NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE ASSOCIATION

INSIDE
• CalCCA Annual Conference
• Lobby Day
• CCA Model Practices
Following an unusually wet winter that brought a relentless succession of storms, California is awash in vibrant colors as swaths of wildflowers blanket hillsides and valleys. This springtime explosion of orange, yellow, blue, and purple gives a feeling of hope and new beginnings—a striking reminder that no winter lasts forever.

The pandemic winter derailed so many core CalCCA activities over the last few years. Our last in-person annual meeting, for example, was in 2019. But here we are in 2023, finally, getting back on track and hosting an annual conference, May 17–19, in San Diego. The event is a super bloom of sorts for CalCCA members, partners, and industry thought leaders—one that is drawing hundreds of people from across the state to come together, reconnect, and share ideas. We hope you will join us.

In addition to planning for the conference, CalCCA has been busy with many other initiatives over the last few months. We’ve been on the road visiting our members, hosting productive meetings with legislators and their staffs, and working collaboratively with industry partners to tackle difficult market challenges.

We’ve published a new Model Practices Guide to address key areas of CCA operations, including financial management. CalCCA has also authored and circulated a white paper about the unrecognized scarcity in California’s resource adequacy compliance market, and how the problem is likely to grow.

While it’s certainly not all sunshine and wildflowers in California, the future continues to be bright for CCA as our members grow and flourish. The power of community is stronger than ever.

Stay well,

Beth Vaughan
Executive Director, CalCCA
• **CalCCA has released a new guide** to responsible business practices and sound governance for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). The *Model Practices Guide* addresses key areas of CCA operations including financial management, enterprise risk management, implementation and expansion planning, transparency, and deregistration. “The development of the guide marks a significant step towards further unification and maturity as California’s community choice energy providers work together to establish the foundational elements of a successful CCA,” said CalCCA Executive Director Beth Vaughan.

• Lori Mitchell, director of San José Clean Energy, has been elected president of the CalCCA board of directors for 2023. Mitchell replaces outgoing President Matthew Marshall, executive director of Redwood Coast Energy Authority, who led the board in 2021 and 2022. CalCCA’s 2023 board leadership also includes Ted Bardacke, chief executive officer of Clean Power Alliance, who is remaining in the role of vice president for a second year; Barbara Boswell, chief executive officer of Clean Energy Alliance, the board’s new secretary; and Girish Balachandran, chief executive officer of Silicon Valley Clean Energy, who is returning as board treasurer. Details on the 2023 CalCCA board leadership [here](#).

• California CCAs are creating new pathways to reduce costs for clean energy development through their participation in the *California Community Choice Financing Authority*, the state’s first clean energy prepayment bond agency. CCCFA has issued over $5 billion in clean energy revenue bonds to date, allowing member CCAs to save an estimated $840 million for California electricity customers over the next 30 years.

• The 2023 CalCCA Annual Conference, taking place May 17–19 in San Diego, is open for registration! The event will be action-packed with many opportunities to network, share ideas, and learn from experts about the latest industry trends and challenges. For registration, sponsorship, and program information, go to [cal–cca.org/2023-conference/](cal–cca.org/2023-conference/). Don’t miss out on California’s premier CCA event!
LOBBY DAY

CalCCA gathered in Sacramento at the historic Senator Building on March 8 for another successful Lobby Day. The day was filled with productive meetings with legislators, legislative staff and staff from the governor’s office. Discussion topics focused on a range of mission-critical topics for both CalCCA members and the state, including energy affordability, infrastructure needs, and resource adequacy. Thank you to everyone who attended!


Nidia Bautista, chief consultant, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications.
Assemblymembers Rick Chavez Zbur, member of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, and Damon Connolly, member of the Committee on Utilities and Energy.

Senator Brian Dahle, vice chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications.

Christine Hironaka, deputy cabinet secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom.
Senator Steven Bradford (standing left of the banner), chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications.

The lineup: CalCCA staff, lobbying team, and staff of member CCAs.
CalCCA ON THE ROAD

In addition to heading to Sacramento for Lobby Day, CalCCA has spent plenty of time on the road over the last few months visiting members as part a “listening tour,” attending ribbon-cuttings for new generation facilities that were built to serve CCA customers, and even traveling overseas to learn how other countries are approaching the clean energy transition. CalCCA looks forward to visiting more people and places in the coming months.

CalCCA staff visits with the Lancaster Energy/CalChoice team in Lancaster.

CalCCA staff listening to a presentation by San Diego Community Power Public Outreach Associate Victoria Abrenica at the SDCP headquarters in San Diego.
SPRING 2023

CalCCA ON THE ROAD

Reception for CalCCA members and partners in San Diego.

CalCCA joint committees meeting at SFPUC/CleanPowerSF headquarters in San Francisco.
A NOTE FROM CalCCA’S NEW BOARD PRESIDENT:

I’m honored to write to you as the new president of the CalCCA board of directors.

Throughout my years working in the CCA movement, I’ve been consistently awed by the extraordinary work and achievements that our organizations make in every facet of operations. With our recent growth, it feels like there are amazing feats taking place every other week.

One thing that I’ve come to appreciate about our community is that even as we grow and manage our many priorities, we continue to foster collaborative and innovative relationships between our CCAs up and down the state.

I’m confident that through these relationships and the hard work of all our dedicated, capable staff, we will continue to mark milestones and expand this proven CCA model for a cleaner and safer energy future.

