

Public Feedback from CAPE 1st Draft Workshops

August - September 2019

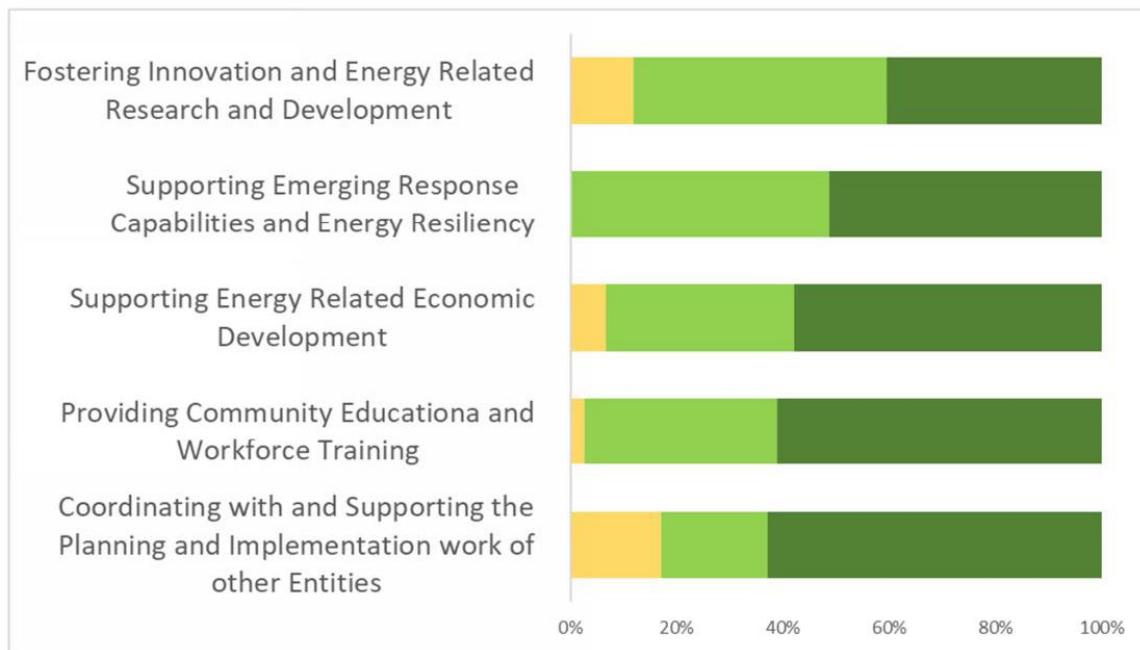
Eureka, Orleans & Redway

56 Participants

Voting chart key:

- Do not include
- Minimize and only include as needed to support other goals
- Include as a key element of a balance mix
- Maximize to the greatest extent possible

Planning & Regional Coordination



■ Do not include ■ As-needed, minimize ■ Include as key element ■ Maximize

Regional Energy Planning and Coordination Comments:

Participants expressed the following:

