CalCCA returns to Sacramento for its first in-person Lobby Day in two years.

INSIDE
- More long-duration storage on the way
- Making the (investment) grade
- CCA growth continues

SPRING 2022
Spring always seems to carry with it a sense of renewal, but this year the season carries so much more as we emerge from the depths of the pandemic to see glimmers of normalcy. Even as we are mindful of the strife and suffering in the world, there is gratitude that we can engage in the simple acts of gathering in-person, having face-to-face discussions, and seeing each other’s smiles.

Our spirits were certainly lifted by a return to Sacramento on March 15 to host our first in-person Lobby Day in two years. CalCCA board members and staff met with legislators, legislative staff, and representatives from environmental advocacy groups. We discussed competing areas of concern—such as the need to keep electricity rates affordable and the need to build more transmission for new renewable energy projects—and raised awareness about issues impacting California’s Community Choice Energy providers. It was a successful and productive day. Thank you to all who participated!

While daily life returns to normal, the effects of the pandemic will continue to impact society for some time to come, including the electricity sector. Summer reliability is front and center as the Western drought worsens, supply chain issues are exacerbated, and new renewable and clean energy projects anticipated to be on line this year push back delivery dates. Meanwhile, the pandemic has resulted in mounting debt for many low-income and financially challenged households. CCAs are working daily to monitor and address myriad challenges and provide relief where possible. I am also encouraged by the rich dialogue taking place around emerging technologies (the role of offshore wind, green hydrogen, new geothermal, etc.) that will help us diversify our resource base to ensure long-term reliability and climate security.

We have many initiatives underway for 2022 as we work to provide our membership with statewide legislative and regulatory advocacy, educational opportunities, and platforms to exchange ideas and best practices. In these challenging times, the power to connect is essential, and we’re excited to be adding new events and engagement tools in the coming year. More on that soon.

Stay well,

Beth Vaughan
Executive Director, CalCCA
California Assemblymember Tim Grayson (D-Concord) has introduced AB 1814, legislation that would allow CCAs to plug into state funding for programs to advance transportation electrification in California. “CCAs already have a track record of innovation in the transportation electrification space,” Assemblymember Grayson said in a March 10 news release. “We need to better leverage their unique strengths to put EV adoption on the fast track and meet our climate goals.” CalCCA is sponsoring AB 1814.

California Community Power, a joint powers agency comprised of California CCAs, voted in February to enter into a contract for 50 MW/400 MWh from the Goal Line long-duration storage project in San Diego County. Developed by Onward Energy, the lithium-ion battery energy storage project will have eight hours of discharge duration. In January, CCP members approved entering into an agreement with REV Renewables for 69 MW/552 MWh of long-duration storage. The Tumbleweed project will be a lithium-ion battery storage resource in Kern County.

Community Choice is set to grow in April with the launch of California’s newest CCA, Orange County Power Authority, and expansions of existing CCA programs. Beginning April 1, OCPA will provide generation service within the cities of Buena Park, Huntington Beach, Irvine and Fullerton; MCE will expand service to Fairfield; and Peninsula Clean Energy will begin serving Los Banos. Congratulations to our members for achieving these milestones and a big welcome to all new CCA customers!

**Making the Grade**

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East Bay Community Energy and Sonoma Clean Power earned their first credit ratings in December and January, respectively, increasing the number of CCAs with investment-grade credit ratings to seven.

**‘CHOICE’ WORDS**

“CCAs are bringing energy staff into city hall for the first time since the 1970s.”

—David Hsu, associate professor of urban and environmental planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the Volts podcast
CalCCA staff, lobbying team, and representatives of member CCAs gathered in Sacramento at the historic Senator building for our annual Lobby Day on March 15—our first in-person gathering at the state Capitol since the start of the pandemic. We hosted productive meetings with legislators, legislative staff and representatives of Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. CalCCA looks forward to working collaboratively with elected officials, advocates, and energy market stakeholders to advance shared goals.


Lucas Frerichs of The Nature Conservancy (blue suit) and Michael Colvin of Environmental Defense Fund provide an overview of their legislative priorities.

At the head of the table, Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) describes the Legislature’s focus on achieving California’s clean energy goals.
NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Santa Barbara Clean Energy (SBCE) is the City of Santa Barbara’s Community Choice Energy program. SBCE initiated service to about 34,000 residential customers in October 2021, and in March began serving approximately 6,900 commercial and industrial customers. California Aggregator caught up with Alelia Parenteau, SBCE’s director, for a brief Q&A on the launch of the CCA program and what’s next in the year ahead.

How did you first get involved with SBCE and what was your role in bringing it to launch?

I first got involved with SBCE during the very initial feasibility study phase. I was the energy and climate manager for the city. CCA started off as this distant, unattainable thing that we just kept admiring once MCE launched. When we were finally ready to dip a toe into it, we were looking to launch a tri-county program, and ultimately that didn’t work out. We eventually landed on the city-only approach, knowing that it was the only way to really bring that local control we were looking for and achieve our local goals. I led the implementation plan development and implementation phase, and am now overseeing the program.

Why did Santa Barbara decide to go with Community Choice?