Thank you for being part of this rewarding journey. I look forward to working closer with you all this year!

Warmly,

Lori Mitchell
Director
San José Clean Energy
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 Energy (LE), 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), Santa Barbara Clean Energy (SBCE), and Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice (EPIC).

**Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff Program**

Lancaster Energy, Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy and San Jacinto Power will offer eligible customers a 20% discount on 100% renewable energy beginning June 1. The discounted rates are available through the CCAs’ Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (DAC-GT) program. To qualify, customers must be enrolled in at least one of two existing low-income programs—California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)—and live within a disadvantaged community. Customers will continue receiving all CARE and FERA benefits.

**New Solar Program to Roll Out to All CalChoice Members**

All CalChoice associate members will soon offer customers a new, innovative solar program, Power Choice, in partnership with Tesla Energy and Participate Energy. The program, first launched by Lancaster Energy in December 2022, supports both home developers and homeowners and offers a zero-up-front-cost option to install solar and battery systems when building a new home. Participate Energy will finance and own the systems, which Tesla will design and install. Benefits for participants include access to solar financing and installation, access to backup power, and cost savings on energy bills.

**Palmdale Recognized for Renewable Energy and Sustainability Achievements**

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) recognized the City of Palmdale for its commitment to renewable energy and sustainability by awarding the city three Platinum Beacon awards. Every year, ILG’s Beacon Program recognizes municipal agencies for achievements in sustainability, energy savings, and greenhouse gas reduction. Palmdale’s recognition was in part granted due to the launch of its CCA program, Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice, an associate member of CalChoice.
Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is a public agency that sources competitively priced electricity from clean and renewable energy resources. Revenue generated by 3CE stays local and helps keep electricity rates affordable for customers, while also funding innovative energy programs designed to lower greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate economic development. 3CE serves 436,000 customers throughout the Central Coast, including residential, commercial, and agricultural customers in communities located within Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz counties.

3CE Selects Robert Shaw as New CEO

The 3CE board of directors recently announced the appointment of Robert Shaw as chief executive officer. In his most recent role as chief operating officer for 3CE, Shaw provided oversight for the agency’s Power Supply Resources and Energy Programs departments. Under his guidance, 3CE procured more than 1,000 MW of new renewable energy storage and generation to serve approximately 1.5 million people on the Central Coast and deployed nearly $20 million in energy program funds to help residents and businesses electrify local building and transportation sectors. Shaw succeeds Tom Habashi, who announced his resignation from the agency in September. His appointment comes after an extensive selection process by the board, which included soliciting public input through a community survey.

3CE to Purchase 200 MW of Long-Duration Energy Storage from Hydrostor

3CE has approved a 25-year contract with Hydrostor for the construction of a compressed-air energy storage facility that, once built, will provide 500 MW of energy storage, making it the largest compressed-air energy storage project in the world. Of that capacity, 200 MW will be reserved for 3CE and its customers. Hydrostor has developed an advanced compressed air process (A-CAES) that injects air into underground caverns, using water to maintain constant pressure. When released, the air is used to power turbines that generate electricity. Hydrostor’s project, called the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center, will be in Kern County, California, and is scheduled to reach completion in 2028.

3CE and SVCE Celebrate Completion of 100 MW Rabbitbrush Solar+Storage Project

In November, 3CE and Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) celebrated Rabbitbrush—a 100 MW solar, 20 MW/50 MWh battery storage project developed by Leeward Renewable Energy in Kern County. Rabbitbrush achieved commercial operation in October 2022. The battery storage facility provides a reliable and cost-effective means of storing renewable energy that can be dispatched during peak hours, increasing grid resiliency and reducing carbon emissions. SVC receives 40 MW of solar and 8 MW/20 MWh of battery storage. 3CE receives 60 MW of solar and 12 MW/30 MWh of battery storage. The contract term for both Community Choice Energy providers is 15 years.
3CE Helps Fund Thousands of EVs and EV Chargers

3CE has distributed over $2 million in rebates through its Electrify Your Ride Program, which makes $4 million available to 3CE customers to incentivize the purchase or lease of new and used electric vehicles. This program also covers most costs associated with purchasing and installing an EV charger in homes and workplaces, and even covers “EV readiness” for those who are simply preparing to make the transition to electric transportation. Income-qualified participants receive higher rebates for all three aspects of the program. This third iteration of the EV program builds on the success of the prior year, during which $2.95 million was awarded to program participants.

New this year, 3CE is providing technical assistance for multifamily and commercial property owners when installing EV charging stations. Providing EV charging infrastructure at multifamily buildings makes it easier for residents living in apartments or condominiums to charge their electric vehicles at home. This year’s Electrify Your Ride Program estimates displacing more than 1,800 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That is the equivalent of taking over 388 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles off the road each year.

Fleet Electrification and EV Charger Programs for Member Agencies

3CE recently launched two new energy programs: Electrify Your Fleet and Charge Your Fleet. The programs are designed for 3CE’s 33 member agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by deploying electric vehicles and installing charging stations. The programs provide member agencies up to $150,000 in rebates for respective initiatives. The rebates may be claimed as a post-purchase rebate or a pre-purchase reservation.

