



## PLUGGED IN MAY 2024

 Central Coast Community Energy

Welcome to the May edition of 3CE's Plugged In newsletter! **May is Affordable Housing Month**, and 3CE is committed to helping our Central Coast communities build new, all-electric affordable housing. Equipping these new homes with all-electric appliances reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves indoor air quality, saves money on monthly utility bills, and prevents the need for costly retrofits later. Since 3CE began service in 2018, the agency has provided \$924,500 in funding to help construct nine new all-electric housing developments totaling 370 units. This month, we celebrated the opening of Tabasa Gardens in Watsonville!

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

- **3CE Contributes \$130,000 to New All-Electric Affordable Housing in Watsonville**
- **3CE Seeks Community Advisory Council Members**
- **Two More Cities Opt Up to 100% Renewable Energy**
- **3CE's Net Billing Tariff Begins Next Month!**
- **Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards**
- **Invite 3CE to Present to Your Group**
- **Upcoming Meetings**

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## 3CE Contributes \$130,000 to New All-Electric Affordable Housing in Watsonville



On May 3, representatives from Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) joined project developers, sponsors and community leaders to celebrate the grand opening of Tabasa Gardens, a new 53-unit affordable housing development in Watsonville. The new homes feature all-electric appliances funded in part by a rebate of more than \$130,000 from 3CE. All units are reserved for low-income residents, with half set aside for farmworker families and six reserved for families exiting homelessness.

The building features a three-story mosaic portrait of Rosita Tabasa, a community leader and restaurant owner who immigrated to the US from the Philippines in 1933 and whose Watsonville restaurant, Philippine Gardens, created a refuge for the local Filipino community. The new housing complex's amenities include a community room, a barbecue area and playground, a computer learning center, and charging spaces for electric vehicles. Residents will also have access to health, employment and financial services.

Speaking at the event, 3CE Director of Communications & Outreach Dawn Mathes-Park presented a check to Linda Mandolini, president of nonprofit developer Eden Housing. "In addition to providing renewable energy, we offer financial support for all-electric housing, like the new homes we're celebrating today," Mathes-Park said. "We're so pleased to be a part of the network of Tabasa Gardens supporters who collectively made this project possible."

Communities throughout the Central Coast face enormous challenges in meeting housing needs. Equipping these new homes with all-electric appliances reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves indoor air quality. Installing all-electric, energy-efficient appliances also saves money on monthly utility bills and prevents the need for costly retrofits later. Tabasa Gardens will make a lasting contribution to the Watsonville community and improve the quality of life for its residents.

## 3CE Seeks Community Advisory Council Members



Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is seeking committed applicants for its volunteer Community Advisory Council (CAC). There is currently one open seat representing San Luis Obispo County; one seat representing Monterey County and one seat for San Benito County will be vacant as of June 6. The CAC is an advisory body to 3CE's Policy and Operations Boards and CAC members serve as important connections to the diverse communities 3CE serves. CAC members serve three-year terms.

"The Community Advisory Council provides important advice and feedback on staff recommendations" said Catherine Stedman, 3CE's Chief Communications Officer, "and serves as an integral link between our agency and the communities we serve."

The key goals of 3CE are to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Stabilize and reduce customer electricity rates; and
- Utilize energy programs to stimulate local economy and accelerate electrification.

3CE will provide a list of all CAC member applicants by geography, skills, and association, along with copies of all completed applications, to be reviewed by a selection committee. The selection committee is comprised of 3CE Policy Board members who serve in the counties of the CAC vacancies. The selection committee will present its recommendations to the Policy Board for approval on June 26, 2024. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2024.

Applications are available by clicking [here](#) and may be returned by email, along with any questions or inquiries to <mailto:boardclerk@3ce.org> or mailed to:

Central Coast Community Energy  
c/o Heather Vowell, Clerk of the Board  
70 Garden Court, Suite 300  
Monterey, CA 93940

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## Two More Cities Opt Up to 100% Renewable Energy



This month, the Cities of Goleta and Pacific Grove each adopted resolutions to opt-up all Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) municipal accounts to 100% renewable 3Cprime service, with Goleta estimating a roughly 20% reduction in total municipal greenhouse gas emissions. The municipalities join the Cities of Monterey and Watsonville in choosing 3CE's carbon-free service tier for their accounts. 3CE congratulates them on their choice and thanks them for their confidence entrusting 3CE to be their 100% renewable clean energy provider!

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## 3CE's Net Billing Tariff Begins Next Month!

3CE's Net Billing Tariff will launch in June for customers who submitted a solar interconnection agreement after April 14, 2023. Customers will also participate in the Net Billing Tariff once their grandfather period a previous Net Energy Metering tariff concludes. Our Policy Board adopted the Net Billing Tariff to promote energy reliability and affordability.

We are pairing the Net Billing Tariff with a Battery Storage Incentive program – more details to come next month!

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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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