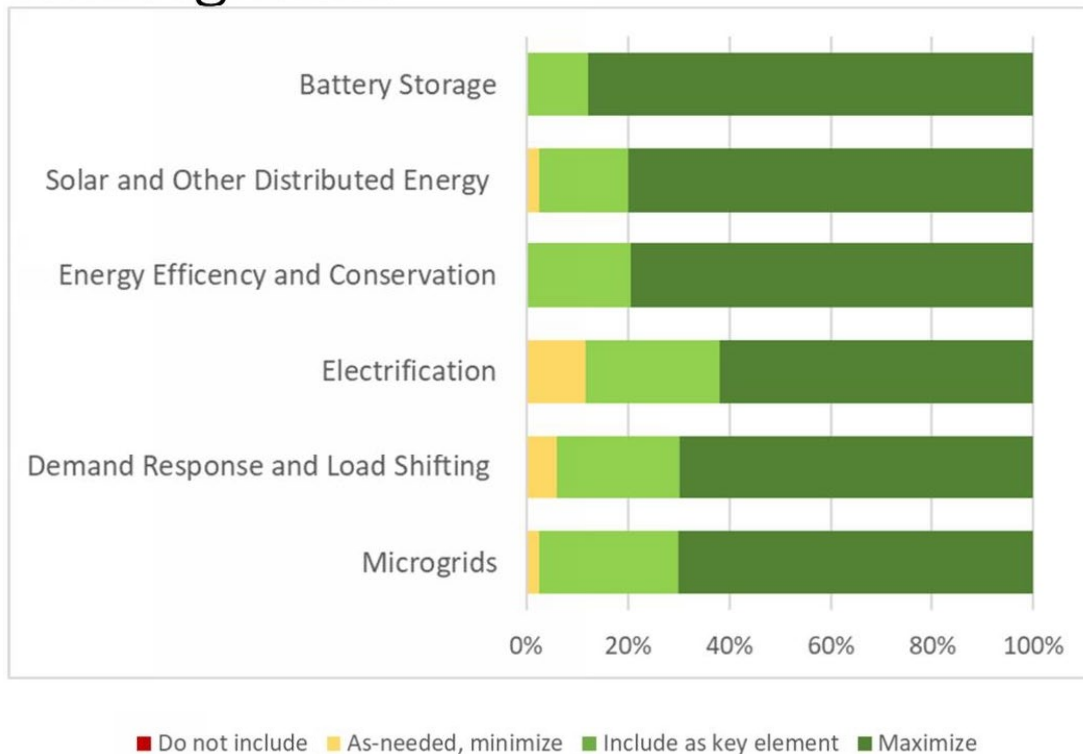
- Support for an education and emergency response focus.
- Concern about wildfires and climate change effects:
 - Participants expressed a need to feel protected and safe.
 - Participants want more focus on resiliency and energy storage:
 - Microgrids
 - Development of a local grid
 - Interested in “islanding” Humboldt County from the California grid
- Desire for RCEA to build a financial reserve for investing in:
 - Technological advancements
 - Workforce development
- Support for energy sector economic development.
- Desire for more information sharing.
 - Participants felt the public is not informed enough.
 - Participants want a better understanding of energy and where it comes from.
- Strong support for technical education and workforce development:
 - Suggested educating appliance salespeople
 - Suggested creating a workforce board like Humboldt County’s Workforce Development Board which helps create opportunities in, and prepare youth and adults for work in, target industries.
- Participants suggested focusing on energy conservation and efficiency due to Humboldt’s isolation.
- Support for potential programs:
 - Free public transportation
 - Power wall rental
 - Battery rebates
 - Low-income access to EVs, solar, etc.
 - Refurbishing slightly used utility solar panels
 - Public and government solar installations.
- Supported for increased coordination with:
 - PG&E to invest in upgraded transmission lines and infrastructure so local power can be exported
 - Other agencies for bulk purchasing to make things cheaper, more efficient, and grow a larger renewable energy movement
 - HSU for education
 - Local media for increased public energy knowledge.
- Many participants expressed support for reach codes and reach code enforcement and were opposed to natural gas use.

- A need for attainable goals. (participant opinions)
 - Some participants said there was no longer a need for planning.
 - Some participants suggested that people already have a good idea of what needs to be done and suggested deemphasizing education and public outreach.
- Concern that offshore wind would require infrastructure modifications and economic development.
- A desire for an acceleration in the reduction of liquid fuel use.
- One participant observed that it is illogical to combine wood and propane in greenhouse gas inventories since they have different GHG emissions.
- An attendee mentioned that Caltrans was planning to install a Level 3 DC fast charging station at Hwy 96.
- A resident observed that very remote settings like Orleans are the best candidates for microgrids and storage for community resilience.

Attendees asked:

- If RCEA's plan was just for electricity, and how much electrification could be supported.
- About RCEA's association with the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).
- Whether high energy users (and industry) would be brought in to use local energy and assumed that electricity off-takers were needed.
- How much surplus energy could or should be produced?
- How much does it cost to import vs export energy?
- Whether RCEA has a say in the operations of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant?
- How can Nordic Farms receive cheap energy?
- What is the cost of climate change?
- How long do we have to solve the GHG problem?

Integrated Demand-side Management



Integrated Demand Side Management Comments:

Participants expressed the following:

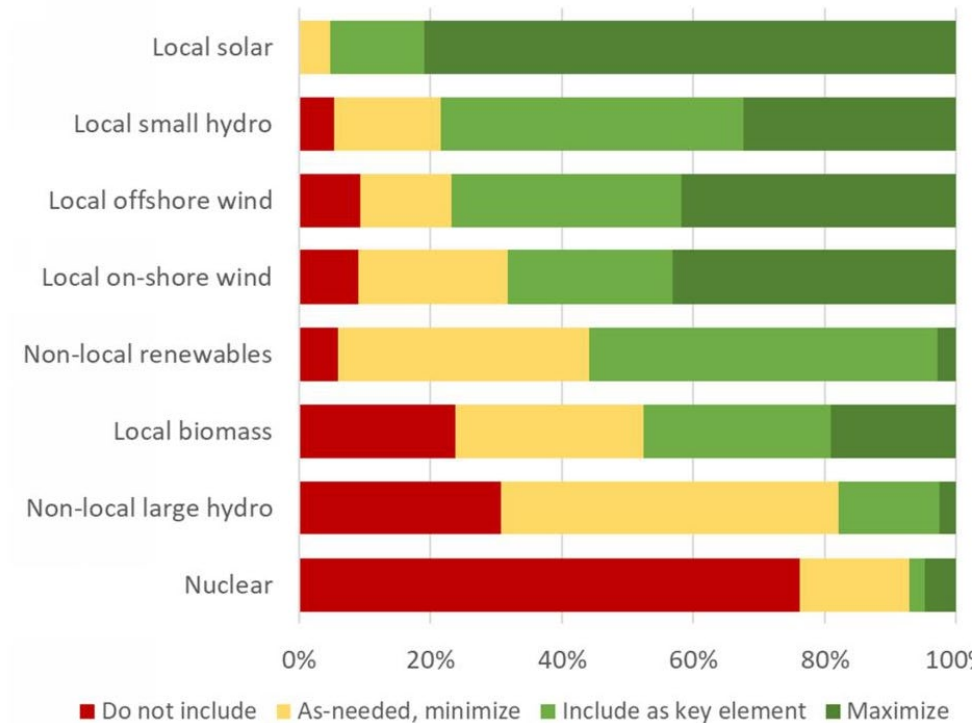
- A desire for focus on goal setting.
- Support for compliance enforcement of the state energy code (including 220 volt outlet installation requirements), coordination with local building departments, and education of local building officials.
- Support for a potential solar panel incentive for electric vehicle owners program.
- A desire for increased focus on microgrids and vehicle to grid connections.
- A fear of wildfires, increasing the need for microgrids.
- A desire to see thermal energy storage and battery storage.
- Strong support for electrification infrastructure.
- Support for education and behavioral change.
- A desire for increased public engagement.
- A desire for an economic evaluation taking into consideration:
 - How long it will take to solve local problems
 - Shared energy wealth

- Analysis of needs
- Interest in developing pumped storage and compressed air as additional energy storage.
- Interest in off grid electrification of communities.
- A request to get information on microgrids and other technologies out to communities like Orleans.
- Concerns about what happens to renewable energy equipment at the “end of useful life.”

Attendees asked:

- Is Blue Lake the only microgrid?
- Is McKinleyville Community Services District working on a microgrid? (Yes.)
- Businesses are told that no one wants to buy their energy at retail rates
- Does RCEA buy rooftop solar? (Yes. RCEA pays a penny per kWh over PG&E’s regular rate.)
- RCEA’s Feed-In Tariff program currently offers \$0.08/kWh for small-scale solar energy. Rates fluctuate—fewer producers mean higher offer prices and more producers equals a lower offer.

CCA Power Mix



Energy Generation and Utility Services Comments:

Participants expressed the following:

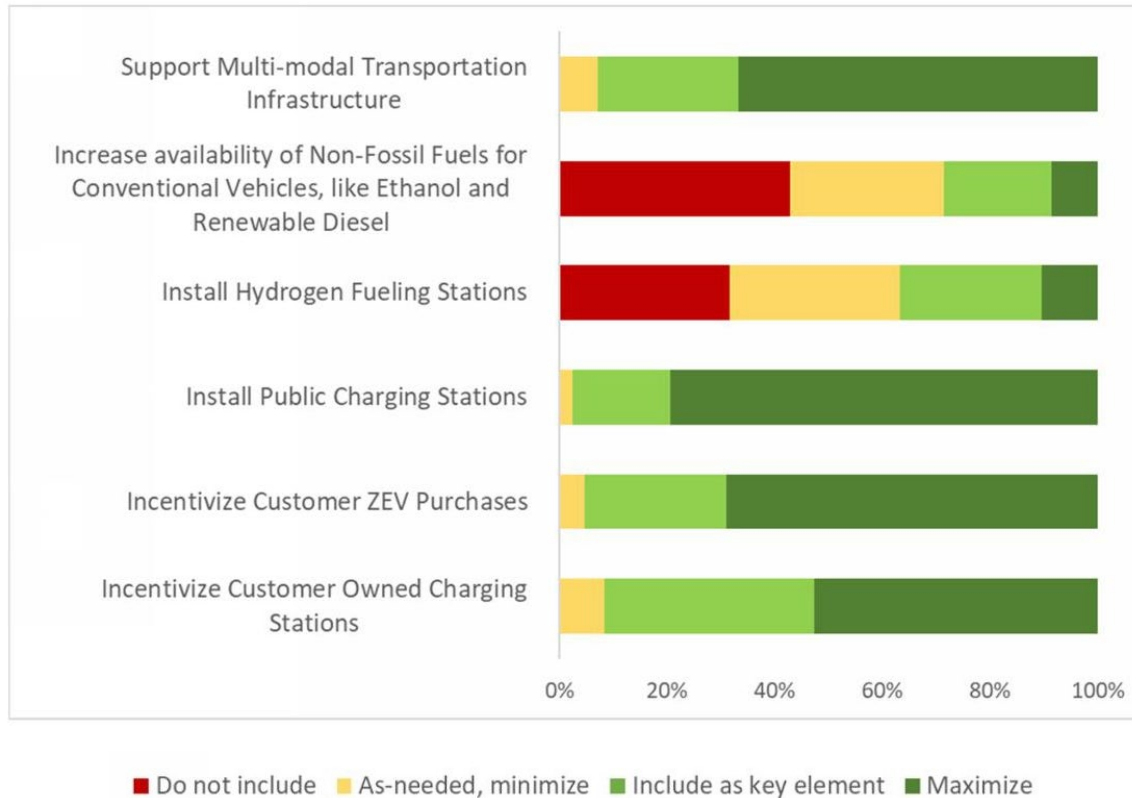
- A desire for RCEA to focus on combating climate change with low carbon and no carbon energy sources, even at the expense of using less local power.
- A desire for RCEA to consider the economic impact of solar energy; wind might be a better option in the long term.
- The need to promote energy efficiency and behavioral changes.
- A desire for RCEA to take advantage of distributed rooftop solar, a “virtual power plant.”
- Support for local energy storage.
- Concern about the high cost of wind energy and necessary electricity transmission upgrades.
- Mixed support for biomass:
 - A majority of participants believed that supporting biomass provides an excuse for the timber industry to not find alternative uses for their waste.
- Support for large scale solar.
- The need to update technology at power plants.
- Support for solar plus storage.
- The need to prioritize energy conservation.

- Concerns about onshore wind's viewshed impacts. Some participants questioned whether Humboldt should have that large of a project.
- Concerns about the needed transmission upgrades for both onshore and offshore wind.
- Since mill waste burning happens here, the community might as well obtain energy from the burns.
- A desire for biochar production consideration.
- The desire for Humboldt County to be more energy independent.
- A resident observed that there is a substation near Orleans that rarely operates, even if there is an obvious power outage. Anecdotal information indicates that two separate people are required to travel from distant facilities to authorize and activate the substation.
- That grid infrastructure as we know it is ending.
- That it is difficult to cope with power outages. It is a major business problem.
- A resident indicated that small run-of-river hydro would work well in their water-rich region.
- That rooftop solar is the best option.
- That RCEA should develop biogas, like Germany has.
- That people are receiving Electric Vehicle electricity rates for grow operations and not for operating EVs.
- That residents will require much larger inverters to handle additional electricity loads as people move from off-grid and as people switch to electric appliances.
- A participant stated that cannabis came to Humboldt for three reasons: isolation, safety in numbers, and white privilege, and that if cannabis stays in Humboldt County, we need to focus on efficient technology.
- That RCEA should support education and information for cannabis growers.
- One participant stated that he put in Humboldt County's first grid-tied solar PV system with Jay Peltz in 1998.

Attendees asked:

- Why should Humboldt send power out? Is this economically just?
- Why large hydro is not considered renewable energy in California?
- What are the effects of wind farms on fish?
- How does the Humboldt Bay Power Plant fits into RCEA's plans? What becomes of electricity generated at HBPP?
- How can a residence shift [electricity] load, besides doing laundry and heating water at off-peak hours?
- Why are pot farmers still allowed to use giant diesel generators despite the fire hazard risks and greenhouse gas emissions?
- Is it possible for Humboldt to be 100% off the grid?
Is seasonal biogas storage possible?

Transportation



Low Carbon Transportation Comments:

Participants expressed the following:

- Support for incentivizing new construction of alternative fueling infrastructure.
- That stations should be less than 30 miles apart.
- That DC fast charging stations are needed in Southern Humboldt along Highway 101, and in downtowns.
- That economic development groups could help find charger station locations.
- That people want to be informed on the amount of energy it takes to make the fuels vs. the energy that the fuel produces.
- That they would like to see non-Tesla chargers near Tesla charging banks.
- That the public needs more clarification on Zero Emission Vehicles vs Plug-In Electric Vehicles and the different benefits of each.
- Concern about accidents in fuel cell vehicles and at the fueling stations.
- That non-EVs are seen in the EV parking space at the Eureka C Street charging station because the parking space paint is fading.
- The need to inform the public that liquid fuels and fuel cell options would be for larger non-passenger vehicles.