The Electrify Your Fleet Program provides rebates for the purchase or lease of light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty battery electric vehicles, which must be new and fully electric. The Charge Your Fleet Program provides rebates for the purchase, construction, and installation of EV service equipment, including time, materials, and work required for installation. Projects must include an EV charger of Level 2 or Level 3 DCFC rating and may include all costs associated with installation. Charging stations may be either public-facing or “behind the fence” at a secure customer site. In the past year, 3CE has reserved or distributed $2.4 million in funding to member agencies, with $1.9 million dedicated to accelerating electrification of the Central Coast’s transportation sector.
Rebates for Ag Customers to Electrify Equipment, Reduce Emissions

3CE is offering $2.15 million to customers through its Ag Electrification Program, enabling the local agricultural industry to replace fossil fuel-powered equipment with new, all-electric equipment. The adoption of sustainable agricultural equipment, such as electric irrigation pumps, tractors, and utility vehicles, is crucial to California’s fight against climate change and to meeting our state’s ambitious greenhouse gas emissions-reduction goals. Switching to electric equipment can also reduce operational costs and improve air quality and working conditions for farm workers and Central Coast communities. 3CE has distributed more than $1.22 million in rebates from its past three Ag Electrification programs, nearly half of which have gone to small, independent farms.

CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY

CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Clean Energy Alliance began serving customers in 2021 and is now fully operational with a 93% participation rate among its 60,000 customers. All three operational member cities—Carlsbad, Del Mar, and Solana Beach—have selected a 75% carbon-free power supply as their default energy product.

Expansion to Cities of Escondido and San Marcos

Clean Energy Alliance enrolled customers in the cities of Escondido and San Marcos in April, doubling its customer load with this expansion. These cities will join Carlsbad, Del Mar, and Solana Beach to bring CEA’s membership to a total of five cities.

CAC Members Connect with Community at Local Events

CEA Community Advisory Committee members are hitting the road to connect with the community at local events, including the San Marcos Food Pantry and Escondido Farmers Market. For a full calendar of CEA community stops, visit: thecleanenergyalliance.org/calendar.

CEA Community Advisory Committee members in February at the San Marcos Food Pantry.
Clean Power Alliance (CPA) 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 fourth-largest electricity provider in California and leads the nation in serving the most customers with 100% renewable energy. CPA serves approximately 3 million residential and business customers via 1 million customer accounts, providing clean renewable energy at competitive rates.

**Energy Equity at Heart of Community Solar Project**

Clean Power Alliance has launched a new rooftop community solar project to bring local renewable energy to customers in the Bassett and Avocado Heights communities in the City of Pico Rivera. The project will serve an additional 340 customers through CPA’s Power Share program, which promotes the development of renewable energy generation in and for underserved communities while providing enrolled customers with 100% renewable energy at a 20% bill discount. One goal of the project is to ensure that the combination of strong community engagement and the latest in technological and business innovation helps disadvantaged communities leap into the clean energy future instead of potentially being left behind. The project will come online by the end of 2023.

**CPA Marks Fifth Anniversary of Serving Customers**

CPA is celebrating the fifth anniversary of serving its first customers. Since CPA began service to communities in 2018, the clean energy provider has become the fourth-largest electricity provider in California and leads the nation in serving the most customers with 100% renewable energy, with more than 3 million residential and business customers. A majority of CPA’s partner communities have selected 100% Green Power as their preferred energy option—helping build our clean energy future!

**Voyager Scholarship Continues to Support Future Green Economy Leaders**

Meet the next generation of renewable energy leaders who share their academic interests, goals, and green energy aspirations. The Voyager Scholarship, launched in May 2019 to support students at seven community colleges throughout Los Angeles and Ventura counties, provides financial assistance to scholars enrolled in energy-focused careers, such as electric vehicles and advanced transportation technology, energy and environmental science, and alternative energy.

CPA’s Voyager Scholarships programs supports students at community colleges in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. [Meet the Voyager Scholars here.](#)
CleanPowerSF offers renewable, affordable, and accessible electricity to approximately 385,000 residential and business accounts in San Francisco. To date, CleanPowerSF has contracted 467 MW of new wind and solar projects in California and signed four solar-plus-battery-storage contracts. CleanPowerSF delivers at least 50% renewables portfolio standard-eligible renewable energy for its default Green product and 100% RPS-eligible renewable energy for its voluntary SuperGreen product.

CleanPowerSF Customers Receive Additional CAPP Funding
The California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) bill credit is courtesy of a state program to provide financial relief to energy customers who amassed arrearages during the COVID-19 pandemic. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission recently secured $1.24 million in CAPP funding for CleanPowerSF customers. This is the second round of CAPP funding that CleanPowerSF customers will receive, after the initial round of funding in 2022. To qualify to receive CAPP funding, customers must have an unpaid energy bill over 60 days past due incurred between March 4, 2020, and December 31, 2021. The funds will be applied directly to qualifying customers’ Pacific Gas & Electric bill.

Peak Day Pricing Program Provides $183,000 in Bill Credits
CleanPowerSF’s Peak Day Pricing program is a voluntary demand-response program that incentivizes large commercial customers to reduce their electricity consumption between 4 and 9 p.m. on “Event Days” in the summer and fall when the grid is expected to be strained, typically due to high temperatures. CleanPowerSF concluded the 2022 Peak Day Pricing season at the end of October and provided $183,000 in earned bill credits to participating customers’ January 2023 bills. On average, participants reduced their electricity demand on Event Days by 9.7% relative to what their demand was expected to be had an Event Day not been called.

