



REDWOOD COAST  
**Energy**Authority



# Community **REport**

RePowering Humboldt with Renewable Energy  
2022-23 Annual Report



**20<sup>th</sup>** 2003-2023  
**ANNIVERSARY**

Energy Innovation, Efficiency, and  
Sustainability for Humboldt County



# REDWOOD COAST EnergyAuthority

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) is a local, not-for-profit government agency established to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of renewable resources available in the region.

Through RCEA's Community Choice Energy Program we provide the generation portion of your electricity service. We also provide comprehensive energy services and rebate programs for Humboldt County residents, businesses, and public agencies.

## Board of Directors

RCEA is a local government joint powers agency that was founded in 2003 whose members include the County of Humboldt; the Yurok Tribe; the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad; and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. RCEA is governed by a Board of Directors made up of elected officials appointed by our member agencies' governing bodies.

RCEA's Board and Community Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend and participate. Communities in RCEA's service area - not private shareholders - control their own energy choices. Meeting notices, agendas and recordings are available on the RCEA website, [www.RedwoodEnergy.org](http://www.RedwoodEnergy.org).

	2022	2023
County of Humboldt	<b>Rex Bohn</b>	<b>Natalie Arroyo</b>
Yurok Tribe	<i>(joined Feb. 2023)</i>	<b>Frankie Myers</b>
City of Arcata	<b>Sarah Schaefer</b>	<b>Sarah Schaefer</b> <i>(Vice Chair)</i>
City of Blue Lake	<b>Chris Curran</b> <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	<b>Elise Scafani</b>
City of Eureka	<b>Scott Bauer</b>	<b>Scott Bauer</b>
City of Ferndale	<b>Stephen Avis</b> <i>(Board Chair)</i>	<b>Skip Jorgensen</b>
City of Fortuna	<b>Mike Losey</b>	<b>Kris Mobley</b>
City of Rio Dell	<b>Frank Wilson</b>	<b>Frank Wilson</b>
City of Trinidad	<b>Jack Tuttle</b>	<b>Jack Tuttle</b>
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District	<b>Sheri Woo</b>	<b>Sheri Woo</b> <i>(Board Chair)</i>

## Community Advisory Committee

RCEA's Board of Directors established a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to support RCEA public engagement efforts and to provide decision-making support to the RCEA Board.

The CAC can have up to 15 members. Eleven are nominated by RCEA Board members and four are selected through an open application process. All members are confirmed by the full RCEA Board. CAC members serve two-year terms and all members live in Humboldt County.

City of Arcata	<b>Norman Bell</b>	County
City of Blue Lake	<b>Kit Mann</b>	1
City of Eureka	<b>Catherine Gurin</b> <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	2
City of Ferndale	<b>Dennis Leonardi</b> <i>(Chair)</i>	3
City of Fortuna	<b>Elizabeth Burks</b>	At Large
City of Rio Dell	<b>Roger Hess</b>	1
City of Trinidad	<b>Richard Johnson</b>	2
Hum Bay Municipal Water District	<b>Ethan Lawton</b>	3
		4
		<b>Luna Latimer</b>
		<b>Christopher Honar</b>
		<b>Jerome Qiriazhi</b>
		<b>Jeff Tirogoff</b>
		<b>Colin Fiske</b>
		<b>Larry Goldberg</b>
		<b>Emily Morris</b>



## A Message from the Executive Director

“Earth Day 2023, RCEA’s 20th anniversary, is an exciting milestone for our agency. We started out back in 2003, focused on energy efficiency, and over the last two decades we’ve built on that foundation to offer a wide range of local, sustainable energy programs. Looking back over the last year, these highlights stand out:

- We celebrated the 5th anniversary of our Community Choice Energy program, which has successfully provided millions of dollars per year in local energy project investment, customer programs, and electricity rate savings.
- Our cutting-edge renewable energy microgrid commenced operation and then was put to the test by the December earthquake and the subsequent barrage of winter storms. The fledgling microgrid performed as intended, providing uninterrupted power to the airport and Coast Guard Air Station during those disruptions to the electric grid.

- After over six years of planning and stakeholder engagement, the federal government conducted the auction for two offshore wind energy lease areas off the Humboldt coastline. Our community is poised to become a world leader in offshore wind as work to develop this resource moves forward in the coming years.
- We continue to grow and diversify the range of customer programs we offer to residents and businesses to save customers money while decarbonizing our buildings and transportation.

Looking ahead, RCEA has established ambitious goals for the coming ten years. We will continue our work with the community to develop our region’s renewable energy potential and build a more resilient, prosperous, and sustainable energy future for Humboldt County. ”

*Matthew Marshall*  
RCEA Executive Director



RCEA’s efforts are guided by the RePower Humboldt strategic plan, which is organized into four program areas:



### Regional Energy Planning & Coordination

RCEA takes a leadership role in developing and advancing strategic regional energy goals through economic development, funding, planning efforts, and education. This work is done in coordination with RCEA’s member governments, other local public agencies, local tribes, and other public and private stakeholders.



### Integrated Demand Side Management

RCEA uses an Integrated Demand Side Management approach to develop distributed energy resources and reduce energy consumption in the residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and government sectors. The goal is to align customer energy use with variable clean and renewable energy supplies. RCEA prioritizes efforts that enhance local energy resiliency and independence.



