

MBCP DEDICATES \$160,000 TO ELECTRIFY LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

Ag Businesses Can Reduce Local GHG Emissions, Improve Air Quality and Operating Costs along the Central Coast

Monterey, CA. July 27, 2020 – Monterey Bay Community Power ([MBCP](#)) today announced the launch of its Agricultural (Ag) Electrification Grant Program, supporting the replacement of fossil-fuel powered equipment with new electric equipment including tractors, coolers and boilers, forklifts, light and heavy-duty vehicles, diesel powered irrigation pumps and more.

Aimed at accelerating the adoption of new all-electric agricultural equipment to decrease reliance on fossil fuels, the Ag Electrification Grant Program supports local agricultural industry in the transition from fossil-fuel powered ag equipment to all-electric equipment. Funding for MBCP's first Ag Electrification Grant Program totals \$160,000, to be administered through a competitive bid process. The program is expected to provide grants to a minimum of eight ag customers up to \$20,000 each to assist with "fuel-switching" or electrifying Ag equipment.

"MBCP continues to design and fund impactful programs that create meaningful greenhouse gas reductions and the electrification of our Central Coast" shares MBCP CEO, Tom Habashi. "MBCP is excited to start accelerating the ag industry's desire to reduce the climate impact their operations have locally and collectively."

The ag industry makes up 8% of California's greenhouse gas emissions and industry leaders have shown interest to invest in cleaner technology in order to curb their carbon emissions and improve air quality for surrounding communities and farm workers. As a regional public agency focused greenhouse gas reduction, MBCP is dedicating annual funding to ag specific electrification programs beginning with this exploratory program. MBCP's Ag Electrification Grant Program goes live July 27, 2020 at 1PM. Of the \$160,000 allocated, \$80,000 is set aside for Monterey County ag businesses, \$40,000 for Santa Cruz County ag businesses, \$20,000 for San Benito County ag businesses and \$20,000 for ag businesses within the cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay.

"Supporting the agricultural sector through this grant program will be a great start for MBCP to begin to invest in electrifying our region's ever important industry" says Norm Groot, Chair of MBCP's Community Advisory Council and Executive Director of the Monterey County Farm Bureau. "The agricultural industry continues to implement key strategies to reduce cost and meet environmental goals and MBCP is poised to be a strategic partner to help advance them."

MBCP is poised to launch larger more impactful energy programs specific to the Ag sector in its next fiscal year, after learning more about what electrification projects and GHG reducing efforts are most important to local Ag customers. For more information about MBCP Energy Programs, visit mbcp.org/energy-programs/.

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About: Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) is a community-owned public agency that sources competitively priced electricity from clean and renewable energy resources. MBCP is locally controlled and governed by board members who represent each community served by the agency. Revenue generated by MBCP stays local and helps keep electricity rates lower for customers, while also funding innovative energy programs designed to lower

greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate economic development. MBCP serves more than 400,000 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. Learn more at <http://mbcp.org> and on social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Monterey Bay Community Power

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July 27th – 29th, please contact:

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**For
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[Click Here for the Ag Electrification Grant Program
Webpage and Details](#)

Please see next page for Ag Electrification Grant Program infographic:

Ag Electrification Grant Program Infographic:



**MBCP is electrifying the Ag industry by incentivizing new
all-electric agricultural equipment**

160k

Funding for MBCP's exploratory Ag Electrification Grant Program totals \$160k

20k

Eight qualifying ag customers may apply for up to \$20,000 to assist with "fuel-switching" of tractors, forklifts, coolers/boilers, light/heavy duty vehicles and diesel-powered irrigation pumps, and more.

8%

The Ag Industry makes up 8% of CA's GHG emissions. Due to this impact, they have communicated an interest to invest in cleaner technology

Improving air quality for surrounding communities and farm workers and **reducing local GHG emissions.**

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