



## PLUGGED IN MARCH 2024

 Central Coast Community Energy

Happy March! As the vibrant colors of spring bloom around us, it's the perfect time to breathe new life into our homes by upgrading to all-electric appliances. Embracing all-electric appliances not only adds a fresh touch to your home, but also helps reduce your carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future. With rebates from Central Coast Community Energy's [Electrify Your Home Program](#), you can make this transition more affordable and enjoy long-term savings on energy bills!

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

- **3CE Welcomes Two New Directors**
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- **3CE's Griffin Boyle Talks Home Electrification on KZSC**
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## 3CE Welcomes Two New Directors

This month, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) welcomed two new directors to the agency. **Chris Cook** has been named Director of Energy Programs and was formerly the Director of Operations at California American Water, where he guided the Central Division's operations, \$50 million operating budget, union relations and safety culture. Previously, Chris worked as an R&D engineer and engineering consultant and served a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa.

Chris grew up on the Monterey Peninsula and holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UC San Diego and an MBA from Santa Clara University. He brings a hometown pride, collaborative management style and an engaging enthusiasm to his work, as well as more than 20 years of experience in engineering, project, and team leadership.

**Nick Dominguez** joins us as Director of Power Supply Resources after more than 11 years at Lassen Municipal Utility District, where he led the business department and worked on various projects, including renewable energy and transmission agreements. He served on the Utah Associated Municipal Power System Board of Directors New Resource Project and is a graduate of the American Public Power Association's Strategic Leadership for Public Power program and the California Municipal Utility Association's Next Level Leadership program.

Nick studied Computer Science at UC Davis and is completing his MBA at CSU Monterey Bay. He is excited to join the 3CE team and continue his service to community-owned power.

These latest appointments will strongly support the agency's progress toward meeting our renewable-energy goals while continuing to deliver value to our customers and invest in our communities through Energy Programs and responsible rates.

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## 3CE Staff Toast Sustainable Energy with Local Winemakers



*Photo courtesy of the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance.*

On March 14, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Customer Accounts Manager Jeff Railsback and Senior Customer Accounts Manager Gabe Ruiz represented the agency with a booth at an educational event co-produced by the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance and wine-industry sustainability group Vineyard Team. “Power Up: Sustainable Energy for the Wine Industry” was held in the City of Atascadero, which has voted to enroll as a 3E Member Agency beginning in January 2025.

3CE connected local winemakers to cash rebates available through 3CE’s Energy Programs, including both the [Ag Electrification Program](#) and the concierge service offered via the [Electrify Your Ride Program](#). The latter can help Ag businesses plan and install on-site EV charging, which attendees said can be a challenge in electrifying their operations. Staff also shared strategies and tools for using less energy and saving money, which was a key topic for the day’s discussion panels.

Sustainability best practices and how to market and sell sustainably made wines were also focus topics for the day. Panelists reported that a significant customer segment prefers wine produced by clean and renewable energy – and more than 30% of customers will check to see whether they wine they buy is sustainably produced, a testament to the widespread enthusiasm for clean energy within 3CE’s service area.

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## 3CE's Griffin Boyle Talks Home Electrification on KZSC

On March 8, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Energy Programs Analyst Griffin Boyle was interviewed on KZSC-FM's weekly "Bushwhacker's Breakfast Club" program, speaking about the benefits of home electrification. He was joined on air by Gine Johnson, Analyst for Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson and a member of 3CE's Community Advisory Council. The discussion covered the advantages of converting home HVAC and water-heater systems to all-electric heat pump technology, and the rebates 3CE's [Electrify Your Home](#) program offers to contractors converting gas-fired appliances to clean-running modern versions, which are healthier and more efficient.

## 3CE's Annual Impact Report Highlights "Power for Good"



On Feb. 21, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) released its [Annual Impact Report](#) demonstrating how the public agency is delivering on its commitment to provide clean, renewable electricity and offer community energy programs throughout the five-county service area. The report shares how the agency has made a positive impact by lowering emissions, investing in local communities, and keeping electricity prices stable and responsible.