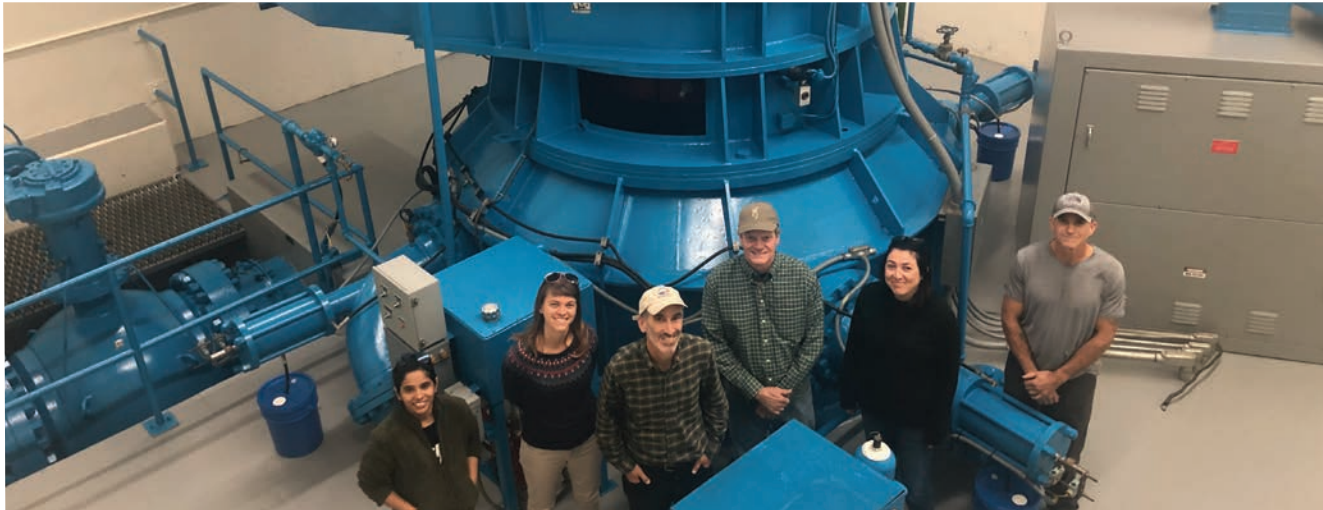
### Low-Carbon Transportation

RCEA is working to decarbonize regional transportation through reducing vehicle miles traveled, increasing advanced fuel vehicle adoption and fuel efficiency, and expanding advanced fuel infrastructure.



### Energy Generation & Utility Services

RCEA addresses Humboldt County’s supply-side energy needs through its existing Community Choice Energy (CCE) program and development of new programs and initiatives.



The RCEA team toured the Cove Hydropower Project, a small run-of-the-river project that provides power for our 100% renewable RePower+ customers.

Over  
**63,000**  
local customers  
served

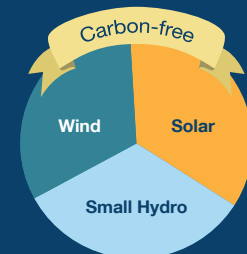
Over **93%**  
of Humboldt County homes  
and businesses receive  
electricity from RCEA

**REpower**  
RCEA's default  
electricity service  
aims to be

**48%**  
renewable in 2023

**REpower+**  
is RCEA's

**100%**  
renewable + carbon-free  
electricity option



# Community Choice Energy

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of Assembly Bill 117, the state legislation that made community choice energy possible in California, and the 5th year since RCEA launched Humboldt County's community choice energy program.

Community Choice Energy programs (CCEs) empower local communities to acquire and provide electricity for local customers as an alternative to profit-driven investor-owned utilities. They have turned out to be a great success here in Humboldt County and across the state. The CCE movement has grown to the point that it is really moving the dial to reach our clean energy goals.

RCEA actively partners with PG&E to bring you ever cleaner electricity. PG&E owns and operates the regional power delivery grid, and works with RCEA on cutting-edge new projects like the airport microgrid,

with its solar generation and energy storage that is now a permanent part of RCEA's clean electricity mix.

Our monthly Board meetings are open to everyone. Come speak your mind on everything from our electric rates to our long-term power procurement contracts.

Call or email us so we can help you. It's easy to get a well-informed, live person on the phone to answer questions and connect you with RCEA's money-saving energy services. We are located in Eureka.



**24**

CCE programs  
are operating in  
California



**48%**

of electricity sales  
in PG&E's service  
territory are to  
CCE customers



**11,000+**

megawatts worth  
of new, clean  
energy projects  
have been  
contracted to be  
built by CCEs

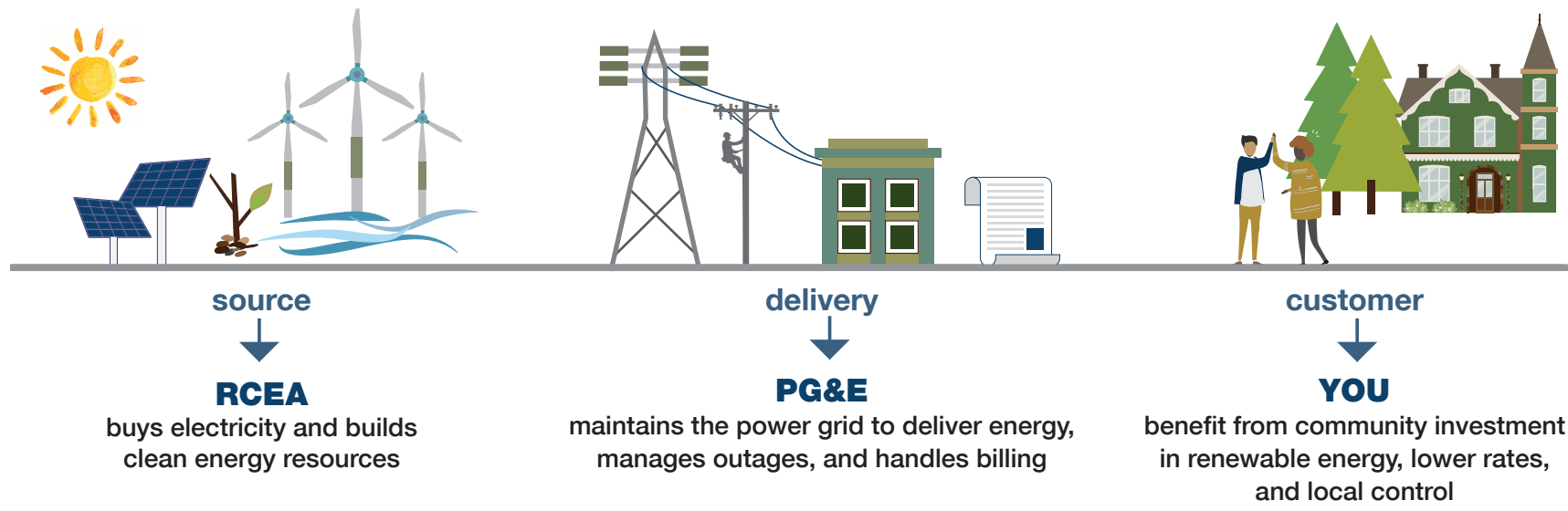


Gregg Foster, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission Executive Director, and Mike Wilson, 3rd District Supervisor at the Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid Grand Opening in June 2022.



## Why is RCEA on your bill?

In Humboldt County, new electricity customers are automatically signed up for RCEA's Community Choice Energy program for their electricity **generation** service. RCEA is a public agency that buys competitively priced electricity from new and existing clean and renewable energy resources. RCEA's revenue stays local and pays for innovative energy programs to lower greenhouse gas emissions and support the local economy.



## Does RCEA's Generation Service Save Customers Money?

**Yes, you actually save a bit of money.** PG&E maintains the poles and lines that deliver electricity, fixes power outages and provides natural gas and electricity. PG&E also sends out the bill that includes these charges. **There are two separate parts to your PG&E bill:** electricity **generation** and electricity **delivery**. These are not duplicate charges.

If you opted out of having RCEA provide your electricity, then PG&E will provide your electricity and bill you for both your electricity generation and delivery.