In 2017, our City Council adopted a 100% renewable electricity goal for our entire community. We subsequently put together a strategic energy plan that laid out the pathways to achieving the goal, and Community Choice was by far the most impactful measure we could implement. With SBCE launching at 100% carbon-free (moving toward 100% renewable in the next few years) we are poised to meet that goal well ahead of schedule. Additionally, Santa Barbara is located at a really vulnerable position at the end of the Southern California Edison transmission system. We see CCA as a tool to use to build local energy assurance and resilience by investing in distributed generation and other resilience measures.

What are some challenges that SBCE is addressing?

In 2019, our Council adopted a second ambitious goal—Carbon Neutrality by 2035. SBCE eliminates approximately 20% of our local carbon emissions out of the gate, since we have defaulted to 100% carbon-free electricity and enjoy an over 96% participation rate in SBCE. What’s really exciting for us, though, is that SBCE’s 100% Green offering also gives us a powerful mechanism to decarbonize our other GHG-intensive sources, such as building natural gas use and transportation. We are focusing on vehicle and building electrification programs that will help our community invest in a carbon-free future.

What are your focuses for the upcoming year?

In this next year we are largely focused on getting our footing and ensuring a strong financial foundation. Programs and incentives have also always been a priority for our Council, and we are really proud that we were able to leverage community partners to offer rebates on climate-smart investments (like electric vehicles, solar and storage, etc.) right at launch. We have seen excellent participation in these initial offerings and are really excited to see what else we can come up with to meet our community’s needs.

Any unique initiatives or programs planned?

We are very interested in establishing a program that bilaterally incentivizes the customer and SBCE by installing storage capacity and smart devices, offering resilience and cost-management tools to the customer while providing ancillary benefits to SBCE such as load smoothing and even resource adequacy. We also passed a natural gas prohibition for new construction in Santa Barbara last year, and would like to expand on that by addressing existing buildings.
Launched in 2017 by the cities of Lancaster and San Jacinto, the California Choice Energy Authority (CalChoice) helps cities in Southern California Edison territory participate in Community Choice Aggregation. CCA programs associated with CalChoice include Lancaster Choice Energy (LCE), San Jacinto Power (SJP), Apple Valley Choice Energy (AVCE), Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy (PRIME), Pomona Choice Energy (Pomona Choice), Rancho Mirage Energy Authority (RMEA) and Santa Barbara Clean Energy (SBCE).

**Santa Barbara Clean Energy Now Serving Non-Residential Customers**
Starting March 1, SBCE extended its service to include all non-residential customers. The City of Santa Barbara launched SBCE in October, initiating service to approximately 34,200 residential customers. With the rollout of SBCE’s second phase to non-residential customers, SBCE will service approximately 6,900 new commercial and industrial customers.

**Lancaster to Deploy Battery Storage at City Hall**
The City of Lancaster is working with PowerFlex, a national provider of renewable energy infrastructure, to deploy a 500-kWh battery at City Hall as part of the City Hall Resiliency Project. The battery will energize the building in the event of a grid outage and supplement the city’s existing solar array as well as the building’s on-site generator. This project is an effective energy solution in emergency situations, adding a layer of resiliency and reliability to City Hall in the long term. Lancaster will also benefit from the battery on a daily basis through a reduction in the building’s peak demand. The battery will be programmed to automatically discharge power whenever a spike in usage occurs, which will reduce the city’s demand charges, and therefore save the city thousands of dollars annually.

**CalChoice Announces New Team Member**
CalChoice welcomes Antonia Castro Graham. Antonia joins the team to serve as regulatory affairs manager, supporting regulatory and legislative issues on behalf of our members. Toni brings with her 20 years of experience working for local government and leading sustainability initiatives. She previously served as chief operating officer for the Orange County Power Authority, a four-city joint-powers authority implementing a Community Choice Energy program to nearly 300,000 customers, an endeavor that she helped lead going back to 2015. Antonia is excited to continue to work with CalChoice and their local communities advancing their Community Choice Energy goals through regulatory and legislative policy advocacy.
Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE) is a public agency that sources competitively priced electricity from clean and renewable energy resources. CCCE serves more than 440,000 customers throughout the Central Coast in communities located within Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz counties. Learn more at 3CEnergy.org and on social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @3CEnergy.

**CCCE Launches Member Agency Services**

In December, CCCE’s policy board of directors approved using 2% of operating revenues to fund a “Member Agency Services” program to support progress toward clean energy and electrification among its 33 member agencies. Member agencies are uniquely positioned to accelerate electrification efforts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to their regulatory and policy powers, their fleet and facility footprints, and their close ties to local communities, particularly underserved customers. CCCE is also establishing member-agency working groups focused on transportation and building electrification that will convene every other month. Initial working groups will focus on reach codes and fleet electrification. Member Agency Services also includes three new programs developed specifically for the local-government agencies that make up CCCE:

**Medium & Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Program** – Launched in February, the Medium & Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Program provides up to $250,000 toward the cost of new medium- or heavy-duty vehicles such as refuse haulers, street sweepers, EMS vehicles and more. Together with CCCE’s Agriculture Electrification program, which provides funding for agriculture-specific medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and Electric School Bus Program, which provides funds for schools and school districts, the Medium & Heavy-Duty Electric Vehicle Program greatly expands opportunities to electrify public transportation and public-works vehicles.

**Light-Duty Vehicle Electrification Program** – The Light-Duty Vehicle Electrification Program provides funding for light-duty fleet electrification, electric vehicle infrastructure and EV readiness funding. With financial incentives available for vehicles, chargers and associated electric work, this multi-measure program brings needed flexibility and support for the variety of upgrades that may be required when electrifying operations vehicles traditionally reliant on gasoline for engine fuel.