New EV Charge SF Program Available to CleanPowerSF Customers
The SFPUC’s new electric vehicle incentive program is now available to CleanPowerSF customers. EV Charge SF is designed to help developers finance EV charging infrastructure in new construction projects in San Francisco. Through the program, new projects can take advantage of up to $120,000 in financial incentives to install EV chargers and related infrastructure.

‘CHOICE’ WORDS

“Even though the IOUs did not meet Tranche 2 on time, LSEs were collectively able to meet Tranche 2 on time (and ‘catch up’ on the Tranche 1 requirements) due to excess procurement by the CCAs and ESPs.”

-CPUC summary of compliance toward midterm reliability procurement
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.

$2 Million in Federal Funding to Support Renewable Backup Power
In December 2022, the U.S. Congress passed a federal spending bill that included vital funding for two of EBCE’s efforts to serve communities during emergency grid outages with resilient, clean electricity. These newly funded projects, spanning the cities of Hayward and Fremont, will combine the use of solar panel electric generation with battery energy storage at 13 critical service sites which will provide fire, safety, and emergency operations to the community in the event of grid outages. These services are currently threatened by outages driven by factors ranging from earthquakes to wildfires exacerbated by climate change.

Traditionally, diesel generators provide emergency power during outages, but this approach creates air pollution and is limited by the stock of diesel on hand. These new projects’ renewable energies will provide a more clean and resilient solution for emergency backup power. Benefits will include increasing the community’s ability to tap into renewable and local energy sources, while creating local jobs. The projects will also provide solar electricity generation year-round, lowering the operating costs for these community facilities, such as fire stations.

EBCE’s Brownfields–to–EV–Charging–Fields Pilot Team Wins EPA Award
At the December meeting of the EBCE board of directors, Eric Byous from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Pacific Southwest Region IX office presented EBCE’s Jessie Denver (director, transportation electrification) and Zac Thompson (senior associate, transportation electrification) with an award for their innovative pilot project. The EPA’s 2022 National Notable Achievement Award for Land Revitalization Team Excellence was granted in recognition of Denver and Thompson’s extraordinary innovative and collaborative efforts to demonstrate the viability of revitalizing brownfield sites into zero-emission electric vehicle fast-charging hubs for two use cases: light-duty passenger EVs and zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty goods movement vehicles.

Brownfields are sites on which hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants are suspected or have been found to exist, complicating or prohibiting the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of said property. EBCE’s work involved a first-of-its-kind approach with the EPA to evaluating brownfield reuse as potential sites for zero-emission EV fast charging, identifying potential sites along the busy Interstate 880 corridor in the East Bay. The most promising sites will be further assessed to identify opportunities to develop EV charging infrastructure where it’s needed most.

Increased Reserve Fund and New $200 Million Credit Facility Strengthen Financials
In November 2022, the EBCE board of directors approved a resolution to add approximately $65.7 million to the electricity agency’s reserve fund balance. This establishes a new reserve balance of approximately $156 million and is approximately 28% of the current year’s budgeted operating expenses. This follows a recent EBCE board decision to finalize and execute a $200 million revolving credit facility agreement with Union Bank. These two financial decisions serve to further harden EBCE’s solid financial position.
EBCE's current fiscal year budget is $562.7 million in operating expenses, growing from $471.9 million in 2021-2022 and $369.2 million in 2020-2021 as EBCE's service area has expanded and energy prices have increased. EBCE maintains an "A" credit rating from S&P.

New Programs Coming Soon to EBCE Customers
In October 2022, EBCE issued two solicitations that will lead to new programs for its customers. First, EBCE issued a solicitation for its largest-ever energy efficiency initiative. EBCE solicited proposals for implementation and measurement and verification (M&V) services for two distinct programs: Commercial Pay-for-Performance (P4P) Energy Efficiency and Additional Grid Services. This $13 million program, funded through the Public Purpose Programs surcharge, will launch in 2023 and is expected to save over 9 million kWh in its first year.

EBCE then issued a solicitation for program design and implementation proposals for a three-year, $6 million electric bike program. Electric bikes, or e–bikes, are quickly gaining popularity, especially in the bike-friendly climate of the East Bay. E–bikes use rechargeable batteries that can be powered with clean, renewable electricity. Accelerating adoption of e–bikes provides an opportunity for low–cost, energy–efficient, and emissions–free transportation that’s also fun and healthy. The e–bike program will have two elements: a $2 million e–bike lending program and a $4 million e–bike incentive program.

MCE
MCE offers renewable, locally controlled, and cost-competitive electricity to more than 1.5 million residents and businesses in 37 Bay Area communities in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano counties. MCE customers are part of the long–term solution to green California’s electricity supply while investing in local energy programs. For more information about MCE’s services, visit mceCleanEnergy.org or sign up for our monthly eNewsletter.

MCE Announces Shift to 100% Renewable Default Service
MCE’s Deep Green 100% renewable energy has become the default electricity service in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano counties. More than 100,000 new electric accounts are expected to start 100% renewable service in 2023, reducing more than 1,600 metric tons of greenhouse gases each year. To ensure equitable access to the clean energy revolution, low-income customers will receive 100% renewable service at no extra cost.

MCE’s 2022 Impact Report cover featuring CEC member Siva Gunda and staff touring MCE’s Solar One project in Richmond, California.
Over $1 Million in Low-Income EV Rebates Distributed
MCE’s low-income electric vehicle rebate program has now distributed over $1 million to more than 300 low-income Bay Area drivers to support the transition to clean transportation. In early summer 2023, MCE will apply its rebates to the upfront purchase costs of a new EV instead of sending buyers a rebate check in the mail after it’s purchased.