If RCEA provides your electricity generation service, PG&E itemizes how much they would have charged you for electricity generation if you were still their customer. Then they credit that amount back to you on page 3 of your bill. It may be a confusing calculation to see on your bill, but that credit shows that RCEA's charges are less. **Visit the "Understanding Bills" section on our website for more details.**

## What Are the Benefits?

### Cost

Customers pay a little less for RCEA's community choice program electricity than they would for PG&E's electricity. Income-qualifying households still enjoy all of PG&E's rate discounts. If you're a solar customer, RCEA buys back your excess energy at a better rate.



### Choice

RCEA is accountable to our community and customers. Whether it's the type of energy we buy, its cost to you, which customer programs we offer, or anything in between, our community helps make those choices. Our Board meets locally every month and wants to hear your suggestions.



### Environment

Community Choice Energy programs are having a big impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the state. Community Choice is one of Humboldt County's most powerful tools in that effort.



### Community

Revenues from community choice programs are reinvested into their communities rather than paying dividends to utility company shareholders. Local energy dollars create jobs, build solar arrays and other energy projects, and provide energy efficiency programs.





# RCEA's Electricity Sources

By 2025, all electricity sold by RCEA will come from renewable or carbon-free resources. By 2030, we aim to procure all our electricity from local renewable sources, including offshore wind, solar, and biomass energy.

Now that our airport solar plus storage microgrid is successfully up and running, RCEA is going big on investing in more renewable energy projects locally and elsewhere. A 100-megawatt solar project in Kern County will supply around 45% of all the energy RCEA customers use and will come online in 2023.

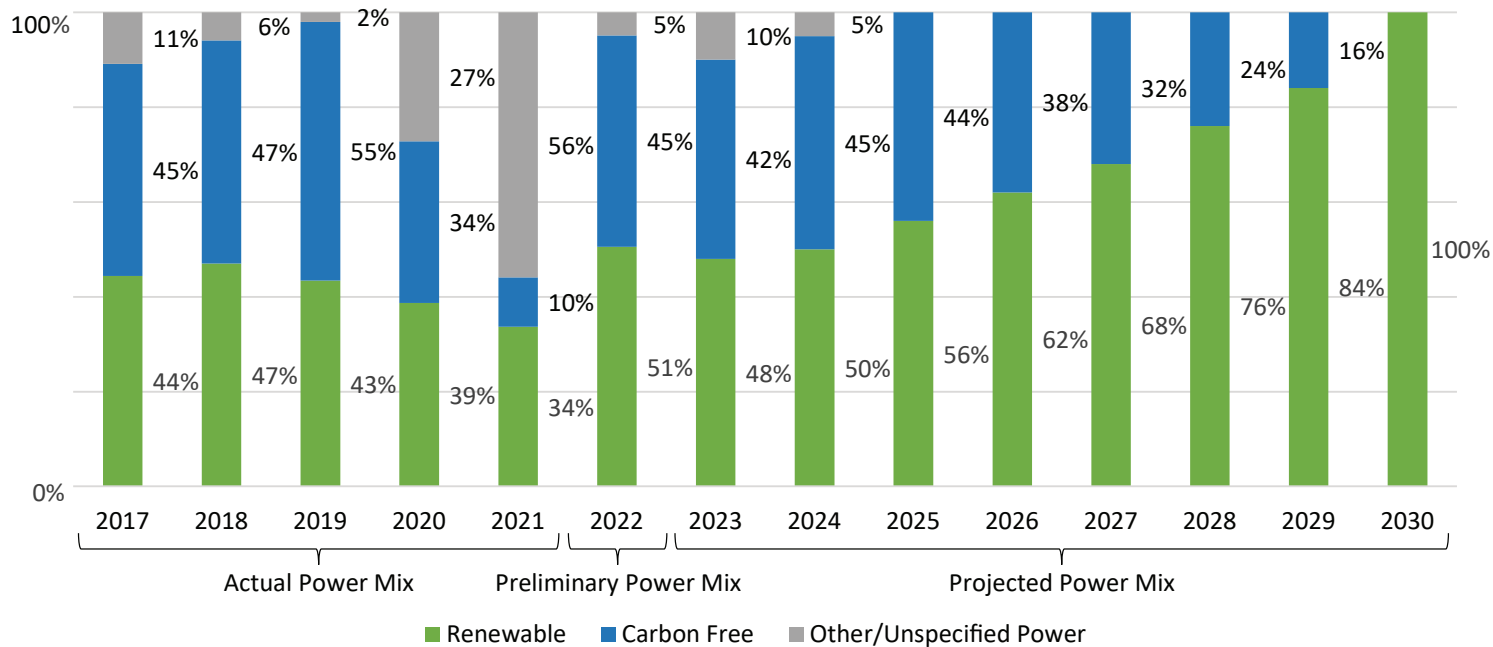
Energy storage projects, like the one being developed at the old Fairhaven biomass plant site on the Samoa Peninsula, will help make sure stored

renewable energy is available at the times of day when it's needed—after the sun sets and solar energy is not available.

And we keep exploring opportunities to develop and add other local renewable resources such as small hydro and wave energy to our energy mix.

Right: These maps show RCEA's long-term resources that are providing electricity right now or are being developed.

