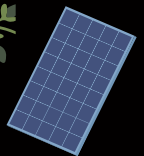




Happy Holidays



RCEA News and Updates *December 2022*

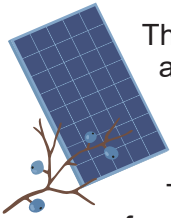
Community Choice Energy

Join us online



Net Energy Metering Updates

In early November, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) released a new proposed decision detailing the successor to the net energy metering (NEM) program (a.k.a. “net billing tariff,” or rooftop solar billing). The proposed decision as written will shift from paying customers retail rates for their exports to the grid to paying them based on Avoided Cost Calculator (ACC) values. These are values that change hourly and are intended to reflect an accurate value of rooftop solar to the electric grid. They are much lower than today’s NEM export compensation rates.



The grid access charge is not addressed in this proposed decision. The CPUC will address this charge in a different regulatory proceeding.

Customers will be automatically enrolled in the new E-ELEC tariff and pay the E-ELEC rate for grid imports. Currently, NEM customers are enrolled in TOU rates.

The successor tariff provides a “glide path” to the ACC export compensation amounts through the use of an adder that will decrease over time until the base ACC value is achieved. The adder amount is intended to achieve \$100/month bill savings for customers and ensure a 9-year payback period for residential customers. Low-income customers (CARE and FERA) receive a higher adder. Non-residential customers would not receive the adder.

An equity fund is available to help low-income customers access solar plus storage. This will be administered through the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP).

NEM 1.0 and NEM 2.0 program legacy periods will remain the same (20 years).

In response to the proposed decision, RCEA submitted comments with other CCAs advocating for an extended sunset period for the current NEM program, additional incentives for low-income customers, and additional incentives for non-residential customers.

The earliest the CPUC will vote on a final decision establishing the successor to NEM 2.0 is December 15, 2022.

California Arrearage Payment Program 2.0

On November 22, 2022, the California Department of Community Services and Development awarded RCEA a \$977,599 allocation for the 2022 California Arrearage Payment Program (a.k.a. “CAPP”). This allocation will offer financial assistance for eligible residential customers to help reduce past due energy bill balances that increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebate totals to date

**EV
Charging
Equipment**
RCEA REBATE

14
approved



**Electric
Vehicles**
RCEA REBATE

37
approved



**Heat
Pumps**
RCEA REBATE

79
approved
4 reserved



**Equipment
& Appliance**
RCEA REBATE

69 approved

2022 totals

**Residential Services
ASSESSMENTS**

114
consultations
90 res kits



**Non-Res Services
ASSESSMENTS**

292
Completed





Agency Projects - ongoing



The CalSHAPE Program awarded 19 Humboldt County Schools \$1,181,893 for ventilation and plumbing projects.

Arcata Elementary School District – working on a lighting and Heat Pump water heater project

Burnt Ranch Elementary School - installing roof-mounted solar array

City of Arcata - ECAA application for Arcata Community Center in progress

City of Blue Lake - assisting with OES funding

City of Eureka - designing solar projects

County of Humboldt - Energy Benchmarking: setting the customer up with an online portal that will give them insight into their energy usage across their facilities.

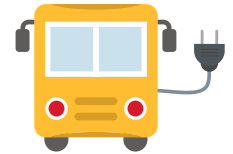
Eureka City Schools - solar, storage, and EV bus charger projects are in progress

Pacific View Charter School – completed upgrade of all lighting to LED. Assisting with heat pump installation.

Pine Hill Elementary - ECAA loan project in progress

Redway Community Services District - revisiting possible solar project

Yurok Tribe - benchmarking and continuing energy efficiency projects for multiple locations



Projects and programs - new or on the horizon

- RCEA held a **contractor and vendor open house breakfast** to provide information to the local workforce about our many offerings. Many attendees signed up for RCEA's Contractor and Vendor Network (online directory for customers).
- We are diving deep into offerings from the **Inflation Reduction Act** to help our customers navigate and access available funding.
- Staff is shepherding the **RuralREN** proposal through the complex regulatory process and aiming for program approval by the end of 2023. RuralREN will bring more energy efficiency, financing, and workforce training programs to the county.
- We launched our **Enhanced Heat Pump Incentive Program (EPIC)** to increase our non-residential heat pump space and water heating incentives. This should make adopting this energy efficient technology more attractive to local businesses and public agencies.
- DSM and Power Resources staff partnered with Food for People for an outreach event in **Hoopa** and signed up new residential customers for our Customer Energy Solutions services.
- RCEA will make a \$100 donation to **Food for People** for every business that schedules a no-cost energy assessment. This is the second year for this successful community food bank promotion.
- **TECH Quick Start Grant** – We have completed our first projects in partnership with local contractors on our grant-funded program to provide heat pump rebates for users of non-regulated fuels such as propane, kerosene, and cordwood. The program rollout continues.
- **Rio Dell "Light the Night"** Project. RCEA is still reaching out and providing residential energy efficiency kits to Rio Dell residents who bring in and dispose of old, inefficient light bulbs at Rio Dell City Hall.

**WE
ARE
HIRING!**

Community Strategies Coordinator

RCEA is recruiting a full-time Program Coordinator to support our marketing and public engagement efforts. This is a frontline position that will interact daily with RCEA customers to promote and support RCEA's many programs and services.

See
our website
for details



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