MCE Receives $3.25 Million for Local Programs
MCE received $3.25 million in federal funding to support its Healthy Homes, EV charging, and energy storage programs. MCE is also committing $900,000 to the EV and energy storage programs, bringing the total new investment to $4.15 million. Since the start of service in 2010, MCE has reinvested $214 million in its member communities for local renewables, energy efficiency, battery storage, EV charging, and low-income EV rebates.

Natural Gas Peaker Plant Gets Climate-Friendly Facelift
MCE’s newest resource-adequacy project is now on line, converting a natural gas–fired peaker plant into a state-of-the-art energy storage hybrid. The project adds 16 MW of battery storage to the 48 MW facility located in Fresno, California. Addition of the battery enables the plant to burn significantly less fuel than a standard gas site, reducing particulate emissions from the facility by as much as 78% while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 60% and water usage by up to 80%.

In 2022, Orange County Power Authority launched service to commercial and residential customers in Huntington, Fullerton, Irvine, and Buena Park. Within less than a year, it has retained more than 200,000 customers, with the majority in the 100% renewable energy tier. Customers can choose from OCPA’s 38% renewable Basic Choice; Smart Choice, which provides at least 69% renewable energy; and 100% Renewable Choice, which provides 100% renewable energy.

New 2023 Rate Design Strengthens Competitive Position and Financial Resilience
Less than a year into providing renewable energy to business and residential customers in the cities of Buena Park, Huntington Beach, Irvine and Fullerton, OCPA announced in January that its Basic Choice electricity generation rates would be less than Southern California Edison’s equivalent generation rates. “OCPA’s 2023 rate design strengthens our competitive position and ensures our financial resilience through continuing energy market volatility,” said Brian Probolsky, CEO. In addition, since launching residential service in October 2022, OCPA’s average customer participation rate remains at approximately 80% with the majority of its 200,000+ customers enrolled at the 100% Renewable Choice rate.

OCPA Hires New Director of Communications and External Affairs
Joe Mosca was hired as the director of communications and external affairs in December and is now helping OCPA develop a more robust marketing, communications, and public information program, kicking off the organization’s first full year in operation. Joe was recently interviewed by the local newspaper, Daily Pilot, about his plans for OCPA in 2023.
ORANGE COUNTY POWER AUTHORITY

Q&A with OCPA Board Chair Fred Jung
OCPA swore in its new board of directors and selected Fred Jung as chair and Kathleen Treseder as co-chair. Jung recently sat down with OCPA for a Q&A session. Read more here.

OCPA Team Connects with Community at Events
The team at OCPA attended more than 50 community events and conferences in 2022, committing more than 200 hours to educate residents, businesses, and local leaders about OCPA and the benefits of Community Choice Energy. The year ended with several holiday events sponsored by OCPA, including the Irvine Global Village Festival—one of Orange County’s largest community events—and Buena Park Tree Lighting, with an electric trackless train that offered free rides during its festivities.

OCPA Receives Clean Financial Audit
Following its second independent audit, Pisenti and Brinker LLP reported that OCPA’s financial statements are fairly, materially, and appropriately presented with no recommendations for changes needed. OCPA is operating appropriately and transparently as shown in the audit findings.

PENINSULA CLEAN ENERGY

Peninsula Clean Energy is the official electricity provider for San Mateo County and for the City of Los Banos. Founded in 2016, with a mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the agency serves a population of 810,000 by providing 3,600 GWh annually of electricity that is 50% renewable and 100% clean and at lower cost than Pacific Gas & Electric. Peninsula Clean Energy is on track to deliver electricity that is 100% renewable by 2025.

24/7 Renewable Energy White Paper Published
Peninsula Clean Energy published a white paper on “Achieving 24/7 Renewable Energy by 2025,” validating its goal of cost-effectively providing 100% renewable electricity around the clock. The analysis contained in the white paper was made possible using the MATCH (Matching Around-the-Clock Hourly Energy) modeling tool, built and tested by Peninsula Clean Energy staff over the past two years. The model takes into account the cost, the level of emission-reduction benefits, and the impact on the broader energy system. The MATCH model is open-source and free for public use. The findings have received a great deal of interest from the industry, nationally and internationally.

New Power Purchase Agreements to Expand Renewable Power and Storage Capability
Peninsula Clean Energy executed four new contracts expanding renewable power and storage capability to assist with the agency’s industry-leading effort to provide customers with renewable power on an
PENINSULA CLEAN ENERGY

hourly basis. The agreements include Peninsula Clean Energy’s first stand-alone storage project that will provide up to 50 MW of four-hour lithium-ion battery storage over 15 years starting in August 2024. Other contracts include geothermal, small hydroelectric, and wind projects.

$415,000 in Outreach Grants Go to Local Nonprofits
Peninsula Clean Energy awarded 14 grants to 13 organizations in San Mateo County and the City of Los Banos to increase outreach to disadvantaged and other communities about utility bill discounts and a range of other clean energy benefits. The grants ranged from $15,000 to $45,000 each and included supporting outreach in Spanish and Chinese to help residents purchase electric vehicles; educating elderly and low-income customers about energy bill discounts and home energy assistance; and expanding public education in all communities on Peninsula Clean Energy’s home electrification and broader climate efforts.

