

August 2022 News and Updates

from the Redwood Coast Energy Authority



Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS):

The 2022 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) season is already upon us, with wildfires threatening communities in northeastern Humboldt County. RCEA staff have readied themselves through participation in meetings and trainings on the PSPS topic hosted by PG&E. This year PG&E's wildfire readiness strategy actually includes three separate responses, each with its own web information portal that RCEA staff have access to: PSPS information, Electric Powerline Safety Shutoff (EPSS) information, and microgrid information.

PSPS events, already familiar to California power users, are pre-planned events where PG&E advises affected customers and partners such as RCEA ahead of time of when power is expected to be cut off, anticipated duration of the outage, and which customers will be affected. EPSS in contrast uses technology that cuts off power to a specific circuit in a fraction of a second in response to events such as tree branches touching a power line. Due to the nature of EPSS events, advance warning to customers and partners is not feasible. PG&E's new microgrid portal was created in response to a CPUC order requiring utilities to help implement the State Emergency Plan. It will provide information on microgrids being deployed by PG&E in high fire threat districts as another strategy to respond to mitigate wildfire risks.

PG&E's ability to "island" most of its Humboldt County circuits using the Humboldt Bay Generating Station as its main power source for the area has allowed for a great reduction in the expected number of PSPS events, as many of these events in the past were actually due to fire threats outside of Humboldt County but nonetheless impacted the power transmission lines connecting us to the rest of the state. In addition, PG&E has been working on "hardening" its transmission lines through vegetation management and other changes, which is also expected to help minimize PSPS events.

In order to help our customers access important safety announcements, RCEA has updated our website and the home page now has an Electricity Grid Alerts window that links to PG&E's PSPS information as well as the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services and the California Independent System Operator's Flex Alerts page.

Sandrini Solar Project:

EDPR began preliminary construction activities on Sandrini Sol 1 by issuing limited notices to proceed to their engineering, procurement, and construction contractors in July.

**WE
ARE
HIRING!**

Current Employment Opportunities at RCEA

- Infrastructure Programs Manager
- Human Resources & Workforce Development Manager
- Account Services Associate

See
our website
for details

Rebate totals to date

EV Charging Equipment

RCEA REBATE

12
approved



Electric Vehicles

RCEA REBATE

30
approved



Heat Pumps

RCEA REBATE

52
approved
9 reserved



Equipment & Appliance

RCEA REBATE

5
approved
5 in progress

2022 totals

Residential Services ASSESSMENTS

65
consultations
41 res kits



Non-Res Services ASSESSMENTS

97
Completed





Agency Projects - ongoing

- Arcata School District** - CalSHAPE HVAC project and CO2 monitors project progressing
- Area One Agency on Aging** - lighting project completed
- Burnt Ranch Elementary School** - installing roof-mounted solar array project
- City of Arcata** - outlining an energy efficiency project at Arcata Community Center
- City of Blue Lake** - assisting with how to best utilize OES funding and a possible solar project
- City of Eureka** - installed lighting upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant
- City of Ferndale** - solar and lighting project completed
- City of Rio Dell** - solar and storage installed, generator installation in progress
- City of Trinidad** - solar and storage installed, battery installation in progress
- Coastal Grove Charter School** - CalSHAPE HVAC and CO2 monitors projects in progress
- Eureka City Schools** - solar, storage, and EV bus charger installation project progressing
- Loleta Union Elementary School** - assisting with CalSHAPE program application
- McKinleyville Union School District** - kick-off meeting scheduled for school district benchmarking
- Redway Community Services District** - revisiting possible solar project
- Redwood Coast Montessori School** - CalSHAPE plumbing application submitted
- Yurok Tribe** - benchmarking and making connections for multiple project locations

Rural REN - We are going through the CPUC regulatory process and are aiming for 2024 launch

TECH Quick Start Grant - We working with customers and contractors to install heat pumps and heat pump water heaters for non-regulated fuel users

Mobile Home Solar - We are moving towards a memo of understanding (MOU) with Bear River Rancheria to grant funds for them to implement two to three projects

Transportation - We have observed steady growth in the use of our EV charging network over the last five years, despite fluxuations during the pandemic. Gas prices this summer helped to drive up EV charging demand, and despite a tight EV supply market and chip shortages, we expect them to be even more popular in the near future as EVs gain in popularity and availability.

July 2020 - July 2022