RCEA Power Mix



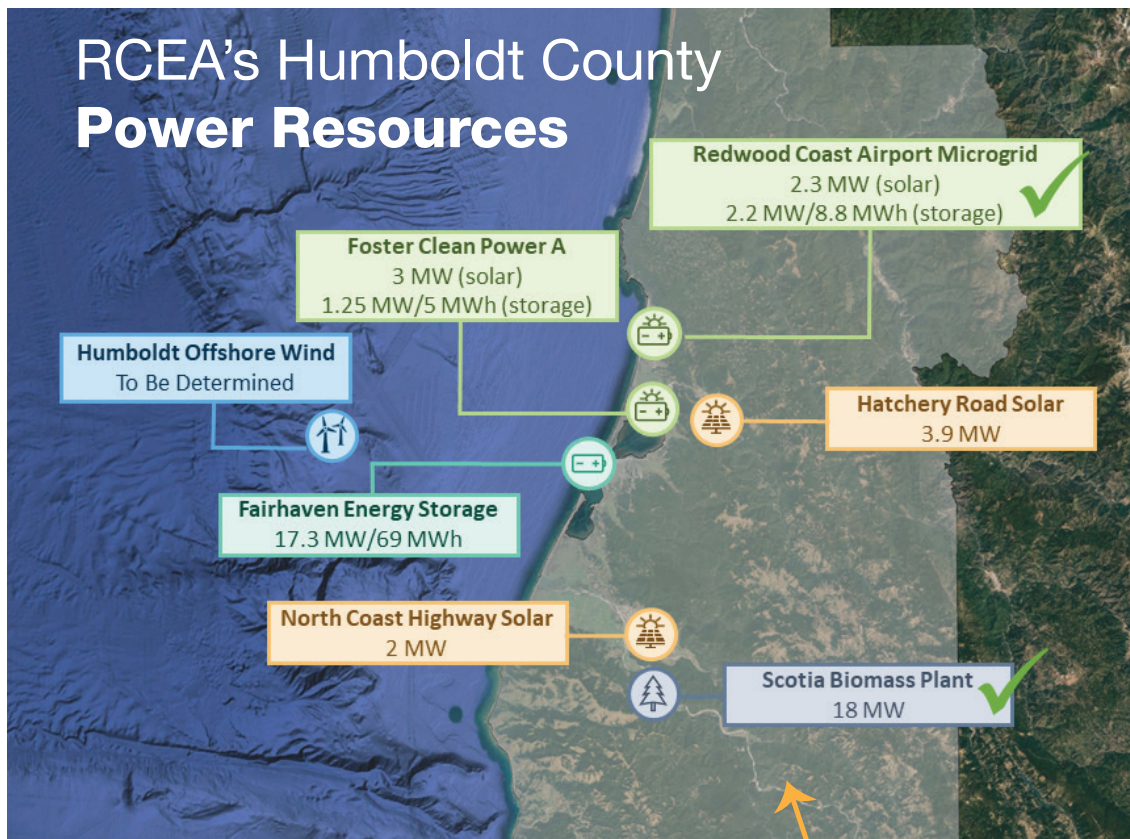
**There was a perfect storm** in 2020 and 2021: a pandemic, snarled global supply chains that delayed renewable energy project construction, surging wholesale power prices, and customer electricity rates that slowly climbed to catch-up with those high wholesale costs. These were tight financial times for RCEA's CCE

program. In order to manage our finances, RCEA temporarily put the brakes on our plans to move toward 100% clean and renewable energy. But with 2022's improved conditions, we are back on track to meet our clean energy goals.





# RCEA's Humboldt County Power Resources



## Humboldt's Electric Future

RCEA would like to hear your thoughts on our power procurement process.

- Which clean and renewable power sources should we maximize in our portfolio?
- What criteria should we use to site local renewable energy projects?
- How should we balance community priorities such as clean energy, local economic development, and low utility rates?

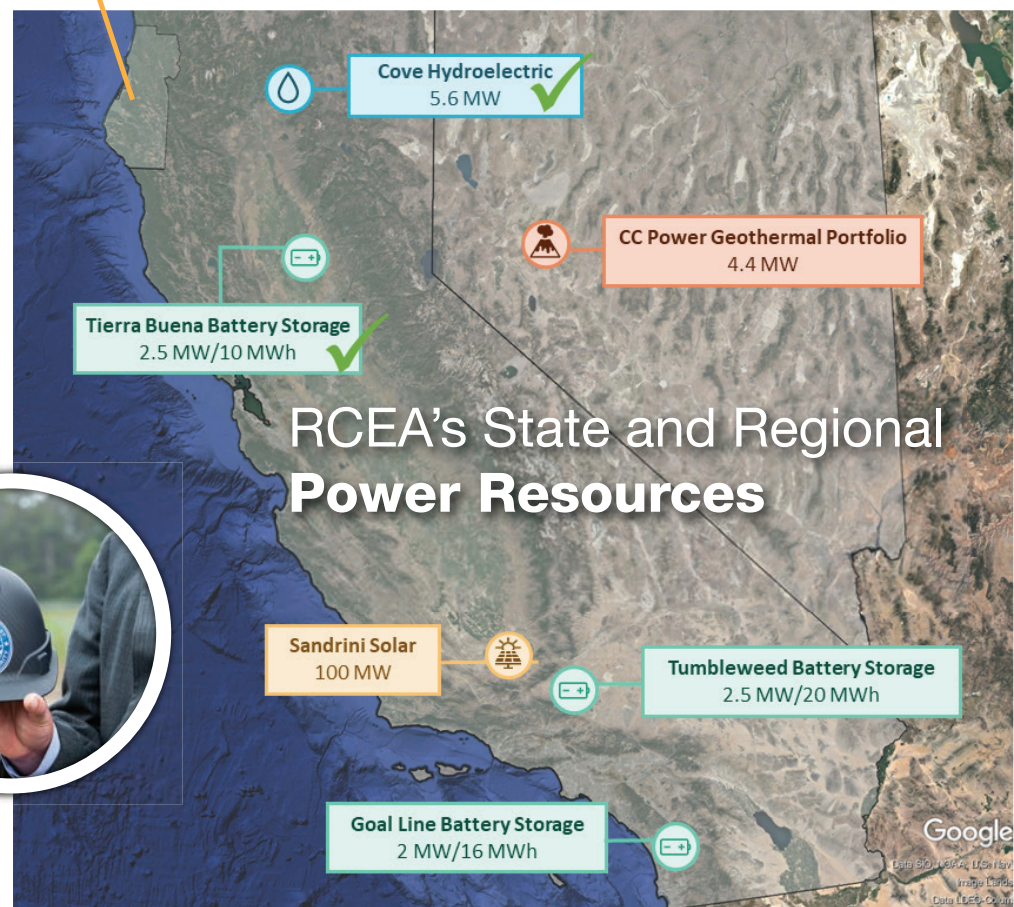
In-person and online events are being planning for June to gather public input.

Please visit:

[RedwoodEnergy.org/Humboldts-Electric-Future](https://RedwoodEnergy.org/Humboldts-Electric-Future) to sign up for event notifications and learn more about how you can participate in Humboldt's Electric Future.

### Legend

- ✓ - Operational Projects
- 💧 - Small Hydroelectric
- 🔋 - Battery Storage
- 🌋 - Geothermal
- ☀️ - Solar
- ☀️🔋 - Solar & Storage
- 🌬️ - Wind
- 🌲 - Biomass



## RCEA's State and Regional Power Resources





## Offshore Wind

One of our region's most significant sustainable energy opportunities is the development of the North Coast's world-class offshore wind resource, which holds the potential to make Humboldt County a net exporter of renewable energy and a significant contributor to state and national clean energy goals.