PIO N EER CO M M U N I TT Y E N ERG Y

Pioneer Community Energy offers competitive rates, reliable service, and energy choice to 150,000 accounts in the unincorporated areas of Placer County and El Dorado County, the Town of Loomis, and the cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Placerville, and Rocklin.

Bond Sale Generates Significant Investor Demand
Pioneer issued its first-ever municipal non-recourse Clean Energy Project Revenue Bonds through the California Community Choice Financing Authority, underwritten by Goldman Sachs. The extremely successful bond sale produced more than $459.6 million in bond proceeds and generated significant investor demand. The issuance received an investment-grade “A2” rating from Moody’s Investors Service and a “Green Climate Bond” designation from Kestrel Verifiers.

The Clean Energy Project Revenue Bonds prepay for the purchase of 186 MW of clean electricity—enough to power approximately 68,000 homes. These transactions will reduce renewable power costs for Pioneer customers by almost $2.8 million annually for the first seven years. For decades, municipal utilities have used the prepayment structure as an industry standard practice to reduce costs for the purchase of natural gas. Now, these revenue bonds apply this structure to the purchase of electricity.

Pioneer Commits to Competitive Rates and Significant Savings
Pioneer’s adjusted electricity rates provide savings of 15% or more compared with Pacific Gas & Electric’s generation rates for existing customers. The increased savings took effect in January 2023 for Pioneer residential and business customers in the Placer County and El Dorado County service areas.

International Gold Award for Website Redesign
The 2022 MarCom Awards recognized Pioneer Community Energy with a Gold Award in the Digital Media Website Redesign category. The award honors excellence and creativity in marketing and communications. Approximately 6,500 entries are submitted from dozens of countries each year, and Pioneer was selected from a highly competitive field.
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” 32+% renewable and “REpower+” 100% renewable and carbon-free energy service options.

First-Ever Floating Offshore Wind Lease Auction
When the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held its first-ever floating offshore wind lease auction in December, two of the areas were off the coast of Humboldt County. A full commercial buildout of all five California leases could generate over 4.6 GW of offshore wind energy, but for Humboldt, the first phase of development is expected to generate closer to 100–150 MW until transmission is developed to export electricity to other parts of the state.

Plans for major upgrades to Humboldt’s port infrastructure are underway and are likely to play a key role in West Coast turbine deployment. Auction winners RWE and Copenhagen Investment Partners and port developer Crowley are focused on forging local relationships. RCEA has been collaborating and planning for this since 2016 and will continue to engage local stakeholders and tribal entities in a process that’s transparent and supportive of community concerns. Next steps include extensive research and permitting activities, with a goal of producing electricity by 2030. RCEA has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the California Fishermen’s Resiliency Association to ensure that Northern California and Southern Oregon’s fishing communities continue to have a voice in the process.

Sandrini Solar Project
Construction continued in Q4 2022 on this 100 MW solar project in Kern County, with EDP Renewables issuing full notice to proceed to its PV contractor and pursuing final permits for the generation interconnection line. The project is on track to meet its commercial operation date in Q2 2023.

Fairhaven Energy Storage
The 17.25 MW battery system that is being developed at the site of an old biomass generation facility progressed on permitting, design, and interconnection in Q4.

Community Grid BTM Storage Program
RCEA and Swell amended their existing behind-the-meter storage contract to initiate a product transition from resource adequacy to load modification. Swell’s customer enrollment is underway with about 140 kW of participating storage capacity, almost half of the minimum programmatic total.

Foster Clean Power
The Foster Clean Power project is a 30-acre, 7 MW community-scale solar and storage project that will include a 5 MW battery storage system and a pollinator habitat program. The project, recently issued permits and set to break ground in 2023, will be done in two phases, and—according to developer Renewable America—the materials and parts of the panels will be fully recyclable. RCEA has contracted for power from the project’s first phase.

Humboldt County Earthquake
The magnitude 6.4 earthquake that struck Humboldt County on December 20 was the first real test of the Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid’s resiliency capabilities. As grid power went down, the microgrid shifted
seamlessly into island mode, exceeded expectations in a worst-case scenario, and kept the airport and Coast Guard facilities operating through the first challenging hours of the earthquake’s aftermath.

The earthquake also caused significant damage to the City of Rio Dell, also close to the epicenter. Many residents were left without power, food, water, or housing. Offers of help from RCEA’s Community Choice Energy friends across the state generated a significant contribution of food and supplies. Calpine Energy Solutions contributed a $5,000 donation and Sonoma Clean Power pitched in $2,500. RCEA matched those funds and was able to deliver the provisions when they were needed the most. Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department was also instrumental in making this happen.

**EV Charging Network Sees Changes**

Our electric vehicle charging network experienced about 5% growth in energy delivery month over month, but finally flattened out this quarter. Causes are unknown, but contributing factors could include normalizing gasoline prices in mid-October, ongoing EV supply and pricing challenges, and delayed details about pending Inflation Reduction Act incentives. The December earthquake caused a temporary network-wide outage, but all stations but one were back on line within 24 hours.

**RCEA Adopts Racial Justice Plan**

In October, RCEA’s board strengthened its commitment to racial justice by adopting a Racial Justice Plan. This plan recognizes that access to energy, energy efficiency, freedom from pollution, and a role in the renewable energy transition intimately affect economic and personal health outcomes. As an organization, RCEA strives to serve everyone in the Humboldt County community more equitably. RCEA will do this by focusing on staffing; local tribes; diversity, equity, and inclusion in RCEA programs; energy justice in power procurement; and continued collaboration with the CaICCA Environmental Justice and Equity Committee and other external equity organizations. Details on RCEA’s Racial Justice Plan are at [www.RedwoodEnergy.org/key-documents](http://www.RedwoodEnergy.org/key-documents).