- A desire for free bus pass promotions:
 - Possibly for single city bus routes,
 - Completely free bus service for everyone, or
 - Free bus fare for people in the lowest income groups.
- A request for a cash for clunkers program to get the oldest/dirtiest cars off the road.
- Support for telecommuting and programs to get employers on board.
- Support for telemedicine.
- Support for programs that discourage flying.
- Support for Amtrak routes headed north.
- The need to add transportation options to public meeting notices.
- The need for a charger for those coming from Yreka.
- One resident noted that only 20% of personal use vehicles and heavy trucks are set up to operate on biodiesel.
- A resident observed that Federal law prevents boaters from using 100% biodiesel
- An attendee suggested that all new diesel vehicles be designed to handle biodiesel.
- That transportation offers an opportunity for local “battery storage.”
- That a timeline is needed to meet transportation targets.
- An attendee inquired about a good path to reduce carbon footprint in the next ten years.
- An attendee proposed that we hybridize existing technology to take advantage of vehicles already being used.
- A community member proposed that we eliminate idling.
- Several residents noted that pedestrians often had to use the highway to move around their community and requested a safe method to support foot traffic.
- An attendee mentioned Karuk Active Transportation Planning funds and Caltrans right of way issues.
- An attendee recommended transportation shelters since waits can be long and public transit pickup schedules don’t often align with rides “off the mountain.”
- An attendee recommended that we increase transportation options through private enterprise.
- An attendee thought insurance and other costs should be subsidized.
- The need to eliminate single occupancy vehicles.
- An attendee encouraged more exploration of ride shares.
- An attendee proposed a system of credits for giving rides.
- An attendee proposed a mile credit.
- There was a request to look at methods to increase public transportation ridership and make it appealing.
- An attendee stressed the importance of calculating our carbon footprint and impact.
- A participant commented that the older generation is hopeless.

- An attendee stressed the importance of educating the youth, and recommended VEEP.org (Vermont Energy Education Project) for their educational toolkits.
- A participant stated that bike routes must be safe.
- An attendee pointed out that safety and vandalism protection systems are needed.
- An attendee encouraged exploring self-driving vehicle intra-regional networks.
- An attendee recommended that we break out red diesel consumption so we can fairly portray the transportation share separate from cannabis cultivation.

Attendees asked:

- Are ZEV incentives also used for ZEV purchases?
- Would incentives have an income criterion?
- Is there an option to add an EV charging station to the fire station since it is being upgraded?

Comments on Forests:

Participants, one of whom manages 15,000 acres of forest in Southern Humboldt and North Mendocino, expressed the following:

- The community depends on Southern Humboldt forests.
- Southern Humboldt forests have recovered and are ready for a new wave of industrialization.
 - Forests are growing back but not in the healthiest way.
 - There is a need to engage in active forest management.
- In order for sustainable forestry to happen, the material must go somewhere. This is crucial for the industry.
- That Air pollution is not a serious issue In Humboldt County as it is in other parts of the state.
- A non-carbon grid is ultimately needed but biomass is necessary for the transition period.
- That biomass plants are here; let's use them.
- That the energy expended for collecting biomass for fuel is far less than that used for collecting fossil fuels.
- Wood is always burned in California.
 - The annual carbon cycle is not the enemy.
 - That we (California or Humboldt?) need to burn 5 million acres/year in low intensity ground fires to manage our land.
- There is an overabundance of small trees drying up our watershed.

- That RCEA should not discount forestry.
- We can do better forestry and get more per board foot if sawmills have operating biomass plants to send their waste to.
- Infrastructure investments (additional biomass plants/chippers/etc.) can be made if RCEA helps provide a market.

Comments on the RCEA workshops/public events:

Participants expressed the following:

- The need for more specific categories; that it is hard to prioritize such broad CAPE strategies.
- The need for transportation categories to be divided into residential, workplace, and public for the station questions.
- Support for a CAPE update timeline, and regular CAPE updates.
- That it was difficult for participants to hear in the workshop venue. That either a different venue or set-up would be helpful.
- That a snack break in the middle of the meeting would be helpful.
- That it would be good to allow the public to attend by webinar.
- That the survey should be available online.
- That the workshop could be filmed for air on TV.
- That alternative transportation option information could be added to public meeting notices.