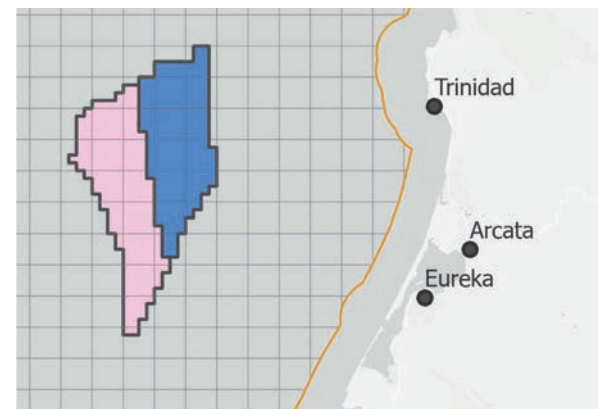
**Back in 2016**, when RCEA was preparing to launch its Community Choice Energy Program, goals for the program's first five years were set. Based on community input, exploring offshore wind energy generation potential became one of the priorities adopted by the RCEA Board.

**In 2017**, RCEA started engaging with local stakeholders and international energy project developers on how offshore wind could move forward in our region. With input from local tribes, commercial fishermen, environmental groups, labor unions, and local governments, RCEA developed a proposal for a north coast offshore wind lease area in 2018. That proposal shaped what ultimately became the Humboldt Wind Energy Area established 20 miles off the coast.

**From 2018-2021**, while waiting for the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to move forward with wind energy area leasing, RCEA continued engaging with local, state, and federal stakeholders to prepare as a community for what could be a major, regional economic engine. RCEA provided a grant to the Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association to support their engagement in the development process, provided funding to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District to help them develop plans and a grant proposal for offshore wind port redevelopment, and worked with the Humboldt Area Foundation to launch the Redwood Regional Climate and Community Resilience Hub (CORE Hub) as a forum to increase local engagement on climate-resilience issues and ensure that the broader community can participate in the discussion.

**In 2022** BOEM moved forward with the leasing process for the 209 square-mile Humboldt Wind Energy Area. When the December 6 auction ended, two developers had secured leases off Humboldt, and another three won leases for an area off the central coast. The auction's winning bids totaled \$757.1 million, including over \$117 million in developer commitments to fund workforce training and domestic supply chain development programs.

RCEA will explore contracting for a portion of future offshore wind generation to meet our local energy needs. Just 10% of the Humboldt Wind Energy Area's potential power production would equal the output of PG&E's Humboldt Bay Generating Station. RCEA looks forward to working closely with the community, developers, and our state and federal partners to ensure that regional offshore wind development progresses on a path that minimizes impacts and maximizes local environmental and economic benefits.



The two lease areas within the 209 square-mile Humboldt Wind Energy Area 20 miles off of Humboldt Bay





## Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid

RCEA's first-of-its-kind, collaborative, multi-customer microgrid lived up to expectations this winter when earthquakes and severe weather slammed Humboldt County with multiple power outages.

In June 2022, local and state leaders, organizations, partners, and the public commemorated the successful commercial operation of a collaborative and innovative project in Humboldt County – California's first 100% renewable energy, front-of-the-meter, multi-customer microgrid. The Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid (RCAM) was designed to provide energy resilience for the regional airport and U.S. Coast Guard Air Station during power outages, and electricity to RCEA's customers while the electric grid is operating normally.

No one could have expected such rigorous real-world testing of the system so soon, but on December 20, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake knocked out power to more than 70,000 electric customers in Humboldt County and the microgrid automatically and seamlessly disconnected or "islanded" from the electric grid as planned.

***“The Redwood Coast Airport Microgrid performed flawlessly during and after Humboldt County's strong 6.4 temblor last December. Operating through a worst case of difficult conditions—the winter solstice, rainy weather, a partially discharged battery—the microgrid seamlessly provided power to the airport and the Coast Guard Air Station, keeping one of the County's lifelines up and running for nearly 15 hours during a widespread grid outage.”***

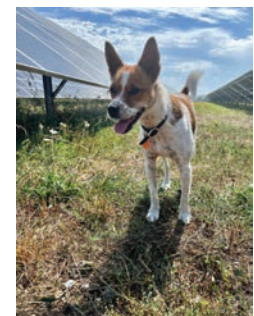
*Peter Lehman,* Founding Director of the  
Schatz Energy Research Center

The microgrid was called into service multiple times after the earthquake due to winter storm outages, ranging from 30 minutes to 8 or more hours each time. The seamless switchover operation allows county staff to focus on critical tasks and spend less time managing backup generators at the site.

The microgrid includes two main components: a smaller net-metered (NEM) solar array, and a larger solar+storage system. On a typical day, the energy generated from the NEM array feeds directly to the airport and other electric meters to offset their electricity usage. The larger solar array generates energy to store in the batteries and delivers power to California's wholesale energy market when demand and electricity prices are high. The energy provided to the wholesale market serves either RCEA customers or provides critical ancillary services to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). In all cases, power is deployed when the grid needs it most. By storing power in the batteries, the microgrid is able to provide clean energy when demand is highest after the sun has set.

The RCAM project was developed and is managed through a first-of-its-kind partnership between the County of Humboldt, RCEA, the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt, PG&E, Schweitzer Engineering Labs, Tesla, Inc., The Energy Authority and TRC.

RCEA and its partners will continue efforts to prepare the region for future challenges and help essential services stay online when they are needed most.



# Energy Resilience and Emergency Response

RCEA works with its member-governments and other public agencies across Humboldt County to help deploy renewable energy systems that provide facility-level emergency backup power and reduce utility costs and carbon emissions.



## Case Study: Kneeland Fire Protection District

Back in 2018, the Kneeland Fire Protection District (KFPD) was one of the first applicants to RCEA's Public Agency Solar Program. During RCEA's first meeting with their staff and Board members, they described their vision of an energy independent and resilient facility. At that point the foundation for the new facility was poured but the facility was not built yet. RCEA provided solar and storage assessments and technical assistance that helped KFPD apply for grant funding for the project. RCEA continued to provide technical assistance and support through the contracting process. It's been great for RCEA staff to work with KFPD and to see their vision of a resilient firefighting facility come to fruition and to know that a critical facility like that can keep the lights on and provide critical services during utility power outages.

*“The Kneeland Fire Protection District and the Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department provide medical, fire, and rescue services 24/7/365. Additionally, we are focused on long term resiliency for the Kneeland community plus mutual aid support to our partner agencies in the greater Humboldt community. If there is ever a major disaster, like a Cascadia subduction earthquake or a storm or fire event that isolates this community, our goal is to be prepared to provide emergency services both inside and outside of our district. Having electricity not dependent on the local electricity grid is key to resiliency. RCEA, and Mike Avcollie in particular, were a crucial part of the first phase of the plan: getting funding to install solar panels on our firehouse. After that we got funding for battery storage, and a backup generator will be the third feature of our electricity independence. Everything is working out well so far and we are very grateful to have worked with RCEA.”*

*Bob Phipps, Kneeland Fire Protection District*

## Case Study: City of Trinidad

The City of Trinidad was struggling with their facilities' over-44-year-old electrical service equipment that was nearing the end of its useful life. RCEA provided technical support to help the City get funding to install a 14.2kW roof-mounted, grid-connected solar PV system, a battery backup storage system, and electrical upgrades. These improvements and microgrid functionality make it possible for them to continue with critical operations during power outages caused by

weather, Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and earthquakes. By taking advantage of aggregated Net Energy Metering (NEM-A), the upgrades also allow them to offset 100% of their annual electricity use at Trinidad's Town Hall which houses staff offices and City Hall facilities, the Civic Club, and the Firehouse.