**Planning, Implementation, and Innovation Grant Program** – With shared interests around reducing emissions and advancing clean energy technologies, CCCE introduced a new program in January to spur collaboration around the planning and implementation of city and county electrification projects, including public buildings, community infrastructure and fleet-vehicle operations. Funding for innovation and development of new energy technologies is also included in the program.
Central Coast Community Energy (cont.)

Front-of-the-Meter Distributed Energy Storage RFO Results
In November, CCCE issued its first phase of a multi-year effort to contract for and site 100 MW of front-of-the-meter distributed energy resources. CCCE is working with its 33 member agencies to identify and locate 1 MW to 5 MW of distributed energy resources. As of February 28, CCCE has received a total of 73 proposals from 18 developers, all of which are located near critical facilities. When selected, the identified projects will enhance grid reliability by addressing the intermittency of renewable resources through approximately 25 MW of storage capacity. The location of these resources near critical facilities will provide greater potential access to Pacific Gas & Electric’s Community Microgrid Enablement Tariff and Southern California Edison’s equivalent effort, when approved, which provides greater local resiliency by enabling islandability in the event of outages or shutoffs.

Castle Wind Project Lease Auction Set for 2022
Since first signing a memorandum of understanding with the prospective Castle Wind Offshore project—a joint venture between Trident Winds Inc. and EnBW North America Inc.—in August 2019, CCCE has eagerly awaited the development of this landmark renewable energy and storage project sited within CCCE’s service area, approximately 35 miles offshore from Morro Bay. Castle Wind Offshore promises to bring a significant source of locally generated renewable energy and future job creation. Castle Wind Offshore has a proposed capacity of 1,000 MW. A tentative lease auction date has been set for later this year.

Electrify Your Ride
In just four months, CCCE’s Electrify Your Ride program has exceeded program participation in its 2020-2021 EV incentive program, which ran for more than a year. Electrify Your Ride provides rebates for new and pre-owned EV purchases and leases, as well as charger equipment and associated electrical updates, including labor. CCCE has so far received 640 applications for a total of 761 individual measures, a good indication that some applicants are taking advantage of more than one of the program’s features. Nearly $400,000 in rebates have been issued, with an additional $400,000 pending processing. Total funding for the project is $2.8 million. Electrify Your Ride offers enhanced rebate levels for income-qualified customers, as well as rebates for e-bikes.

CCCE service area as of January 2022.
Community Education and Workforce Grant Program
CCCE also recently launched the Community Education and Workforce Grant Program, which sets aside $400,000 for community projects and programs focused on electrification education, workforce training and development. Grant recipients will help address gaps in local job-training programs that present barriers to electrification in the building and transportation sectors. Education and training opportunities will equip the Central Coast’s current and future workforce with the skills and knowledge required to advance clean energy technologies. Training topics include design, codes and standards, equipment/appliance installation, and engineering.

Buellton Enrollment and Expansion to Atascadero
In the first part of 2022, CCCE enrolled approximately 4,000 customers in the City of Buellton, bringing the total number of customers served by CCCE to approximately 435,000. Also expanding the agency’s reach was a unanimous vote by the Atascadero City Council in February to join CCCE as its newest member agency. Atascadero is the final city in San Luis Obispo County to join CCCE, bringing the total number of Central Coast communities served to 34. The agency now serves customers in five different counties. In March, the CCCE policy board approved the addition of Atascadero to the CCCE joint-powers authority, putting Atascadero households and businesses on a course to begin receiving energy service from CCCE in January 2024.

Clean Energy Alliance
Clean Energy Alliance completed enrollment of all eligible customers in June, and is now fully operational with a 93% participation rate and all three member cities—Carlsbad, Del Mar and Solana Beach—having selected a 75% carbon-free power supply as their default energy product. Solana Energy Alliance has successfully transitioned its customers to Clean Energy Alliance. SEA was the first CCA program in San Diego Gas & Electric territory.

Cities of Escondido and San Marcos Join CEA
The cities of Escondido and San Marcos have joined CEA, expanding one of California’s newest CCA programs from three cities to five. Service is expected to roll out to Escondido and San Marcos in April 2023.

CEA Accepting Applications for Community Advisory Committee
CEA is accepting applications from Escondido and San Marcos residents and business owners to serve on the Community Advisory Committee. The committee offers feedback on CEA programs and implementation, acts as a liaison between the board and the community, and serves as a forum for community input.

Dave Druker Selected as CEA Vice Chair
The CEA board of directors has selected Dave Druker to serve as the new vice chair of the board. Dave Druker is a councilmember for the City of Del Mar and has been a member of the CEA board since 2020. Get to know CEA board members by visiting thecleanenergyalliance.org/board-community-advisory-committee/.
CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE

Founded in 2017, Clean Power Alliance is the locally operated nonprofit electricity provider for 30 cities across Los Angeles and Ventura counties, as well as the unincorporated areas of both counties. CPA is the fifth-largest electricity provider in California and has the most customers receiving 100% renewable energy in the nation. CPA serves approximately 3 million people via 1 million customer accounts, providing clean renewable energy at competitive rates. Read CPA’s most recent Impact Report here. For complete information regarding CPA, visit www.cleanpoweralliance.org.

