

Welcome to the April edition of 3CE's Plugged In newsletter! April is Earth Month, and we are celebrating community power — from local voices helping shape the future of home electrification to vibrant climate-conscious events across the Central Coast. Your participation and passion continue to drive meaningful change in our region. We are also excited to feature a piece inspired by 3CE staff and customer experience shopping for EVs, highlighting a key insight many car buyers might overlook: efficiency matters. Whether you're browsing EV models or thinking about your next home upgrade, we hope this edition offers something useful and inspiring for your clean-energy journey.

In this newsletter, you'll find:

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Celebrations Bloom Across the Central Coast for Earth Month



All across the Central Coast, communities came together in April to celebrate Earth Month with events that brought out thousands of people ready to connect, learn, and take meaningful steps toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Each celebration offered its own unique mix of live music, environmental education, hands-on activities, and opportunities for climate action — showing that the spirit of Earth Day is alive and thriving across our region. From San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara to Seaside and beyond, enthusiastic crowds turned out to support local efforts for a healthier, more resilient planet.

These free, family-friendly events highlighted the passion and creativity found in every corner of the Central Coast and reflected the powerful role communities play in driving climate action. As a local public agency, 3CE is proud to support initiatives that spark awareness, empower change, and bring people together through clean energy and climate action. We're honored to have been part of these inspiring celebrations — and we look forward to building on this momentum every day of the year.

3CE Staff Give Back at Garland Ranch Day of Service



On March 25, 3CE staff rolled up their sleeves for a day of service at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley. In partnership with local park staff, our team helped carefully plant native plants and help the park prepare for the construction of a new picnic shelter. Cultivating native plants helps preserve the ecological integrity of the park for the public and resident wildlife.

This hands-on effort reflects 3CE's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and community connection — whether through clean-energy programs or direct action on the ground. A big thank-you to the hardworking team members who showed up, got dirty, and helped make a difference!

Community Workshops Help Shape the Future of Home Electrification



This month, 3CE hosted two regional community workshops, one in Watsonville and one in Goleta, to gather feedback on the [Electrify Your Home](#) 2.0 program. These interactive events brought together homeowners, renters, contractors, affordable-housing advocates, and other community members to share their experiences and ideas around upgrading to all-electric appliances.

Both workshops featured thoughtful discussions on the barriers and opportunities involved in building electrification, from affordability and accessibility to education and outreach. Attendees provided valuable input that will help 3CE refine and expand [our program offerings](#) to better meet the needs of our diverse customer base.

We are especially grateful to the residents who showed up ready to engage, ask questions, and share real-world insights. Their feedback will be presented to our Community Advisory Council in June and will directly inform the next phase of program development. Workshops like these are essential for 3CE to shape programs that are community-focused, equitable, and effective. Thanks to everyone who participated; we're energized by your ideas and commitment to a clean-energy future.

Energy Advisor: Navigating EV Efficiency



The electric vehicle (EV) revolution is well underway, fueled by environmental awareness and the allure of lower operating costs. However, while EVs are often evaluated for range, style, and performance, one crucial metric is frequently overlooked: efficiency, or how far the vehicle can travel per unit of energy consumed.

When shopping for gas-powered cars, we naturally compare miles per gallon (MPG). But when considering an EV, the conversation often skips straight to total range — how far the car goes on a full charge — without asking how efficiently that energy is being used.

Regardless of whether a vehicle runs on gasoline or electricity, energy has a cost. The more efficient the vehicle, the farther it can travel using the same amount of energy (saving money over time). For EVs, efficiency is measured in miles per kilowatt-hour (mi/kWh). A higher number means the vehicle travels farther on each unit of electricity. Put simply, a vehicle that gets 4 mi/kWh will travel twice as far on the same battery charge as one that gets 2 mi/kWh.

Here's how some popular models stack up, according to [Inside EVs' 2024 Electric Car Energy Consumption Ranking](#):

Top Performers in EV Efficiency: Some of today's most efficient EVs exceed 4 mi/kWh, offering drivers both performance and cost savings.

- Hyundai Ioniq 6 RWD – 4.2 mi/kWh
 - Lucid Air Pure RWD – 4.1 mi/kWh
 - Tesla Model 3 RWD – 3.9 mi/kWh
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Mid-Range Efficiency Models: Solidly efficient EVs offer a balance of performance and economy.

- Kia EV6 Light RWD – 3.5 mi/kWh
- Chevy Bolt EUV – 3.4 mi/kWh
- Volkswagen ID.4 – 3.4 mi/kWh

Larger EVs, Lower Efficiency: As expected, larger vehicles or those designed for performance tend to be less efficient.

