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DECEMBER 2022



Central Coast Community Energy



CCCE and Silicon Valley Clean Energy Announce 100 MW Rabbitbrush Solar and Storage Project Success

On November 30, Central Coast Community Energy and Silicon Valley Clean Energy celebrated the completion of yet another new, renewable energy generation project supported by both agencies. The Rabbitbrush facility is a 100 megawatt solar, 20 MW/50 megawatt hour battery storage project developed by Leeward Renewable Energy in Kern County. CCCE customers will receive 60MW of solar and 12 MW/30 MWh of storage. Rabbitbrush achieved commercial operation in October and both agencies attended the November 30 press conference and celebration.

The project is expected to produce enough clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to power about 40,000 homes annually, offsetting carbon emissions by approximately 48,000 metric tons each year — the equivalent of taking 10,343 cars off the road. The battery facility provides a reliable and cost-effective means of storing renewable energy that can be dispatched during peak hours, increasing grid resiliency and further reducing emissions.

CCCE Launches Electrify Your Ride Program – \$4 Million in Rebates for Electric Vehicles and Chargers to Accelerate Clean Transportation

Central Coast Community Energy residential and commercial customers can now apply to the third iteration of CCCE's Electrify Your Ride Program, which provides rebates for new or pre-owned electric vehicles, Level 2 chargers, and electrical work related to charger installation. New this year, CCCE will provide technical assistance opportunities for multifamily and commercial property owners installing EV charging stations, making it easier for residents of apartments or condominiums to charge their vehicles at home.

Over the past three years, Electrify Your Ride has helped put 959 new and used electric vehicles on Central Coast roads and helped establish 629 charging stations in the region, displacing more than 6,000 metric tons of CO₂. This year's Electrify Your Ride Program is estimated to displace more than 1,800 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions – the equivalent of taking nearly 400 fossil-fueled passenger vehicles off the road for a year.



**Learn More About the
Electrify Your Ride Program**



CCCE Provides Rebates for Ag Customers to Electrify Equipment, Reduce Emissions

Central Coast Community Energy this month announced \$2.15 million is available to agricultural customers through its Ag Electrification Program. This program assists our region's agricultural industry with the transition to clean energy by offsetting costs associated with replacing fossil fuel-powered equipment with new, all-electric equipment.

The adoption of clean, zero emissions agricultural equipment such as electric irrigation pumps, tractors, and utility vehicles, is crucial to meet our state's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Switching to electric equipment creates healthier working conditions for farm workers and improves air quality for Central Coast communities.

"Reducing CO2 emissions is what we're after," said Larry Jacobs, Co-founder of organic certified Jacobs Farm del Cabo in Santa Cruz County, which benefited from CCCE Ag Electrification funds by electrifying some of its farm vehicles. "Electric tractors have replaced some of our small diesel ones. They've helped us with cultivating, seeding, and spreading compost. They aren't emitting any fumes and they are a lot quieter."

Last year, CCCE's Ag Electrification program supported 34 total projects through \$594,000 in rebates, 22 of which went to smaller ag operations. Through the electrification of ag equipment, these projects spared an estimated 608 metric tons of CO2 for the Central Coast region.



[Learn More About the Ag Electrification Program](#)

CCCE Introduces Two New Fleet Electrification Programs for Member Agencies



Central Coast Community Energy this month launched two new programs designed for serving our Member Agencies, Electrify Your Fleet and Charge Your Fleet. Fleet electrification by CCCE Member Agencies helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improves air quality on the Central Coast. These programs are designed to accelerate EV adoption for municipal fleets by incentivizing purchase and installation of electric vehicles and charging stations.

The Electrify Your Fleet Program provides Member Agencies with rebates for the purchase or lease of light duty, medium duty, and heavy-duty battery electric vehicles. Vehicles must be new and fully electric.

The Charge Your Fleet program provides rebates for the purchase and construction/installation of EV service equipment including the time, materials, and work required for installation. Projects must include an EV charger of Level 2 or Level 3 DCFC power and may include all costs associated with installation. Charging stations may be either public facing or “behind the fence” at a secure customer site.

The Electrify Your Fleet and Charge Your Fleet Programs provide direct rebates for completed purchases and/or reservations of funds for eligible planned projects and purchase/lease of EVs. Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Click the buttons below to learn more and apply to electrify and charge your municipal fleet:

**Learn More About the
Electrify Your Fleet Program**

**Learn More About the
Charge Your Fleet Program**

Our Year in Review



The past year saw many highly anticipated plans and projects come to fruition for Central Coast Community Energy and its customers, marking significant progress toward California's clean and renewable energy goals.

In February, **CCCE partnered with the statewide "The Switch Is On" campaign** as part of a unified effort to educate and raise awareness about electrification while helping California households and businesses save money when converting from natural gas-powered appliances to clean, all-electric appliances. Additionally, Switch Is On invites interested contractors to register with its TECH program and gain access to significant contractor rebates and incentives, as well as workforce development and training resources.

Also in February, the city of **Atascadero voted unanimously to join CCCE**, putting local households and businesses on course to begin receiving community choice energy service in January 2024. Atascadero is the final city in San Luis Obispo County to join CCCE.

In March, the **Slate Solar and Storage project** in Kings County reached commercial operation with the support of multiple organizations including CCCE. Slate is one of many new renewable energy projects supported by CCCE but the first to reach operational status. This solar and storage facility is expected to power about 126,000 households annually.

