

PLUGGED IN JULY 2025



Power for Good

Welcome to the July edition of 3CE's *Plugged In* newsletter! This month, 3CE is helping our communities make the most of the summer season. In this issue, we're sharing important deadlines for federal EV incentives and updates on how 3CE is working with our communities to advance electrification and grid resilience. From hands-on demonstrations of clean-energy equipment to insights on how home solar supports surging energy demand, this month's stories highlight the power of local leadership in building a cleaner, more reliable energy future for our region.

In this newsletter, you'll find:

- **Act Now: Time is Running Out on EV Tax Credits**
- **3CE Shares Rebate Opportunities with Sierra Club Members**
- **16th Annual CCEC Forum: Community Engagement, Climate Leadership**
- **Clean Equipment Takes Center Stage in Santa Maria**
- **Home Solar: Powering the Grid as Demand Surges**
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Act Now: Time is Running Out on EV Tax Credits



Thinking about buying an electric vehicle? Don't wait! Federal tax credits of up to \$7,500 for a new EV and \$4,000 for a used EV are set to expire on September 30 — and vehicles must be purchased and delivered before that date to qualify. Central COast Community Energy (3CE) customers can stack these federal savings with local rebates from our [Electrify Your Ride Program](#) to make the switch to clean transportation even more affordable. If you've been on the fence, now is the time to act. Rebates from 3CE will also help you install a Level 2 home charger, including necessary electrical upgrades.

[Learn More About 3CE Rebates](#)

3CE Shares Rebate Opportunities with Sierra Club Members

Earlier this month, Community Relations Manager Spencer Brandt from 3CE's Legislative team spoke at a San Luis Obispo Sierra Club meeting, encouraging members to take advantage of 3CE rebates for clean energy upgrades. With upcoming federal tax credit deadlines approaching, Spencer emphasized the importance of acting soon to maximize savings on home electrification and clean transportation.

16th Annual CCEC Forum: Community Engagement, Climate Leadership

The California Climate and Energy Collaborative (CCEC) Forum held in San Jose July 9-10 convened leaders from local and regional governments, state agencies, community-based organizations, and the private sector to explore how local action is shaping climate resilience.

The theme, *"Hope in Action: Local Leads the Way,"* underscored the urgency of climate challenges and the essential role of grassroots innovation in addressing them. 3CE team members participated in key conversations on sustainable energy, equity, and collaboration, gaining valuable insights to help inform our own work on the Central Coast.

Clean Equipment Takes Center Stage in Santa Maria



On July 9, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) joined regional partners in co-hosting a hands-on demonstration of electric off-road and landscaping equipment at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

The event, organized by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and co-hosted by 3CE, Allan Hancock College, Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5), and Ventura County APCD, gave attendees the opportunity to test out a wide range of electric equipment — from tractors and excavators to chainsaws and blowers — and learn about available funding to support the transition to zero-emissions technology.

Representatives from 3CE were on site to answer questions about the agency's [Ag Electrification Program](#), which offers rebates to support the replacement of fossil-fuel-powered equipment with all-electric alternatives. Vendors including Monarch Tractor, Volvo Construction Equipment, Warrior Machinery, Makita, and others showcased innovative tools and machinery eligible for funding through APCD's Clean Air Grants program and 3CE Ag Electrification rebates.

The event highlighted the growing availability of clean-powered equipment options and underscored the importance of collaborative local efforts to reduce emissions across the agricultural, industrial, and landscaping sectors.

Home Solar: Powering the Grid as Demand Surges

As electric vehicles (EVs) and artificial intelligence (AI) data centers continue to expand across California and beyond, so does the demand they place on the electric grid. Large-scale data centers consume vast amounts of energy, while the growing number of EVs on the road is shifting even more energy demand onto the grid.

These trends are contributing to an unprecedented rise in electricity usage. U.S. electricity demand is expected to rise nearly 16% in the next five years, according to Grid Strategies — a sharp jump after two decades of growth under 1% per year. Fortunately, one solution is already helping balance the scale: home solar.