- Rivian R1S AWD – 2.3 mi/kWh
- Ford F-150 Lightning XLT – 2.0 mi/kWh
- GMC Hummer SUV – 1.6 mi/kWh

Charging Costs: You have more control than you might think. The cost of electricity tends to be more predictable than the price of gasoline, which can fluctuate daily. Charging your EV at home during off-peak hours often costs significantly less than public charging stations. And if you have solar panels, you may even be able to charge your EV using surplus solar power at little or no additional cost.

Bottom Line: If keeping operating costs low is part of your decision-making process, don't just consider the EV's range. Look closely at efficiency ratings. Over time, choosing a more efficient EV can mean significant savings and a smaller environmental footprint.

CPUC Announces April Climate Credit

Every spring and fall, households throughout California receive the California Climate Credit, a payment designed to make some of the benefits of the state's Cap-and-Trade Program (which requires polluters to pay for emissions) available to utility customers. The credit appears automatically on customers' electricity and natural-gas bills in April and October.

This month, 3CE customers in PG&E service area will receive a credit of \$58.23 on their electricity bills, while customers in SCE service area will receive a \$56.00 credit. To learn more, visit [this webpage](#) at the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC)'s website.

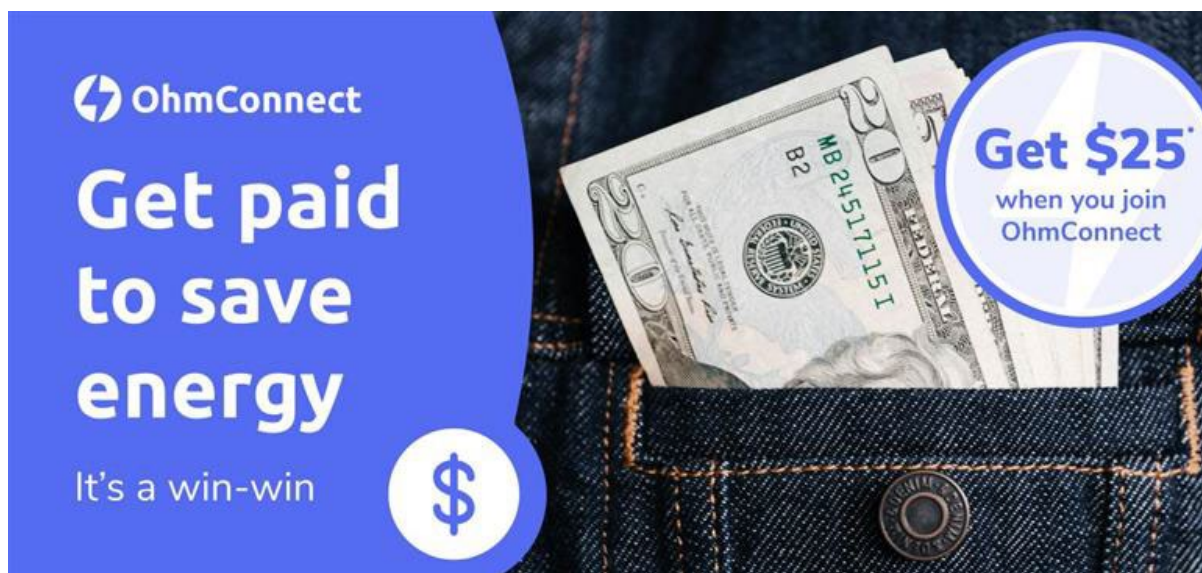
More than 110 climate programs statewide are investing billions into California's transition to a low-carbon, more equitable future. [Click here](#) for more information about programs funded by the Cap-and-Trade Program to reduce carbon emissions, create a healthier environment, and bring benefits to disadvantaged communities.

3CE in the Community

3CE staff are active in the community and we hope to see you at one of these upcoming meetings and events.

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| 5/1 | <u>Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
2025 Regional Outlook</u> | Seascape Golf Club, 610
Clubhouse Drive, Aptos |
| 5/2 | <u>Grower-Shipper Foundation Agricultural
Woman of the Year Recognition
Luncheon</u> | McIntyre Vineyards, 31901
Sanchez Road and River Road,
Soledad |
| 5/9 | <u>Santa Cruz County Small Business
Summit</u> | Samper Recital Hall, Cabrillo
College, 6500 Soquel Drive,
Aptos |
| 5/14 | <u>Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay:
Building Homes and Hope</u> | Address upon RSVP, Private
Estate, Carmel |
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Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards



The advertisement features a blue background on the left with the OhmConnect logo and the text "Get paid to save energy" and "It's a win-win" next to a dollar sign icon. On the right, a photograph shows a stack of US dollar bills (including a \$20 bill) tucked into the pocket of blue jeans. A circular callout on the right says "Get \$25* 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!](#)

Upcoming 3CE Board 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](#)

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