Rio Dell City Manager Kyle Knopp at an emergency press conference shortly after the December 20, 2022 earthquake. Their new generator and battery backup provided the power.

## Case Study: City of Rio Dell

RCEA assisted the City of Rio Dell with securing funding for a solar, battery storage, and emergency generator system from the California Office of Emergency Services. The system was designed to offset 100% of the electricity use at City Hall and the Police Department and keep both offices up and running during an emergency.

“This was a vital collaborative project between the City of Rio Dell and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority. On December 20, 2022, Rio Dell was hit hard by a major earthquake. Grid power was out for two days in the aftermath, but City Hall remained powered through the solar, battery and backup generator project. It was the Authority that played the key role in making this project a reality. Because of this robust electric redundancy, our Police Department and City staff were better able to help the citizens of Rio Dell during a time of great need. RCEA should be proud and people all over the Redwood Coast should be proud of this work.”

*Kyle Knopp,* Rio Dell City Manager

## Case Study: Petrolia Volunteer Fire Dept.

When the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department's back-up generator failed in February 2023 during extreme weather events and continuous power outages, Fire Chief Chris Gilda reached out to Chief Nick Paper at Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department to see if they could use the resilient solar and battery trailer that had been loaned to Humboldt County by Captain Richard Birt of New Use Energy. The trailer was delivered just in time for the next power outages that occurred on February 25 and March 5. With the mobile supply of electricity, Petrolia VFD was able to maintain emergency communications with volunteer firefighters and first responders, have access to the internet, run their water pump circuit, air compressor, and electric heaters for a warming station for local residents. For now, the Petrolia VFD will continue to house the trailer at their station to cover the needs of their community.



Fire fighters trained with a mobile and solar battery trailer that can be deployed for emergency responses in Southern Humboldt. RCEA coordinated the trailer's loan from the Empowered by Light Organization.





# Regional Planning and Coordination

The County of Humboldt's General Plan designates RCEA as the regional energy authority to foster, coordinate, and facilitate countywide strategic energy planning, implementation, and education through RePower Humboldt, RCEA's comprehensive action plan for energy.

Learn more about RCEA's strategic energy plans at [www.RedwoodEnergy.org](http://www.RedwoodEnergy.org).

## Yurok Tribe Joins RCEA

The RCEA's Board of Directors and the Yurok Tribal Council passed separate resolutions making the Tribe an RCEA agency member effective February 2023. The Yurok Tribe is the first sovereign tribal government to become a member of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority.

The exciting news of Yurok Tribe membership comes after many Yurok-RCEA collaborations over the agency's 20-year history. RCEA staff look forward to building on that relationship and having Tribal representation on its governing board. An invitation to join RCEA has been extended to all of the other federally-recognized Tribes in RCEA's service region.

*"The Yurok Tribe joined RCEA because its mission to implement initiatives that increase access to affordable, clean energy aligns with our core values. The Tribe wishes to provide input on the development of secure, sustainable, clean, and affordable energy resources, and as an RCEA member, the Tribe will be able to participate at the government-to-government level in the planning and development of long term renewable energy projects. We strongly believe the transition to sustainable energy sources is essential to the long-term health and prosperity of our community."*