**RCEA Set to Implement and Expand Demand-Side Management Programs**

RCEA’s DSM team has been busy implementing its ratepayer-funded and energy partnership programs as well as locally funded heat pump rebates. RCEA also recently held a community heat pump workshop with presentations on space and water heating and a chance to talk with local contractors. As high-efficiency LED lighting becomes more cost-effective, strategy has changed to begin steering away from direct incentives for lighting upgrades, instead emphasizing rebates for heat pumps and other equipment such as refrigeration and induction cooking. Continuing to offer no-cost energy assessments for local public agencies and businesses, RCEA is doing a second annual promotion making a $100 donation to a local food bank in the name of any business that schedules an assessment. RCEA also will be the program administrator of the new Rural Regional Energy Network for much of rural California, launching in 2024.

Microgrid project leaders and officials from state energy agencies participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the California Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport.
San Diego Community Power is the electricity provider for the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, and San Diego, with the unincorporated communities of the County of San Diego and the City of National City to be served in 2023. Formed in 2019, SDCP is committed to entirely clean and renewable electricity by 2035 or sooner—the first in the state to establish this goal in our foundation.

Enrollment of Customers in National City, Unincorporated San Diego County
Electricity customers in National City and unincorporated San Diego County are saying “hello” to a cleaner power provider, as SDCP began notifying them they’ll begin receiving service on April 1. The first of their enrollment notices were mailed in early February to educate new customers about the need for clean energy and the benefits of SDCP. SDCP is the second-largest Community Choice Aggregator in California.

SDCP remains focused on community reinvestment and creating a clear path to providing 100% clean energy by 2035 throughout the greater San Diego region. Over the next few months, SDCP will spread the word about its upcoming service in its new member agency communities via in-person outreach events, working with community leaders to publish editorials in local publications, and a robust marketing campaign to let future customers know they will have a choice for cleaner, cheaper electricity.

Vikings Energy Farm Breaks Ground
SDCP was on hand to celebrate the February groundbreaking of Arevon Energy’s Vikings Energy Farm, a one-of-a-kind solar-plus-storage power plant just outside of Holtville. The facility is among the first “solar peaker” plants in the United States. The energy produced by Vikings Energy Farm will be used to provide resource adequacy and renewable energy to SDCP, helping San Diego meet peak summer demand and supporting grid reliability. The facility’s unique 137 MW of solar production, coupled with 150 MW/600 MWh of battery energy storage, will allow it to shift daytime solar production to late-afternoon and evening hours, providing on-peak energy whenever necessary.

CalCCA TIP
Interested in exploring whether CCA is a good fit for your community? Our CCA Resources webpage has background information, sample formation documents, fact sheets, and responses to frequently asked questions for CCA-interested communities. Start exploring here: cal-cca.org/resources.
San José Clean Energy serves approximately 350,000 customers in the City of San José, the third-largest city in California and the 10th-largest city in the U.S. with a population of 1.03 million. SJCE launched service in February 2019 to most residents and businesses. Its total annual load is approximately 4 TWh and peak demand is approximately 1 GW. SJCE offers two clean energy options. GreenSource is SJCE’s standard service with 60% renewable energy and TotalGreen is SJCE’s premium service for 100% renewable energy. SJCE also offers SJ Cares, which gives customers with low incomes an extra 10% discount off SJCE’s rates.

SJCE Director Lori Mitchell Elected President of CalCCA Board of Directors
SJCE Director Lori Mitchell was recently selected as the new president of the CalCCA board of directors after serving on the board for five years. Lori is looking forward to serving as the new CalCCA board president and facilitating the continued success and expansion of CCAs in California. “The CCA model works,” said Lori. “In just 20 years, CCAs now serve over 11 million customers in more than 200 cities in California. We’re driving change in our communities and are a powerful force in our state’s transition to a clean energy future.”

Collaboration Opportunities Realized at CalCCA’s Listening Tour
In February, Lori joined CalCCA on a visit to San Diego as part of their Listening Tour. Lori and the CalCCA team engaged in enlightening conversations as Karin Burns (San Diego Community Power) and Barbara Boswell (Clean Energy Alliance) shared priorities and discussed opportunities for collaboration among CCAs up and down the state.

SJCE Moves to Cost-of-Service Rates
Last fall, SJCE commissioned a cost-of-service study to set rates that cover SJCE’s cost to serve customers while also prioritizing affordability and building financial reserves. The new rate-setting methodology was approved by San José’s City Council on December 6, 2022, and cost-of-service rates took effect in January. With the new cost-of-service rates and lower Power Charge Indifference Adjustment fee, SJCE customers are saving 1–3% depending on their rate and usage. Read more about SJCE’s cost-of-service study in the December 6, 2022, San José City Council Memo.

Increased Discount for Low-Income Customers
In addition to adopting rates that will result in lower charges for customers, SJCE increased its SJ Cares discount from 5% to 10% for customers with low incomes. Through SJCE’s SJ Cares program, customers enrolled in the California Alternate Rates for Energy or Family Electric Rate Assistance state assistance programs automatically receive an extra 10% discount off SJCE’s rates. SJCE is exploring how to expand this discount to more customer groups in 2023 through discussions with other city departments and social services agencies.
Launched in April 2017, Silicon Valley Clean Energy serves 270,000 residential and business 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.