CPA Expands Successful Power Response Program
In February, CPA announced the expansion of its successful Power Response program, which encourages participating residential and commercial customers to reduce their energy usage by offering financial incentives. The Power Response program is a demand–response initiative utilized by CPA to shift energy use to mornings, afternoons, or late at night when clean energy is more abundant. Demand–response initiatives help reduce the need for service interruptions, like rolling blackouts, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Power Response program’s expansion follows the launch of a successful pilot program in 2019, in which more than 600 customers participated. CPA now has a goal of enrolling more than 10,000 customers and 6 MW of capacity in the program, representing a sixfold increase over the pilot program that ran in 2020 and 2021.

“Power Response provides benefits to both residential and commercial customers of all income levels who want to save money by conserving energy during peak time periods. Part of CPA’s growing suite of community–based customer programs, Power Response helps communities by ensuring there is enough energy available when the electricity grid is stressed,” said Jack Clark, CPA’s director of customer programs. Read the February Power Response press release here.

CPA Announces Nearly $16 Million in Financial Assistance
In February, CPA announced that approximately 55,000 of its residential customers, who had fallen behind on their electricity bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are receiving financial assistance totaling more than $15.8 million from the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP).

The CAPP provides financial assistance for California energy utility customers to help reduce past–due energy bill balances that increased during the pandemic. The program dedicates $1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan funding to address California’s energy debt.

CPA previously provided $2 million in bill credits using internal funds to struggling customers during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Now, to provide assistance for those still struggling to catch up, CPA proactively applied for CAPP assistance on behalf of its numerous customers who incurred a past–due balance of 60 days or more on their energy bills during the COVID–19 pandemic relief period covering March 4, 2020, through June 15, 2021.

“Meeting the needs of our vulnerable customers is a core priority of CPA. So our team members started working with the Department of Community Services and Development as soon as possible to ensure CPA customers throughout Los Angeles and Ventura Counties received their fair share of these funds,” said CPA CEO Ted Bardacke. Read the CAPP press release here.
CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE (cont.)

CPA Prepares Residential Customers for Time-of-Use Transition
In mid-2021, CPA began educating its many residential customers about the time-of-use (TOU) transition, as well as how to conserve energy and save money on TOU rates. In December, CPA began informing its customers of the dates of the TOU transition, taking place in February and March of 2022 in CPA’s service territory. The robust campaign includes a landing page on CPA’s website, newsletter articles, outdoor advertising, and a social media campaign in multiple languages. You can view CPA’s TOU website here.

CLEANPOWERSF

CleanPowerSF offers renewable, affordable and accessible electricity to more than 380,000 residential and business accounts in San Francisco. To date, CleanPowerSF has contracted 467 MW of new wind and solar projects in California and signed three solar-plus-battery-storage contracts. CleanPowerSF delivers at least 50% renewables portfolio standard-eligible renewable energy for its default Green product.

Energy Storage Project at Solar Site to Support Grid Reliability
CleanPowerSF signed a new battery storage contract with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources to support grid reliability for the state and electric service to the program’s 385,000 residential and commercial customers. The battery storage project, located in Riverside County, will add batteries to the operating solar-photovoltaic power plant that provides 62 MW of clean power to CleanPowerSF customers. It is expected to be operational in time for wildfire season. Learn more about the project here.
Rooftop Solar Inverter Replacement Program for Low-Income Customers
This past fall, CleanPowerSF began offering financial incentives to replace aging solar inverters for low-income customers who installed solar panels as part of San Francisco’s GoSolarSF program. Under the program, CleanPowerSF is now offering free inspection, repair and replacement of solar inverters to its eligible CARE and FERA customers through the Solar Inverter Replacement Program. Learn more about the Solar Inverter Replacement Program here.

Financial Assistance and Relief Coming to CleanPowerSF Customers
This spring, qualifying CleanPowerSF customers will see a California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) credit automatically applied to their CleanPowerSF/Pacific Gas & Electric electricity bills. The CAPP credit is courtesy of a state program to help pay eligible energy debt that accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Credits will be used to reduce unpaid energy debt incurred between March 4, 2020, and June 15, 2021, that is 60 days or more past due. Learn more about CleanPowerSF’s bill relief options here.

CleanPowerSF Launches ‘Be Powerful’ Campaign
CleanPowerSF thanked its 385,000 customers for choosing cleaner energy through a three-month digital marketing campaign that ran from November 2021 to January 2022, garnering over 1.5 million views. The “Be Powerful” campaign deployed geo-targeted digital ads on social media and included the launch of a new promotional video highlighting CleanPowerSF’s role in moving San Francisco closer to a clean energy future. Watch the “Be Powerful” video and learn more about the campaign here.
Launched in 2018, East Bay Community Energy serves approximately 635,000 customers in the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro, Tracy and Union City. The unincorporated areas of Alameda County are also served by EBCE.

S&P Global Ratings Issues ‘A’ Credit Rating to East Bay Community Energy
In December, EBCE announced it reached a notable financial milestone by earning an “A” issuer credit rating from S&P Global Ratings (see the report here). To date, EBCE is the largest Community Choice Aggregator in California to earn an “A” credit rating, with its swift acquisition of more than half a million customer accounts in just three years. Among the report’s highlights:

• EBCE maintains a solid financial performance.
• At fiscal year-end 2021, EBCE had no debt outstanding.
• EBCE’s environmental risk exposure is low, based on its predominantly carbon-free resource portfolio.
• The outlook is stable.

