



Welcome to the September edition of 3CE's Plugged In newsletter! As September comes to a close, we're reflecting on a busy and inspiring month at Central Coast Community Energy. This year's Annual Meeting in San Luis Obispo brought together our Policy and Operations Boards, community leaders, and industry experts to explore challenges and opportunities in clean energy. We also joined communities across our five-county service area to celebrate Sun Day, a global day of action highlighting the rise of clean, renewable energy. Looking ahead, our Electrify Your Home program relaunches October 1 with expanded rebates and more options to help customers make the switch to clean, all-electric appliances. Our Power Services team toured a geothermal facility and shared what they learned with us. Finally, we're spotlighting our Vendor Registry, which helps strengthen our local economy by connecting 3CE with small and diverse businesses across the region.

In this newsletter, you'll find:

- **3CE's Annual Meeting: Key Takeaways and Updates**
- **Electrify Your Home Program Relaunches**
- **Sun Day – A Global Celebration of Clean Energy**
- **3CE Power Services Team Tours Steamboat Geothermal Plant**
- **3CE's Vendor Registry Supports Local Business**
- **Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards**
- **Upcoming Meetings**

Inside 3CE's Annual Meeting



Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) held its Annual Meeting of the Policy and Operations Boards September 18-19 at the Hotel San Luis Obispo. The event opened with a welcoming address from San Luis Obispo Mayor Erica A. Stewart, followed by a keynote speech by Martha Guzman, former Regional Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who said that local governments have "the greatest voice" in advocating affordability to state regulators.

Other guest speakers discussed the search for affordability solutions in the treatment of the wildfire fund and Net Energy Metering (NEM) reform; strategies to expand line capacity; state procurement of renewable resources; and the evolution of battery storage in California. Highlights included Hunter Stern with the Electrical Workers talking about the need for a more rapid transmission deployment and Ryan Hledik with the Brattle Group on how the costs to all customers (EV drivers and non EV drivers) can be partially alleviated with better use of smart charging for EVs to "drive" more use into the middle of the day, when energy is cheaper and cleaner.

3CE leadership highlighted the agency's achievements over the past fiscal year, and the Boards approved 3CE's budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

3CE's goals for the upcoming year include navigating ongoing turbulent federal policy changes, market challenges, and upcoming regulatory shifts; supporting and stabilizing new revenues by expanding 3CE's owned EV charging locations; and championing the development of innovative projects like the integration of local generation resources into 3CE's procurement strategy. It was clear that the regulatory induced costs of Resource Adequacy and the PCIA (Power Indifference Adjustment) will be a challenge and so pursuing regulatory or legislative policies that reduce cost will be an imperative.

3CE's Electrify Your Home Program Relaunches



Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) has relaunched its Electrify Your Home Program (EYH) to help customers replace gas-powered appliances with clean, efficient electric options — improving indoor air quality while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Along with rebates for heat pump HVAC systems, water heaters, and pre-wiring, the updated program now includes:

- Induction cooktops and ranges
- Portable heat pump space conditioners — a renter-friendly option for heating and cooling

Rebates range from \$150 to \$3,000, with some higher incentives for customers enrolled in CARE or FERA programs and for income-qualified multifamily housing projects.

Since its launch in 2022, EYH has funded over 1,500 heat pump installations, reducing greenhouse gas emissions equal to taking 257 gas-powered cars off the road for a year.

The next phase includes a virtual home energy assessment, coming in 2026, to help customers identify upgrades and maximize rebates.

To learn more and apply, [click here](#).

Sun Day — A Global Celebration of Clean Energy



On September 21, communities across the Central Coast joined a global day of action celebrating the unstoppable rise of clean energy. Known as Sun Day, this annual event brings people together to highlight the power of the sun and wind — the resources that can power our world without pollution.

Sun Day celebrations were held in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz, featuring local activities, clean energy resources, and opportunities for residents to get involved in building a more sustainable future.

In Santa Barbara, 3CE's Director of Energy Programs Chris Cook (pictured at center above) and Senior Advisor of Policy and Legislative Affairs Das Williams participated in panel discussions at a lively festival held at the Santa Barbara Library's Michael Towbes Plaza. The free event included hands-on resources to help residents and businesses electrify their homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as kids' activities, community booths, and inspiring talks from local leaders.

Events like these showcase the momentum behind clean energy across our region — and the vital role that collaboration between communities, organizations, and individuals plays in creating a cleaner, healthier future for all.

3CE Power Services Team Visits Ormat's Steamboat Geothermal Facility



Central Coast Community Energy's (3CE) Power Services team recently toured Ormat Technology's Steamboat Hills Complex, a geothermal power generation project in Reno, Nevada. While 3CE does not have direct ties to the Steamboat facility, the tour offered valuable insight into geothermal technology, a resource that is part of 3CE's own clean energy portfolio. The experience was both educational and inspiring — offering a firsthand look at how geothermal energy plays a vital role in strengthening and diversifying California's renewable energy future.

The visit included an in-depth look at two- and three-stage geothermal systems, as well as emerging innovations Ormat plans to bring to future projects. 3CE staff also learned about Ormat's vertically integrated approach, where nearly every component of their facilities is manufactured in-house — except the generator itself. This gives them greater control over costs and quality while reducing risks from tariffs and supply chain issues.

A walk through Ormat's control center provided a behind-the-scenes view of how operators remotely oversee much of their geothermal fleet. Equally rewarding was the chance to connect with colleagues from other Community Choice Aggregators.

Supporting Local Business Through 3CE's Vendor Registry

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) is committed to supporting the local economy by sourcing from small, local, and diverse businesses across our five-county service area for goods and services.

Last week, 3CE hosted a webinar featuring updates on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Supplier Clearinghouse, 3CE's Local Vendor Registry, and commercial rebate programs.

3CE's Vendor Registry helps us connect directly with local vendors, ensuring that business opportunities — from small projects to larger contracts — stay close to home. When businesses register, they are added to our database and notified of relevant Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

By working with local vendors, 3CE keeps energy dollars circulating in our region, creating jobs and strengthening our communities.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

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](#)

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