In April, CCCE announced it provided \$165,000 in funding for an **all-electric 66-unit affordable housing apartment complex** in Monterey County's East Garrison subdivision, in partnership with CHISPA Housing. The development will offer affordable housing for families earning under 60% Adjusted Median Income for Monterey County, and CHISPA Housing will dedicate 43 apartments to families working in agriculture.

May brought the groundbreaking of another new, **all-electric affordable housing project with 57 units**, 1500 Capitola Road in Santa Cruz, which CCCE celebrated with MidPen Housing and other supporting agencies. CCCE will contribute \$142,500 to the project, open to families and individuals with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. The development, expected to open next year, is part of a larger health and home complex that includes medical and dental clinics.

Also in May, CCCE announced letters of intent with five local school districts to help fund **nine new electric school buses**, including five for the Salinas Elementary School District. The remaining four buses will go to school districts in Carpinteria, Los Olivos, Pajaro Valley, and San Benito. CCCE will contribute up to \$200,000 per bus as well as offering post-purchase rebates for Level 2 EV charger purchases and installation.

In June, CCCE launched the **Electrify Your Home** program, a partnership with TECH Clean California providing contractors with cash rebates for projects that switch gas-powered water heaters and HVAC equipment to all-electric versions in single-family and multi-family homes. Though CCCE has previously launched two iterations of building electrification programs targeting new construction, this is the agency's first program to target existing buildings. July saw the start of commercial operation for the 67 MW Mountain View Wind Repowering Project, delivering enough clean energy annually to power 40,000 homes. (Wind repowering is the combined activity of dismantling or refurbishing existing wind turbines and commissioning new ones.) The repowered 67 Megawatt facility will deliver 33.33 MWs to Central Coast Community Energy customers.

July saw the start of commercial operation for the 67 MW **Mountain View Wind Repowering Project**, delivering enough clean energy annually to power 40,000 homes. (Wind repowering is the combined activity of dismantling or refurbishing existing wind turbines and commissioning new ones.) The repowered 67 Megawatt facility will deliver 33.33 MWs to Central Coast Community Energy customers.

In September, CCCE partnered with the County of Santa Barbara to further electrify transportation in the area, granting \$242,000 for the installation of **22 new EV charging stations and the purchase of light-duty electric vehicles**. CCCE provided the County \$92,000 in rebates for EV charging infrastructure that went toward the purchase of Powerflex Level 2 chargers, improving feasibility for many would-be EV owners as well as supporting the 7,000 EV drivers already in the County.

Also in September, Central Coast Community Energy **CEO Tom Habashi announced his plan to retire** in March 2023. CCCE Board Chair and Salinas Councilman Steve McShane shared, “Tom has been a key player in [the CCA] movement, having been responsible for starting two separate CCAs, also the industry trade association, CalCCA, the California Community Choice Financing Authority, and CC Power... We’ve been lucky to have him at the helm here on the Central Coast.” The search for a new CEO is currently underway.

In October, CCCE announced the launch of its first two energy programs for fiscal 2022-2023: the **Reach Code Program** and a fresh iteration of the **Electrify Your Home Program**. Reach Codes are building codes designed to reduce emissions more than the California Energy Commission requires, and this year’s program helps guide City and County staff through the often-challenging adoption and implementation process. Electrify Your Home rebates are available to help cover costs associated with purchasing and installing electric heat-pump water heaters and HVAC appliances, as well as costs related to electric panel upgrades or replacements.

Also in October, 24 families got one step closer to flipping the switch on new, all-electric homes in Hollister as the **Riverview Estates II development opened its doors to future residents**, inviting kids and parents to step inside their soon-to-be homes, many for the first time. CCCE gave a \$60,000 rebate to San Benito County Community Services Development Corporation to be applied to home sale prices, reducing costs for the new homeowners. Official move-in days are anticipated for March and June of 2023.

And bringing the list up to date with this month’s newsletter, in November, CCCE joined MidPen Housing, the County of Santa Cruz, and other supporting agencies for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the early stages of construction at Pippin Phase II in Watsonville. The **new, all-electric 80-unit affordable housing apartment complex** will provide homes for farmworker families and residents with supportive housing needs. CCCE will contribute \$200,000 to the project, which will include electric water heating, space heating, and cooking appliances.

As evident by these 2022 highlights, any progress toward CCCE agency goals should be considered shared successes. Together with its customers, CCCE is reducing emissions, contributing to a cleaner and more reliable grid, keeping rates affordable and fair, and reinvesting in Central Coast communities. As we look ahead to 2023, we look forward to providing more economic and environmental benefits to our customers, Member Agencies, and communities.

Employee Spotlight

Senior Customer Accounts Manager Judi Young is now a GRI Certified Sustainability Professional! The Global Reporting Initiative is an international independent organization that provides the world's most widely used sustainability reporting standards. This GRI certification program provides a context for corporate sustainability initiatives and gives Judi greater insight into our commercial customers working to understand and report on their environmental, social, and governance impacts as well as how CCCE fits into their sustainability landscape. Congratulations, Judi!



All of us at Central Coast Community Energy wish you a joyful holiday season. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the New Year with clean and renewable energy chosen by our local communities, making the Central Coast a healthier and more sustainable place for everyone.

Upcoming Meetings

Central Coast Community Energy encourages public participation in agency meetings, held in person and on ZOOM with available dial-in options. Attendees may provide live public comments remotely through Zoom or submit them in advance via email at publiccomments@3ce.org. Sign up to receive public board notices that include meeting details.

Dates and Livestream Info