Seven East Bay Cities Choose Solar and Wind for Electric Service in 2022
EBCE announced that seven cities within its purview have taken an ambitious step in supporting renewable energy and combating climate change by transitioning most of their electricity supply to California solar and wind resources via EBCE’s Renewable 100 program. The cities of Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Hayward, Piedmont, Pleasanton and San Leandro are choosing 100% clean sources for both their own municipal electricity accounts and for the electricity consumed by most local residents and businesses. This collective transition marks a 50% adoption rate of the Renewable 100 program among EBCE member cities, which would place EBCE in the No. 2 spot nationally in the number of green power customers compared to all other electricity providers, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s annual rankings.

Residential customers who receive income- and/or medical-qualifying discounts—such as the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Medical Baseline programs—will remain on Bright Choice (EBCE’s money-saving service plan), as will commercial accounts in Dublin. Details at ebce.org/transition-to-renewable-energy.

Convergent/EBCE Partner on Battery Energy Storage System to Boost Reliability
Convergent Energy + Power, a leading provider of battery storage solutions in North America, announced that the storage system it financed and developed outside Lemoore, California, is operational and will increase grid reliability for the Alameda County area through its partnership with EBCE. Through this partnership, Convergent will maintain the 10 MW/40 MWh lithium-ion battery energy storage system and EBCE will control it.

EBCE Offers Incentives for Installing Public EV Charging Stations
EBCE announced the availability of more than $17 million in incentives from the California Energy Commission and EBCE to purchase and install publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations in Alameda County.
The incentives are part of the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) to support statewide efforts to phase out the sale of new gasoline-powered passenger cars by 2035. Funding from the new Alameda County Incentive Project (ACIP) can cover up to 75% of EV charging equipment and installation costs. ACIP is funded by the CEC in partnership with EBCE, Alameda County’s public power provider. Incentives are available for new charging stations at businesses, shopping centers, gas stations, public facilities, multifamily housing developments and other community locations.

MCE offers renewable, locally controlled, cost-competitive electricity options for more than 1 million residents and businesses in 37 Bay Area communities across Contra Costa, Marin, Napa and Solano counties. MCE provides customers with almost twice the amount of renewable energy compared to traditional electricity service and is 90% greenhouse gas-free. MCE customers are greening California’s electricity supply while helping invest in local energy programs. For more information about MCE’s services, visit mceCleanEnergy.org or sign up for our monthly eNewsletter.

MCE’s Largest Solar–Plus–Storage Project Yet
Located in San Bernardino County, the Golden Fields Solar project will provide power for an estimated 52,000 homes each year. This pollinator-friendly, large-scale solar–plus–storage facility will generate 100 MW of solar energy and is co-located with a 75 MW lithium-ion battery.

MCE Program Inspires Statewide Effort to Prevent Summer Blackouts
At the end of 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission approved $150 million for a new statewide program based on the success of MCE’s Peak FLEXmarket. This first-of-its-kind program will receive an additional $11 million over the next two years to drive energy efficiency, decarbonization and peak energy reduction by integrating distributed energy technologies.

CCCFA Issues More Than $2B in Clean Energy Bonds
In early December, MCE issued one of California’s first municipal clean energy bonds through the California Community Choice Financing Authority (CCCFA). These bonds help MCE offer customers more renewable energy at lower rates, thereby accelerating the transition to a clean energy future. Learn more about the bonds that are supporting over 450 MW of clean electricity in California.

MCE Announces Largest Renewable Energy Project in Solano County
MCE’s 5 MW Lake Herman Solar Project—built with 52% local labor and at prevailing wage—is now operational and will serve approximately 2,000 homes a year with 100% renewable power. The project has almost doubled the amount of solar energy produced in Benicia from 7.8 MW to 12.8 MW, and was the first local project to be completed through MCE’s Feed-In Tariff Plus Program.
Orange County Power Authority, a Community Choice Energy provider in Southern California, was established in November 2020 and is gearing up for launch this year. Commercial service begins in April 2022, residential service begins in fall 2022, and in 2023, unincorporated areas of the County of Orange will come on line. Upon launch, OCPA expects to be one of the greenest Community Choice Energy programs in California.

**OCPA Cities Select Default Power Supplies**

OCPA recently announced that four Orange County cities have selected the default energy plans that will power their communities—taking bold steps to address climate change.

- Buena Park: 100% renewable energy
- Huntington Beach: 100% renewable energy
- Irvine: 100% renewable energy
- Fullerton: 70% renewable energy

The annual reduction in carbon emissions will exceed nearly 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent, or MTCO2-e—the equivalent of taking over 200,000 cars off the road.

At full launch, OCPA will be a load-serving entity supporting approximately 875 MW of peak load and serving over 820,000 residents, making it the sixth-largest Community Choice Energy program in the state of California.