In California alone, more than 1.8 million homes have installed solar panels. These systems generate clean electricity during daylight hours — precisely when air conditioners, data centers, and other loads are straining the grid most. A 2007 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy found that energy demand from homes with solar was 75% lower at peak times than neighboring homes during the area's hottest July on record.

Even more helpful is when solar systems are paired with battery storage, allowing excess power to be stored during the day and used in the evening when demand is at its peak. Battery storage also enhances a home's energy resilience during outages and emergencies. For customers interested in exploring solar and storage options, many local utilities and community choice energy providers offer incentives, rebates, and educational resources.

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE)'s [Residential Battery Rebate Program](#) can help offset the cost of adding battery storage to your home. This program provides rebates for new installations and encourages clean energy use when it is most beneficial to the grid.

In addition to home solar, many commercial customers are installing solar panels on rooftops, carports, and unused land. These systems reduce operational costs, improve environmental performance, and help businesses hedge against future energy price increases. When paired with smart energy management tools, commercial solar can also be synchronized with EV fleet charging, energy storage, and demand response programs — creating a flexible and responsive load that benefits both the customer and the broader electric grid.

By turning rooftops into power plants and using batteries as backup, homeowners and businesses are helping ensure that California's energy future remains sustainable, reliable, and affordable for all.

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.

8/1	Old Spanish Days Fiesta	Santa Barbara Courthouse Sunken Gardens
8/7	Salinas Valley Speaks	Braga Barn, 33750 Moranda Rd., Soledad
8/8	MICOP Night in Oaxaca	Godric Grove at Elings Park, 1298 Las Positas Rd., Santa Barbara
8/15	Supervisor Speaker Series with District 4 Supervisor Wendy Root Askew	Tarpy's Roadhouse, 2999 Salinas Highway, Monterey
8/17	Santa Maria Day in the Park	Waller Park, 3107 Orcutt Rd.
8/20	Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on the Bay	Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way
8/29	Supervisor Speaker Series with District 5 Supervisor Kate Daniels	Portola Hotel and Spa, Two Portola Plaza, Monterey

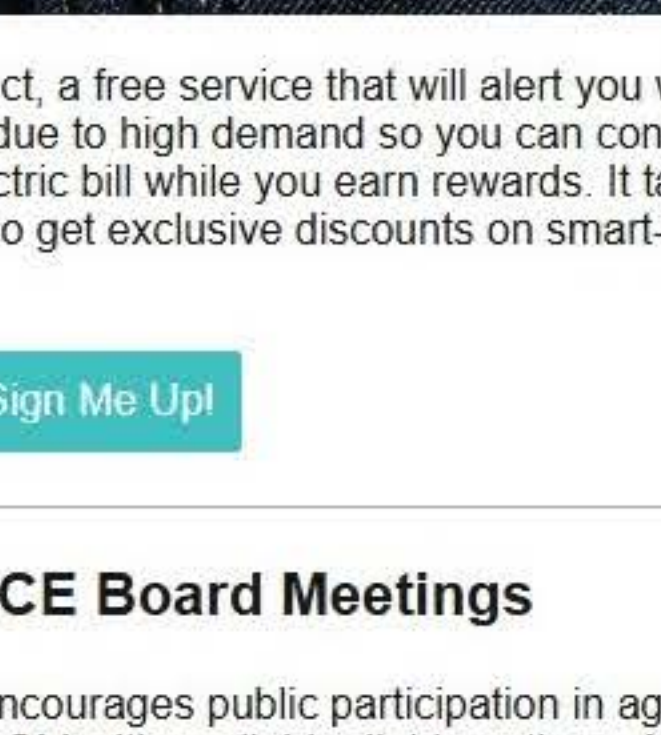
Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards



Get paid to save energy

It's a win-win





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](#)