Wind and Solar Projects Begin Successful Delivery
Two long-term clean energy projects recently began delivering power to SVCE customers. To date, six long-term projects have successfully begun delivery to SVCE.

The Leeward Rabbitbrush Solar+Storage project came on line in October 2023. The brand-new project located in Kern County is providing 40 MW of solar capacity and 20 MWh of battery capacity. On behalf of the Rabbitbrush project, Leeward Renewable Energy contributed $150,000 to a fund for the study and conservation of the Swainson’s hawk in the Antelope Valley through the National Audubon Society and Kern Audubon Society. The project also resulted in over 350 union jobs during construction and hundreds of thousands of dollars in project fees that went toward funding critical public services. The project will continue to provide economic benefit to Kern County through sales and property taxes.

The Terra-Gen Cameron Crest wind project began providing power to SVCE in January 2023. This project provides 77.7 MW of clean, renewable electricity to SVCE communities under a 15–year contract. The power is produced by 430 turbines dispersed between three vintage projects located in Kern County, California.

SVCE to Save $4.5 Million Annually Through Prepayment
SVCE closed its second prepayment transaction to finance clean energy supplies, resulting in significant savings—approximately $4.5 million annually—and a 10% discount on the cost of power supply contracts representing about 55 MW. The Clean Energy Project Bonds support SVCE’s ongoing commitment to clean, affordable, and reliable electricity for its communities.

The goal of the prepayment transaction is to reduce the cost of power purchases on quantities delivered under the prepay structure with minimal risk to SVCE. The prepay structure enables Community Choice Aggregators to reduce their energy costs by financing the acquisition of long-term energy supplies with tax-exempt bonds.
SVCE executed this transaction through the California Community Choice Financing Authority. CCCFA was created with the goal of reducing the cost of power purchases through a prepayment structure. These pre-payments allow CCAs to reduce customer costs and increase funding available for local programs.

The New SVCE FutureFit Homes Rebate Program
To further reduce barriers to home electrification, SVCE now offers up to $8,000 in rebates to help single- and multifamily home residents electrify their homes. Launched in October 2022, the FutureFit Homes program provides rebates for heat pump water heaters and heat pump space heating and cooling. Additional incentives are available to upgrade electric panels, prewire circuits for future electrification, and cover removal of the gas meter. In the future, the program will offer more resources to help customers leverage forthcoming state and federal incentives.

Throughout this year, SVCE is carrying out a comprehensive marketing campaign that will heavily promote the FutureFit Homes program to our diverse communities. Program details can be found on the FutureFit Homes rebate page.

Rebates available as part of the SVCE FutureFit Homes rebate program.
SONOMA CLEAN POWER

Sonoma Clean Power provides cleaner electricity and energy-related climate solutions to Sonoma and Mendocino counties. In downtown Santa Rosa, SCP operates the only Advanced Energy Center in the United States, dedicated to helping customers transition to 100% renewable energy for their homes, businesses, and cars. SCP is also the only power provider in California offering 100% renewable, locally generated energy 24 hours per day, every day of the year.

Local Storage and Geothermal Opportunity Zone
SCP recently executed a contract for a local stand-alone battery project with developer Strata Clean Energy. The project, located east of Petaluma, will provide 30 MW of four-hour-duration energy storage, and is scheduled to come on line June 1, 2025.

In 2022, SCP established the Geothermal Opportunity Zone (GeoZone) to explore the expansion of local geothermal power capacity. The GeoZone aims to eliminate reliance on natural gas power plants during evening hours, sustain existing local geothermal production, and add 500 MW of new geothermal capacity. SCP is actively negotiating cooperation agreements for three selected private partners: Eavor Inc., Chevron New Technologies, and Cyrq Energy. Each cooperation agreement will be presented to SCP’s Community Advisory Committee and board of directors for approval before execution.

SCP Conducts Community Needs Assessments
Last year, SCP updated its Strategic Action Plan for Customer Offerings and Incentives. The plan outlines how SCP will consider and develop programs to serve all SCP customers, especially in historically underserved, underinvested, and marginalized communities. The first step is to assess community needs in order to identify customers’ needs, wishes, and concerns when it comes to emissions reduction, energy efficiency, resiliency, and electrification.

SCP is working with consultants to undertake assessments for the residential, commercial, agricultural, and transportation sectors. The findings will then inform the development of more impactful and relevant SCP customer programs.

Advanced Energy Center Updates
Sonoma Clean Power continues to offer substantial rebates on heat pump water heaters, heat pump heating and cooling systems, and induction cooktops through its Advanced Energy Center demonstration kitchen.

Chef Zacarias Martin of Los Molcajetes Bar and Grill prepares his traditional Mexican recipes on induction cooktops in SCP’s Advanced Energy Center demonstration kitchen.
CALCCA MEMBERS

- Apple Valley Choice Energy
- Central Coast Community Energy
- Clean Energy Alliance
- Clean Power Alliance
- CleanPowerSF
- Desert Community Energy
- East Bay Community Energy
- Energy for Palmdale’s Independent Choice
- Lancaster Choice Energy
- MCE
- Orange County Power Authority
- Peninsula Clean Energy

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

- Butte Choice Energy
- City of Corona

- 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 José Clean Energy
- Santa Barbara Clean Energy
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy
- Sonoma Clean Power
- Valley Clean Energy

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