**MOU Reached to Power Desalination Plant with Renewable Energy**

OCPA and Poseidon Water entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in February to work together toward making the Huntington Beach Seawater Desalination Facility the first desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere to be powered entirely by renewable energy. Poseidon’s proposed desalination project in Huntington Beach requires an average steady load of approximately 25 MW, which would make it one of the larger energy users in Orange County. While the project is already guaranteed to have a zero-carbon footprint through the state’s carbon-offset program, being powered completely by renewable energy would further enhance the facility’s environmental sustainability.
Peninsula Clean Energy is the official electricity provider for San Mateo County and, beginning in spring 2022, for the City of Los Banos. Founded in 2016, the agency serves approximately 300,000 customers, maintaining a 97% participation rate of eligible customers and providing 3,500 GWh of energy annually. Peninsula Clean Energy offers two service options: ECOplus, with 50% renewable and 100% GHG-free energy, and ECO100, with 100% renewable energy that is Green-e certified. Peninsula Clean Energy plans to offer 100% renewable electricity for all customers by 2025.

Los Banos Enrollment
In the first territory expansion since the launch of Peninsula Clean Energy, the agency began notifying Los Banos electricity customers of their enrollment in Peninsula Clean Energy effective April 2022.

Wind Energy Power Purchase Agreement
Peninsula Clean Energy signed a 15–year power purchase agreement with Scout Clean Energy that will provide San Mateo County and the City of Los Banos with 76.35 MW from the repowering of the Pacheco Pass Wind Farm in Merced County. The project will be renamed the Gonzaga Ridge Wind Farm and will replace the existing 162-turbine wind farm with a much smaller fleet of far more powerful state-of-the-art turbines that are expected to be operational in fall of 2024.

Long-Duration Energy Storage Contract
Peninsula Clean Energy joined six other California CCA members of California Community Power to enter into an energy storage service agreement with REV Renewables for 69 MW/552 MWh of long-duration energy storage. The REV Renewables Tumbleweed project is a California Independent System Operator grid-connected lithium-ion battery storage system in Kern County, with an expected on–line date of 2026.

Community Outreach Grants
Peninsula Clean Energy awarded grants to 12 San Mateo County organizations to increase outreach, particularly to low–income and other disadvantaged communities, on bill savings and other benefits of clean energy programs. The grants total $310,000 and range from $20,000 to $40,000 each. Grantees conduct outreach to Spanish–speaking, Chinese–speaking, elderly and other customers regarding bill discounts and income–qualified programs, and expand education among consumers on building electrification and electric vehicles.

Induction Cooking Awareness
Peninsula Clean Energy launched its induction cooking awareness campaign by hosting a “Learning to Love Induction Cooking” demonstration.
Pioneer Community Energy initiated CCA service in 2018 to 96,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of Placer County, the Town of Loomis, and the cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln and Rocklin. In January, Pioneer began serving most of unincorporated El Dorado County and the City of Placerville, increasing Pioneer’s customer base to over 160,000 customers—a 67% increase.

Pioneer Expands to New Service Territories
In January, Pioneer began serving customers in the City of Placerville and most of the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County. This rural region is in the Sierra Foothills and situated directly south of Placer County. El Dorado County ranges from east of Sacramento to Lake Tahoe. The 60,000-plus customers include farmers, wine growers and a variety of commercial accounts. The western portion of the county is adjacent to Sacramento, with several residential communities. The enrollment process created a great deal of opportunity to engage with customers, respond to their questions and concerns, and help them understand the benefits of a CCA.

City of Auburn Commits to Green100
The City of Auburn recently voted to become a leader in the Foothills. The City Council authorized the city manager to enroll all the city’s accounts in Pioneer’s Green100 program. This assures that 100% of energy purchased on behalf of the City of Auburn will be from a renewable source. The City of Auburn is the first city in Placer and El Dorado counties to sign up for this program.

Community Programs Advisory Committee Up and Running
In late 2021, the Pioneer board of directors approved an advisory committee to develop recommendations for future customer programs. Now up and running, the committee, made up of 11 local residents, is currently brainstorming program ideas and hearing from subject-matter experts on a number of key topics, including electric vehicles, solar and battery systems, building electrification and general energy efficiency. The goal of the committee is to present a report to the board by December.

Board Approves Rate-Setting Policy
Pioneer’s board of directors approved a rate-setting policy that will provide all customers a discount (savings) on the generation portion of their bills of 6% to 10%. This discount is after the addition of the applicable Power Charge Indifference Adjustment. The new rates are effective as of March 1.
Launched in 2017, the Redwood Coast Energy Authority serves over 63,000 customers in Humboldt County, Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Ferndale, Blue Lake, Rio Dell and Trinidad. RCEA offers "REpower" 38+% renewable and "REpower+" 100% renewable and carbon-free energy service options.

**Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid**
RCEA’s solar and battery storage microgrid project reached a major milestone in December when it began commercial operations and started delivering power to the grid. The project team is in the final commissioning stages of testing the system’s grid-islanding capabilities. Delegations of state leaders and international utility representatives have toured the facility, which was designed as a template for replication. The project includes energy resilience and enhanced emergency-response capabilities for the Humboldt County regional airport and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station.

**Community Grid Program**
RCEA and Swell Energy launched a new customer resilience program in October that offers incentives to solar-plus-battery customers interested in participating in a “virtual power plant.” Customers will enjoy secure, clean energy during power outages and will see bill savings by using stored energy when rates are highest.

**Contractor and Vendor Network**
RCEA launched a resource that will help customers find contractors and vendors for their energy projects. Open enrollment for contractors and vendors to be included on RCEA’s website is ongoing.

