



## PLUGGED IN APRIL 2024

 Central Coast Community Energy

Happy Earth Month! Every April, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) joins our communities and customers to celebrate our region's support for California's clean-energy future. Together, we're making our Central Coast – and our planet – healthier, and our energy use more sustainable, as we work toward our goal of 100% clean and renewable power.

### In this newsletter, you'll find:

- **3CE Board Members, Staff Attend CalCCA Annual Conference**
- **3CE's Latest Solar-and-Storage Investment Comes Online; New Storage Deal Signed**
- **3CE Funds New Affordable Housing in Pismo Beach**
- **CCAs Help California Break Renewable Energy Records**
- **3CE Holds Quarterly Member Agency Meeting**
- **Own a Small and/or Diverse Business? Join 3CE's Local Vendor Registry!**
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## 3CE Board Members, Staff Attend CalCCA Annual Conference



On April 16-18, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Vice Chair Yvette Brooks and Policy Board Directors Jimmy Dutra, John Freeman, Jim Guthrie, Jan Marx, and Bruce McPherson joined 3CE staff at the California Community Choice Aggregation (CalCCA) Annual Conference in San Jose.

The conference had over 750 attendees, including 3CE staff members who had an opportunity to share ideas, engage with industry experts, and join our vendor partners for various roundtable discussions. 3CE CEO Robert Shaw led a panel discussion with the CEOs of Peninsula Clean Energy, San Diego Community Power, and Silicon Valley Clean Energy.

Conference speakers included:

- California Energy Commission Vice Chair Siva Gunda joining a panel regarding the significant challenges to meeting the state's climate goals.
- The Utility Reform Network Executive Director Mark Toney joining a panel discussion regarding the need to equitably reduce overall energy costs while still meeting climate goals.
- Arnie Olson of E3 supporting a panel discussing the urgency and potential of real-time dynamic pricing to support load management.
- California Energy Commission Chair David Hochschild was the Keynote Speaker providing a vision for future generation solutions, expansive electrification and customer empowerment.

Supervisor McPherson presented to a gathering of about 40 local elected officials from around California. McPherson highlighted the urgency to engage our state delegation in support of CCAs and provided some practical advice about how to effectively do so.

## Solar-and-Storage Investment Comes Online; New Storage Deal Signed



*Photo credit: Clearway Energy Group.*

As we progress on our pathway to 100% renewable energy, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is guided by the concept of “additionality,” which means bringing new renewable resources online by building generation and storage projects to serve our communities. On March 29, 3CE’s fourth solar-and-storage project began delivering renewable energy to our customers.

Victory Pass, a 100 MW solar generation plus 25 MW energy storage facility located in Riverside County, will serve 6% of 3CE’s demand. It is the seventh clean and renewable energy project 3CE has brought online. Together these projects serve 33% of 3CE’s demand, help insulate our customers from market price fluctuations, and contribute to a cleaner and more reliable grid for California.

With solar energy plentiful in California, the need to build new storage capacity is critical. At its last meeting, 3CE’s Operations Board approved an Energy Storage Agreement with the 125 MW Gabriel Energy Storage facility in Los Angeles County. This facility, which is anticipated to begin operations in June 2027, will use Lithium-Ion technology. It will provide valuable Resource Adequacy benefits while moving us closer to meeting our 100% renewable goal.

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## 3CE Funds New Affordable Housing in Pismo Beach

In April, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) distributed \$125,000 for the development of all-electric affordable housing to Pismo Terrace, a 50-unit complex in Pismo Beach. Half of the project units will be reserved for special needs households earning 30% or less of the San Luis Obispo County area median income, while the remaining units will be available for households earning at or below 60% of the area median income. The development is owned and operated by People's Self-Help Housing Corporation, which is also partnering with 3CE on an affordable housing development in Atascadero.

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## CCAs Help California Break Renewable Energy Records



*Image credit: California ISO.*

California is breaking renewable energy records almost daily this spring, with wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and solar generation exceeding demand for as many as nine hours a day. To understand how renewable energy production has ramped up so quickly in our state, we can look to Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) like Central Coast Community Energy (3CE).

The 25 CCAs operating in California have contracted for nearly 14,000 MW of new clean energy projects to provide renewable energy for more than 14 million customers. To power the Central Coast, 3CE has contracted with 19 renewable energy projects that will provide 859 MW generation and storage combined when online.

When tracked together, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and solar are known as WWS (“water, wind and sunlight”). Stanford University Professor Mark Z. Jacobson is tracking WWS generation on the [CAISO website](#) and posting the record-breaking results on X/Twitter. Jacobson calls the data “spectacular” and “monumental.”

In an online article for *Scientific American*, [Jacobson writes](#): “In 2022 and 2023, California reached 100 percent WWS on the grid but only for the occasional day on a weekend — never two days in a row and never during the week. Now it’s an almost daily occurrence during spring. And it heralds in a new era of clean, renewable electricity, which will ultimately power the entire U.S. and the rest of the world for nearly all energy purposes.”

By investing in new clean and renewable generation and storage capacity, 3CE and CCAs throughout California are helping lead the way to our state's clean-energy future.

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## 3CE Holds Quarterly Member Agency Meeting

3CE held its Member Agency Quarterly meeting on April 23 with an alternate meeting on April 24 to accommodate the schedules of more Member Agency staff. These video conference meetings bring together staff from the cities and counties served by 3CE and provide an opportunity to learn about Energy Programs available to Member Agencies as well as hear general updates regarding the energy transition.

The meetings were attended by 15 agencies and the recording was distributed for viewing by staff that could not attend.

Staff is now scheduling our annual presentation to city councils and county board of supervisors. Contact Senior Customer Accounts Manager [Judi Young](#) for more information and to book your annual presentation.

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## Own a Small and/or Diverse Business? Join 3CE's Local Vendor Registry!

This month, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Customer Accounts Manager Sophia Schwirzke represented the agency at the CPUC's Small and Diverse Business Expo. (Sophia is also the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Month in April for her work on the Chamber's Ambassador Committee.) Remember — local Central Coast businesses can join our Local Vendor Registry to be informed about business opportunities with 3CE. We also post opportunities to the [CPUC Supplier Clearinghouse](#).

[JOIN 3CE'S LOCAL VENDOR RESISTRY](#)

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## Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards

A blue banner for OhmConnect. On the left, the OhmConnect logo (a lightning bolt in a circle) is followed by the text "OhmConnect". Below this, in large white letters, is "Get FREE help lowering your electricity bill". On the right, there is a circular image of a smiling woman with glasses looking at her smartphone. In the top right corner of the banner is a small lightning bolt icon. In the bottom right corner, there is a white circular badge with a lightning bolt icon and the text "Get \$50 when you join OhmConnect".

**OhmConnect**

**Get FREE help lowering your electricity bill**

**Get \$50**  
when you join  
OhmConnect

3CE has partnered with OhmConnect, a free service that will alert you when electricity prices spike in your area due to high demand so you can conserve energy, ultimately lowering your electric bill while you earn rewards. It takes just two minutes to join, and you can also get exclusive discounts on smart-home tech and win prizes!

[Sign Me Up!](#)

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## Invite 3CE's Outreach Team to Present to Your Group

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) offers outreach presentations to local groups, focused on providing information about the agency's commitments to clean and renewable energy, competitive rates, and community investment.

If you are interested in having 3CE present to your group, please contact Sophia Schwirzke at [sschwirzke@3ce.org](mailto:sschwirzke@3ce.org).

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## 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](mailto:publiccomments@3ce.org). Sign up to receive public board notices that include meeting details.

[DATES AND LIVESTREAM INFO](#)

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