"3CE is leading by example to make the grid cleaner and more reliable for all Californians," said 3CE Policy Board Chair Das Williams. "Our procurement strategy is based on the idea of additionality; real progress toward clean and renewable energy means adding new resources to the grid. Cost savings for our customers is also top of mind, and measures like our pre-payment bonds will keep rates responsible and competitive."

Highlights from the report include:

- 3CE secured its first prepay bond issuance to finance clean-energy supplies. The \$647.8 million bond issuance is projected to save 3CE customers nearly 11.4% in energy costs, which translates to \$32.9 million in the cost of energy over the initial seven-year period of the bonds.
- 3CE Energy Programs made \$26 million available in customer rebates, which funded 1,000 new or used electric vehicles, 200 newly built all-electric affordable housing units, and 30 agricultural electrification projects.
- The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors voted to join 3CE, bringing the unincorporated area of the county into membership and completing the agency's planned expansion following the City of Atascadero voting to join last year.
- \$2.8 billion invested in renewable energy and energy storage projects including the largest compressed air storage project in the world.

"Our progress has been significant, but there remains work to do in acquiring additional sources of renewable energy, bringing investment to our communities, and being purposeful in our commitment to energy equity and affordability," said 3CE CEO Robert Shaw. "As we look ahead, we can't lose sight of the difference 3CE is making today, not only through the procurement of clean energy, but through our community programs that have helped over 1,000 customers adopt clean electric vehicles, improved air quality through all-electric homes, removed diesel buses and are spurring a fundamental change toward electrification among our agricultural communities."

For more details on how 3CE provides benefits to the communities it serves, read the full Impact Report [here](#).

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## 3CE Receives Final Report on Santa Cruz County Grant

This month, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) received the final progress report on the \$100,000 Planning, Implementation and Innovation Grant issued to the County of Santa Cruz for fiscal 2021-22. The grant was used to develop the Monterey Bay Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG), a collaboration between Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties and the Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville tasked with securing grants for regional electrification projects. To date, the RCPWG has garnered millions in funding.

- The Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville received a \$2 million weatherization grant funding decarbonization, electrification and other improvements for low-income homes from the Department of Energy.

- RCPWG’s member jurisdictions received \$15,000 from the Urban Sustainability Director’s Network Emergent Learning Fund for advancing equitable, shared governance for Monterey Bay regional climate investment decision-making.
- The California Office of Planning and Research’s Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program granted RCPWG’s member jurisdictions nearly \$600,000 for the Monterey Bay Adaptation and Resilience Implementation and Funding Roadmap.
- The California Air Resources Board granted more than \$15.7 million to pioneer the Monterey Bay Municipal Fleet Electrification and Workforce Accelerator with RCPWG member jurisdictions.
- The member jurisdictions received a \$650,000 state Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (iCARP) award to support the regional prioritization and funding roadmap for adaptation projects.

Additionally, the RCPWG has applied for a \$150,000 NOAA Regional Resilience Grant for writing/administration as part of a \$75 million multi-county effort led by the state Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

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## Save the Date for Earth Day!

Earth Month is just around the corner! Come join Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) staff at a local Earth Day event as we celebrate our planet, our communities and the Central Coast’s clean-energy future.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Marina Earth Day	4/13	9:00 - 1:00	190 Seaside Circle, Marina
Amor Salinas Earth Day	4/20	12:00 - 3:00	1351 Nogal Drive, Salinas
San Benito County Earth Day	4/20	11:00 - 2:00	19 Franklin St., San Juan Bautista
Earth Day Santa Cruz	4/20	11:30 - 4:00	Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz
San Luis Obispo Co. Earth Day	4/20	11:00 - 4:00	Laguna Lake Park, SLO
Seaside Earth Day	4/21	1:00 - 4:00	440 Harcourt Ave., Seaside
Watsonville Earth Day	4/21	12:00 - 4:00	358 Main Street, Watsonville
Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival	4/27-28	All day	1400 Santa Barbara St., S.B.

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## Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards

A blue banner for OhmConnect. On the left, the OhmConnect logo is followed by the text "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. A lightning bolt icon is in the top right corner of the banner. A white circular callout on the right side of the image says "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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