*Frankie Myers,* Yurok Tribe Vice Chairman

## THE YUOK TRIBE



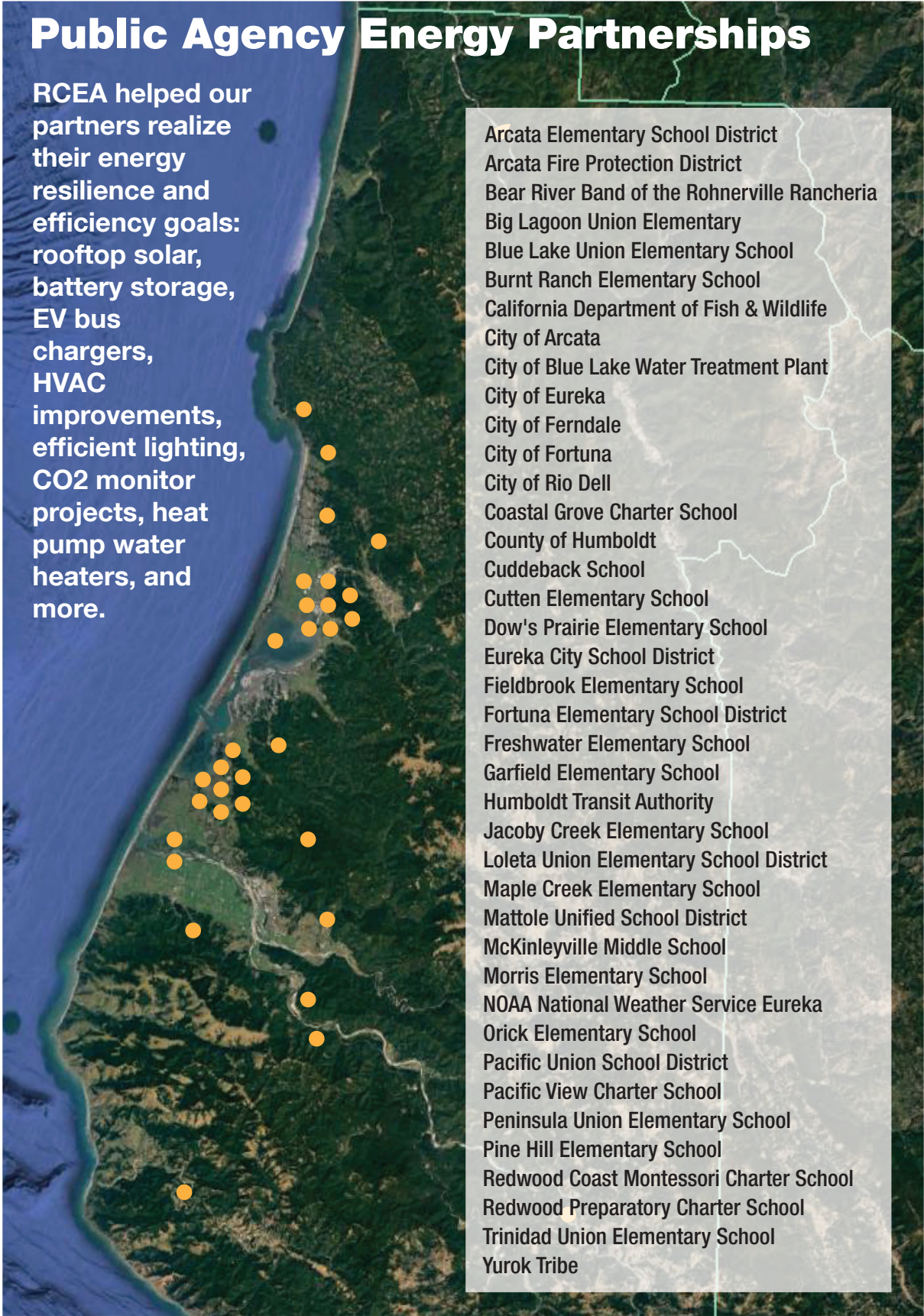


## In 2022 RCEA:

- **joined** other Community Choice Energy agencies to “bulk purchase” and build new renewable power projects through the California Community Power joint powers agency,
- **began** working closely with Sonoma Clean Power to upgrade the grid passing through Humboldt and Sonoma Counties to service both Humboldt offshore wind and Sonoma geothermal energy development,
- **adopted** a policy platform to help get its Board’s message heard quickly on fast-moving lawmaking in Sacramento,
- **partnered** with other rural California communities to design a Rural Regional Energy Network, bringing energy efficiency, workforce development, financing, and other programs to remote, hard-to-reach customers. Final approval of this innovative network is anticipated in 2023, with program launch in 2024, and
- **worked closely** with 39 local partner public agencies, schools, and Tribes to achieve energy savings, improved indoor air quality, greener transportation, and to further solar and storage projects. By focusing efforts on those that serve the community, RCEA is amplifying benefits for all Humboldt residents.

## Public Agency Energy Partnerships

RCEA helped our partners realize their energy resilience and efficiency goals: rooftop solar, battery storage, EV bus chargers, HVAC improvements, efficient lighting, CO2 monitor projects, heat pump water heaters, and more.



- Arcata Elementary School District
- Arcata Fire Protection District
- Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Big Lagoon Union Elementary
- Blue Lake Union Elementary School
- Burnt Ranch Elementary School
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- City of Arcata
- City of Blue Lake Water Treatment Plant
- City of Eureka
- City of Ferndale
- City of Fortuna
- City of Rio Dell
- Coastal Grove Charter School
- County of Humboldt
- Cuddeback School
- Cutten Elementary School
- Dow's Prairie Elementary School
- Eureka City School District
- Fieldbrook Elementary School
- Fortuna Elementary School District
- Freshwater Elementary School
- Garfield Elementary School
- Humboldt Transit Authority
- Jacoby Creek Elementary School
- Loleta Union Elementary School District
- Maple Creek Elementary School
- Mattole Unified School District
- McKinleyville Middle School
- Morris Elementary School
- NOAA National Weather Service Eureka
- Orick Elementary School
- Pacific Union School District
- Pacific View Charter School
- Peninsula Union Elementary School
- Pine Hill Elementary School
- Redwood Coast Montessori Charter School
- Redwood Preparatory Charter School
- Trinidad Union Elementary School
- Yurok Tribe

# Rebates and Programs for Your Home or Business

RCEA offers technical assistance, rebates, and incentives for all kinds of upgrades for commercial and residential customers. If you're thinking about making improvements, [check with us first](#) to find out whether you qualify for incentives.

Whether you're a renter, homeowner, or business owner, you'll find RCEA energy efficiency incentives, rebates and programs that are good for the grid and great for your wallet. (They'll make your home and workspace more comfortable, too.)

RCEA incentives can be combined with rebates and tax credits available through the Inflation Reduction Act to save even more money.

- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- Heat Pumps & Water Heaters
- Clothes Washers & Dryers
- Room Air Cleaners & Conditioners
- Refrigerators & Freezers
- Dishwashers
- Lighting
- Food Service Equipment and Induction Cooking
- Electric Vehicles and Charging Equipment

All of our programs begin with a simple Customer Interest Form to help us match you with the best programs to suit your specific needs



RCEA Customer Interest Form



**51** ✓  
Residential  
Heat Pump Rebates  
given in 2022

**150+** ✓  
Residential  
Efficiency Kits  
given in 2022

All residential customers are eligible to sign up for a No-Cost Energy Efficiency Kit customized for your home valued up to \$75.



Rebates & Resources



Watch for RCEA rebate tags on appliances at local retailers

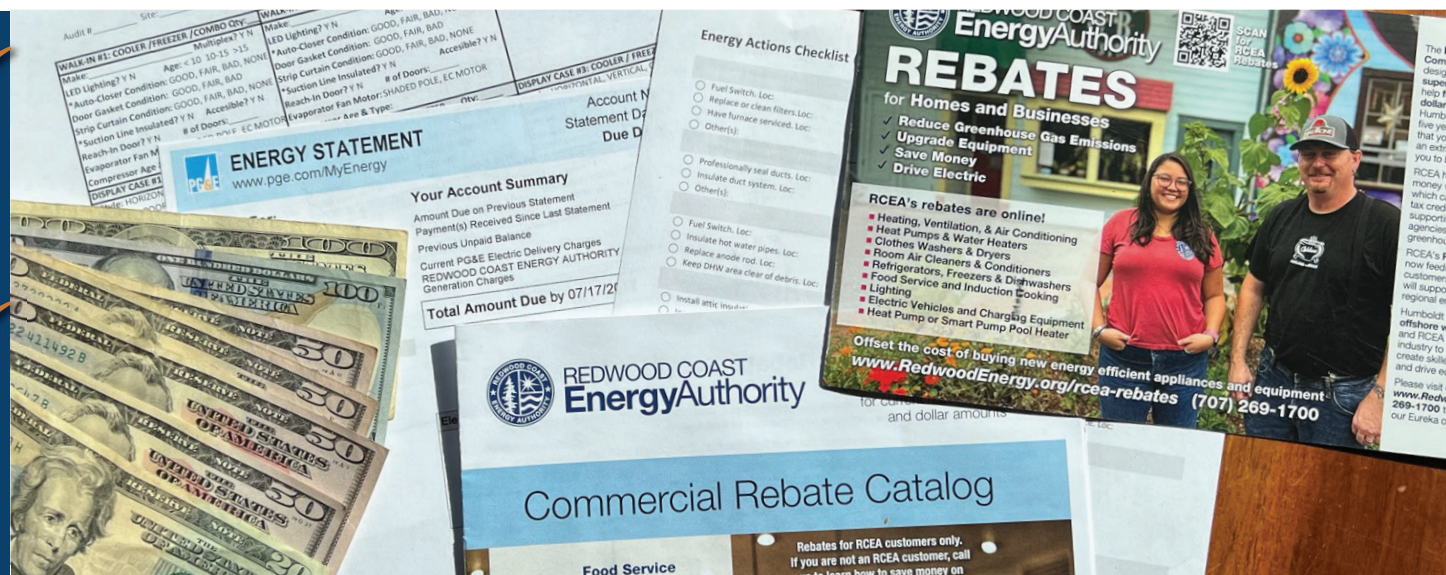


177

Residential  
Customers  
served in  
2022

157

Commercial  
Customers  
served in  
2022



## Heat Pumps

Everyone's talking about heat pumps these days, and for good reason. Heat pumps are a particularly energy efficient way to heat your space and water, dry your clothes, and even heat a pool. RCEA has incentives for all of them.