**Redwood Region Climate & Community Resilience CORE Hub**
Last fall, RCEA participated in the creation of the CORE Hub, a new community organization headquartered at the Humboldt Area Foundation with a mission to help solve the climate emergency and act with urgency to decarbonize and boost resiliency in built and natural systems. CORE Hub supports deep community engagement and technical assistance while focusing on equity by ensuring benefits accrue to underrepresented and marginalized communities first and to the greatest extent.

**Food for People**
RCEA is donating $100 to Humboldt County’s Food for People for every business or agency customer that schedules an energy efficiency consultation this spring. To date, RCEA has donated close to $3,000 to the food bank on behalf of its business customers.

**CalCCA TIP**
CalCCA is proud of the CCAs’ commitment to supplier diversity. Links to the most recent CCA supplier diversity plans and reports can be found here: [cal-cca.org/supplier-diversity](http://cal-cca.org/supplier-diversity).
San Diego Community Power is the newest electricity provider to the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa and San Diego. Formed in 2019, SDCP is committed to providing renewable energy choices at competitive rates and investing in equitable and innovative programs that benefit residents, businesses, the environment and the economy in our communities.

SDCP Launches Residential Enrollment
Residential service began in 2022, with residents in Imperial Beach being enrolled in February, La Mesa in March, Encinitas in April and San Diego and Chula Vista in May. This launch is an important milestone for SDCP, providing a clear path to 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner. Residential enrollment includes nearly 700,000 customers. SDCP will enroll the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego and National City in 2023, bringing enrollment up to 1 million customers.

The SDCP Dream Team Is Growing!
SDCP has recently welcomed some great new members to its team: Ryan Hanke, data and systems analyst; Carly Newman, account services analyst; Tim Manglicmot, finance manager; and Colin Santulli, director of programs. In the coming weeks, we expect to be advertising for additional roles. Please visit sdcommunitypower.org/about/career-opportunities/ to view SDCP job openings.

San Jose Clean Energy serves approximately 350,000 customers in the City of San José, the 10th-largest city in the U.S. with a population of 1.03 million. It launched service in February 2019 to most residents and businesses. SJCE’s total annual load is approximately 4 TWh and its peak demand is approximately 1 GW. SJCE offers three clean energy options: GreenValue is SJCE’s lowest-cost service (same price as Pacific Gas & Electric) and is 40% renewable; GreenSource is SJCE’s standard service and is 60% renewable; and TotalGreen is SJCE’s premium service for 100% renewable energy.

New Discount for San José’s Lowest-Income Customers
SJCE created its SJ Cares program in May 2021 to bring the benefits of renewable energy to more customers. Through SJ Cares, customers enrolled in the state’s CARE or FERA programs automatically pay SJCE’s lowest rates for more renewable energy.

Starting March 1, SJ Cares customers receive an additional 5% off the generation portion of their bill and 60% renewable energy—meaning SJ Cares customers pay the lowest electricity rates in San José. No action is needed
from customers to receive the SJ Cares discount. The discount is combined with CARE and FERA discounts and can be combined with SJCE’s Solar Access program for even more savings. SJCE is proud to offer this discount and make renewable energy more affordable. Visit the new SJ Cares webpage to learn more.

Two New Renewable Energy Projects Powering San José
Since launching service in 2019, SJCE has invested $1 billion in nearly 500 MW of solar, wind and battery storage.

SJCE rang in the new year celebrating the completion of two of these new renewable energy projects:

- 225 MW of wind in New Mexico with developer Pattern
- Innovative solar and battery storage project in Kern County with developer Terra-Gen—fixed delivery of 62 MW of renewable energy from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day

Together, these projects will produce enough clean energy to power 254,000 San José homes annually. SJCE has contracted to buy the energy through cost–effective long-term power purchase agreements with lengths of 12 and 15 years.

The projects bring SJCE closer to providing renewable energy during more hours of the day. The Kern County project provides renewable energy all day until 10 p.m. Wind typically delivers power around the clock, including overnight, complementing SJCE’s investments in solar. The wind project’s location in New Mexico means it generally delivers energy earlier each day than local wind projects.

Importantly, both projects provide renewable energy during the crucial early–evening hours when demand is high. This will help make the California grid more reliable, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, lower air pollution, and fight climate change.

SJCE’s wind investment is part of Pattern Energy’s larger Western Spirit Wind power projects, the largest single–phase buildout of renewable energy in U.S. history. Pattern Energy also developed and constructed a 155–mile transmission line to connect the project to the California electric grid.

Learn more about each project by watching these videos: Kern County Solar & Storage Project and New Mexico Wind Project.
Launched in 2017, Silicon Valley Clean Energy serves 270,000 customers in Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Saratoga, Sunnyvale and unincorporated Santa Clara County. SVCE offers two carbon-free energy choices: GreenStart, procured from renewable and carbon-free sources, and GreenPrime, a 100% renewable, Green-e certified product.

Long-Duration Energy Storage Project Milestone
Following the California Community Power approval, the SVCE board of directors voted to enter into a contract for 69 MW/552 MWh of long-duration energy storage from the Tumbleweed project. Tumbleweed will be a grid-connected, lithium-ion battery storage resource located near Rosamond in Kern County, with an expected on-line date of 2026. The project can deliver clean energy for eight hours a day, helping provide relief to the grid during critical peak times. This project will be shared by seven CCAs, once each agency has approved the contract independently, and will help SVCE meet a portion of the California Public Utilities Commission’s midterm reliability procurement order for long-duration energy storage.

