bills.

## **Q: What types of improvements are available under the HERO Program?**

A: Typical projects that would be covered under HERO include: solar photovoltaic (PV) systems; energy efficient space heating, air cooling and ventilation (HVAC); cool roof systems; windows, skylights, and doors; solar thermal water heating; air sealing and weatherization; insulation; water heating; indoor energy efficient light fixtures; and water efficiency measures. Financing is used only for eligible products that meet Energy Star, California Title 24 Code, or WaterSense requirements.

## **Q: How do homeowners apply for the HERO Program?**

A: Thousands of contractors are now partners in the HERO Program and can help walk property owners through the application process. Property owners can also initiate the application process themselves at [www.heroprogram.com](http://www.heroprogram.com).

## **Q: Compared to other energy efficiency financing options, how competitive is HERO?**

A: HERO offers rates that are equal to or significantly lower than some other financing mechanisms typically used to pay for energy efficiency improvements. Interest rates range from approximately 5.95-8.35% annually. Approval for HERO is primarily based on the value of and equity available in the property where the improvements will take place.

## **Q: What happens if the property is sold before the HERO improvements are paid off?**

A: Any unpaid balance on improvements made through the Program can transfer to the new owner upon sale of the property. It is possible that the buyer's mortgage company would require the balance to be settled in escrow. In such instances, HERO does offer the ability to contractually subordinate the assessment to the first mortgage holder.

## **Q: Where can I get more information on the HERO Program?**

A: Visit the website at [www.heroprogram.com](http://www.heroprogram.com)