



PLUGGED IN

JULY 2024

 Central Coast Community Energy

Welcome to the July edition of 3CE's Plugged In newsletter! Summer's here, and the time is right for taking more control of your energy use. This month, 3CE launched our much-anticipated Residential Battery Rebate Program, which can help customers keep the lights on when the power is out and encourages the use of stored power during peak hours. Summer outages may be less of a problem, however, as California's beefed-up battery capacity lets the grid take the latest heat wave in stride. Summer is also a season for travel, and 3CE's new partnership with Electrifyze can help customers choose the perfect EV for their lifestyle. Together with our customers, 3CE is using Power for Good.

In this newsletter, you'll find:

- **California Grid Shrugs Off Heat Wave Thanks to Battery Storage**
- **3CE Launches Residential Battery Rebate Program**
- **3CE Celebrates New All-Electric Affordable Housing in Monterey**
- **3CE Begins Annual Farmworker Outreach Series**
- **Choose Your New EV with Coaching from Electrifyze**
- **Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards**
- **Invite 3CE to Present to Your Group**
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California Grid Shrugs Off Heat Wave Thanks to Battery Storage

This month has seen record-setting high temperatures in California, with Palm Springs notoriously hitting 124 degrees on the Fourth of July. But there have been no flex alerts, no rolling black- or brownouts. The stability of the state's grid even under a brutal heat dome has surprised energy experts. What's going on?

The key has been adding battery storage capacity equivalent to five nuclear power plants. CAISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer told NBC News, "We've brought on thousands of megawatts of new generating resources onto our system, thousands of megawatts of new solar projects, and – probably most importantly – we're now close to 10,000 megawatts of batteries on our grid, which are able to absorb excess solar energy during the day and re-inject it back into the system at night. That's made a major difference."

In fact, on some days, renewables have supplied more than 100% of California's power needs, allowing power to be exported. According to the advocacy group Environment California, for 100 days this spring and summer, renewables supplied 100% of the state's energy for at least a few minutes each day.

Reaching these milestones demonstrates the achievability of our state's clean-energy ambitions, and CCAs are helping to lead the way to a 100% renewable future.

3CE Launches Residential Battery Rebate Program



Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) has launched a new Residential Battery Rebate Program, which provides residential customers with rebates for the purchase and installation of eligible battery systems. Installing battery storage helps customers manage their energy consumption and lower costs by storing energy during the day when it is most cost effective and then using their battery during peak hours.

Initially, the program is anticipated to allow for the deployment of 400 battery systems per fiscal year. The rebates will be available to residential 3CE customers, regardless of whether they have a solar system or not. To prioritize low-income customers and those with an increased reliance on electricity, CARE, FERA, and Medical Baseline customers will receive a higher rebate.

“Our battery storage program will empower individual consumers with more control over their energy costs and provide another way to use more clean renewable energy,” said Chris Cook, 3CE’s Director of Energy Programs. “These rebates will help bridge the gap, making battery storage systems accessible to more homes in our community.”

Energy storage capacity is crucial to meeting California’s ambitious emissions-reduction goals, and diverting some energy use from the grid during peak times will help control costs for all Central Coast communities.

3CE Celebrates New All-Electric Affordable Housing in Monterey



On July 11, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) joined a coalition of funders and community partners to commemorate the grand opening of the Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments. The new all-electric housing initiative for low-income residents of Monterey was celebrated in collaboration with CHISPA Housing and other supporting agencies.

Developed by Community Housing Improvement Systems Planning Association, Inc. (CHISPA), the 66-unit apartment complex is equipped with all electric appliances with support from 3CE, ensuring the highest standards of indoor air quality and environmental sustainability. The property includes a patio play area, community room, and other amenities. The development will offer affordable housing for families earning under 60% Adjusted Median Income for Monterey County. Forty-three apartments are set aside for farmworker families. 3CE provided a \$165,000 rebate in support of the project.

The homes are named in honor of a former CHISPA President and CEO, a Salinas native and son of a farmworker family, who died unexpectedly in 2021 after devoting most of his working life to providing housing to low- and moderate-income households in the community.

3CE Begins Annual Farmworker Outreach Event Series



On June 27, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) began this year's farmworker outreach series. Customer Accounts Specialist Fernanda Ocaña has been visiting farmworkers in the fields this summer, to serve up some lunch and offer information about 3CE. In partnership with local radio stations, community organizations and other agencies, Fernanda will visit 16 different sites this summer and fall.

Through these events, we hope to get to know more of our customers and help them learn about 3CE, as well as share resources that might benefit the hard-working people who grow, pick, and package our food. The next event is scheduled to take place on August 1.

Choose Your New EV with Coaching from Electrifyze



To help customers find the right EV for their lifestyle, 3CE has partnered with Electrifyze, a program designed to make it easy for everyone to learn about electric cars and buy one the next time they're in the market. From learning about EVs, to finding your perfect car, to understanding costs and incentives, to finding a great deal and redeeming incentives, Electrifyze is here to help!

[GET STARTED TODAY!](#)

Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards

A blue rectangular banner for OhmConnect. On the left, the OhmConnect logo (a lightning bolt in a circle) is followed by the text 'OhmConnect'. Below this, the text 'Get FREE help lowering your electricity bill' is written in large white font. On the right side of the banner is a circular image of a woman with glasses smiling and looking at her smartphone. A small lightning bolt icon is in the top right corner of the banner. A white circular callout bubble with a lightning bolt icon contains the text '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!](#)

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.

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.

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