Increasing EV Charger Accessibility in Santa Clara County
SVCE provided $100,000 in funding to EVmatch, a local EV charging software company, to support increased EV charging access to the public and people living in multi-unit residential housing to address critical EV charging market gaps. These funds will support the installation of 60 publicly available EV charging stations at eligible multi-unit residential properties within Santa Clara County.

The funding from SVCE matches grant funding awarded to EVmatch through the BESTFIT Innovative Charging Solutions Grant, provided through the California Energy Commission’s Clean Transportation Program. SVCE previously funded an EVmatch pilot, through the Innovation Onramp program, to install eight EV chargers and test how a software reservation system impacts utilization of the chargers by tenants and the public. Find the project summary report for the pilot here.

Sharing Annual Impact Reports with Customers
Each year, SVCE publishes the annual impact customers make with their clean electricity. Impact results are calculated at a regional and community level, and can be found on the SVCE Community Impact webpage. For the first time this year, customers also received their community impact report via email. SVCE sent impact report emails to 180,000 customers and saw a 56% open rate, on average. SVCE staff looks forward to sharing these results at community events throughout the year and seeing how customers will continue to use their clean power to make a difference.
Sonoma Clean Power serves 229,000 accounts in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP offers CleanStart 49% renewable/93% carbon-free electricity and EverGreen 100% local, renewable electricity. SCP enjoys an 87% participation rate. Mission: Sonoma Clean Power is turning the tide on the climate crisis, through bold ideas and practical programs.

Electric Livin’ at the Advanced Energy Center
SCP’s Advanced Energy Center has reopened to the public. During the closure, new retailing and displays were implemented, promoting simple, everyday solutions for how to live in an all-electric home. Signage and helpful tips are presented in Spanish and English.

CALeVIP Program
Launched in July 2020, the California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP) program now has 20 public EV charging sites in progress, representing 46 new DC fasting-charging ports and 129 Level 2 ports. Those numbers are expected to increase with additional funding programmed for the second and third years of the project. CALeVIP is funded with a total of $6.63 million available over three years from the California Energy Commission, SCP and the Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District. The project was quickly oversubscribed after opening and has a sizable wait list. SCP staff is now working to unlock additional funding to help construct wait-listed fast-charging applications in underserved areas.

Advanced Energy Build Program
Advanced Energy Build, SCP’s territory-wide new-construction program, has received project applications representing a combined 624 housing units. This includes 597 multifamily units and 27 single-family homes, with 80% being affordable homes and 100% of which will be all-electric. Staff has extended the program application deadline to June 30 for low-income projects. In total, the program is expected to provide incentives of up to $1.9 million to help build high-efficiency and all-electric new homes in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.
Valley Clean Energy launched in 2018 and serves over 62,000 customer accounts in the cities of Davis, Woodland and Winters and unincorporated Yolo County.

VCE to Launch Ag Dynamic Pricing Pilot Program in May 2022
VCE’s new Agricultural Flexible Irrigation Technology (AgFIT) pilot program is designed to help manage energy costs simply while providing customers with maximum flexibility. The AgFIT program provides growers with lucrative incentives for irrigation automation and uses scheduling software to better manage energy costs. Energy prices are visible a week in advance so customers can take advantage of low prices when conditions on the power grid are right. Customers are still billed on their otherwise applicable tariff, but are issued credits at the end of the growing season if they did better on the pilot tariff. The pilot tariff is simply one cost for electricity, inclusive of demand charges, delivery and generation.

Draft Report on VCE’s Feasibility to Go Carbon–Neutral by 2030
VCE is in the process of reviewing its decarbonization pathways by analyzing the feasibility, costs and benefits of pursuing renewable and carbon-free portfolios on an hour-by-hour and annual carbon-neutral basis by 2030 to inform its Strategic Plan and Integrated Resource Plan. The report, released in February 2022, is a foundational document as VCE pursues Strategic Plan goals related to future energy procurements. The results show that the estimated incremental annual cost for VCE to meet demand with zero-carbon resources every hour of the day is approximately 250% greater than the cost of being carbon-neutral on an annual basis.

EV Rebate and Heat Pump Pilot Programs in Design Phase
The Electric Vehicle Rebate Pilot Program and Heat Pump Pilot Program are progressing in the design phase. Both programs are being designed with low-income customers in mind (e.g., having higher incentives for CARE/FERA customers, or more outreach in underserved communities, etc.) and are seeking board approval by the end of Q2 2022, with anticipated implementation in summer 2022.
CALCCA MEMBERS

- Apple Valley Choice Energy
- Central Coast Community Energy
- Clean Energy Alliance
- Clean Power Alliance
- CleanPowerSF
- Desert Community Energy
- East Bay Community Energy
- Lancaster Choice Energy
- MCE
- Orange County Power Authority
- Peninsula Clean Energy
- Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy
- Pioneer Community Energy
- Pomona Choice Energy
- Rancho Mirage Energy Authority
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- San Diego Community Power
- San Jacinto Power
- San Jose Clean Energy
- Santa Barbara Clean Energy
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Sonoma Clean Power
- Valley Clean Energy

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- Butte Choice Energy
- City of Corona
- City of Hermosa Beach
- Kings River Conservation District
- Tuolomne County