RCEA works with you to figure out which heat pump programs fit your needs, whether it be a mail-in rebate or coordinating with your contractor to help you access enhanced incentives. For a limited time, RCEA has **greatly increased incentives** for commercial customers. A no-cost assessment is required to access these higher incentives.

RCEA is also offering residential customers **generous mail-in rebates**.

RCEA rebates and incentives can be stacked on top of new federal Inflation Reduction Act rebates and tax incentives, making this Humboldt County's most generous heat pump incentive program ever! Learn more and watch our recent **heat pump presentation** here:

[RedwoodEnergy.org/heat-pump-rebates](https://RedwoodEnergy.org/heat-pump-rebates)



Did You  
Know...?

...that heat pumps use the thermodynamic cycle to move heat from one place to another – and you most likely have one in your home? A refrigerator is a heat pump that moves the heat from inside the appliance and dumps it outside through the coils. Heat pump space heaters move heat from outside your home or workplace to the inside. Heat pumps can also be run in reverse as air conditioners, making them a truly versatile appliance.

**Important note:** Heat pumps use refrigerants to move heat. While this is highly efficient, a refrigerant leak could result in many times the greenhouse gas impact of CO<sub>2</sub>. That is why it is important to have your heat pump installed by a qualified contractor. Our Contractor & Vendor Network is a good place to start.

[RedwoodEnergy.org/contractor-vendor-network](https://RedwoodEnergy.org/contractor-vendor-network).

## Humboldt County Businesses:

Sign up for a no-cost, no-obligation Energy Consultation  
and help your community at the same time!

RCEA will donate \$100 on your behalf to

## Food for People



RCEA and PG&E customers with a business account can sign up for an RCEA Energy Advisor to conduct an Energy Consultation. They will identify your business' energy needs and offer professional energy expertise and tailored solutions including ways to save, professional energy expertise, rebates and financing.

RCEA will donate up to a total of \$5,000 to Food for People under this promotion.

RCEA works closely with customers like you to develop customized energy solutions to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Here are some ways we can make meaningful improvements together.

**Energy Efficiency** Replace your appliances with ones that consume less energy and deliver the same or improved performance.

**Energy Conservation** RCEA can help you reduce your energy use with tools such as motion detectors to automatically turn lights off when not in use, and power strips to eliminate standby mode electricity consumption.

**Electrification** Switch to electric appliances and get rid of old fossil fuel burners like natural gas furnaces. High efficiency electric heat pumps plus RCEA's low-carbon electricity mix equals lower greenhouse gas emissions and a smaller carbon footprint. Sign up for RCEA's RePower+ 100% renewable and carbon free electricity mix and you'll shrink your carbon footprint even more.

**Demand Response** Use less electricity during expensive peak times of the day when the sun goes down and you'll help reduce carbon emissions. RCEA has techniques, both automated and manual, to shift your energy use to when cleaner energy flows through the grid.

**Self-Generation** RCEA has helped dozens of public agencies and schools access funding and manage projects to install solar and storage systems. We are working hard to make solar installation more affordable for residential customers, too.

**Energy Storage** Boost your energy resilience by installing battery storage at your home or business. Benefits include the ability to use your stored battery energy during expensive peak hours. Through RCEA's innovative Community Grid Program, we are providing incentives for our customers to purchase battery storage and connect to a system that will also help stabilize our local electric grid.

RCEA customers saved over 50 tons of CO2 in 2022 as a result of equipment upgrades. That's the equivalent of driving over 124,000 vehicle miles in an average gasoline vehicle.

## RCEA's Contractor & Vendor Network

Humboldt County contractors are the ones installing energy upgrades for our community, and they are the best in the state! RCEA maintains a Contractor and Vendor Network featuring local providers who understand our programs and can help you access incentives. While we might coordinate with your contractor for your benefit, we will not get between you and your chosen contractor. For details visit:

**[Redwoodenergy.org/Contractor-Vendor-Network](https://Redwoodenergy.org/Contractor-Vendor-Network)**

### Contractors:

You can apply to join the network through a simple application on our website.

**[RedwoodEnergy.org/contracting](https://RedwoodEnergy.org/contracting)**



RCEA held a contractor and vendor open house breakfast in November to provide information to the local workforce about our many offerings.

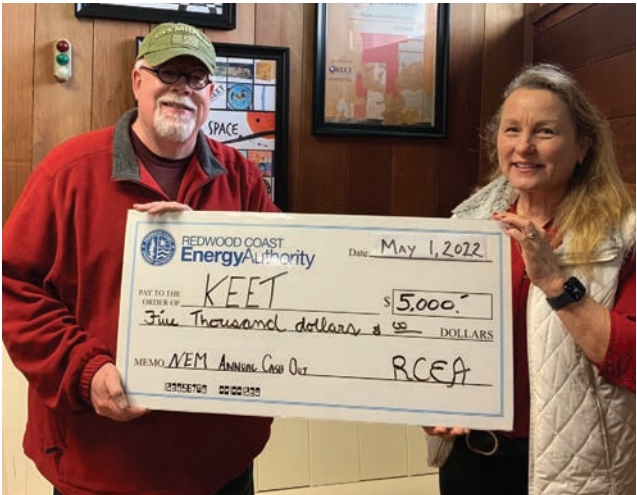




## Solar Net Energy Metering

Generate your own electricity and we'll pay for what you don't use.

RCEA is dedicated to supporting customers who want to generate their own renewable energy. RCEA's solar Net Energy Metering (NEM) customers sell energy to the grid at higher rates, buy energy at lower rates, and may earn credits or cash at the end of the year. RCEA sends checks every spring for "true-ups" over \$100. Smaller surplus balances get rolled forward as credit for the following year.



David Gordon, KEET Station Manager and Sally Regli, RCEA Account Services Manager. RCEA's **biggest NEM Payout** check for 2022 went to our local PBS station, KEET-TV. KEET's solar array is featured above.

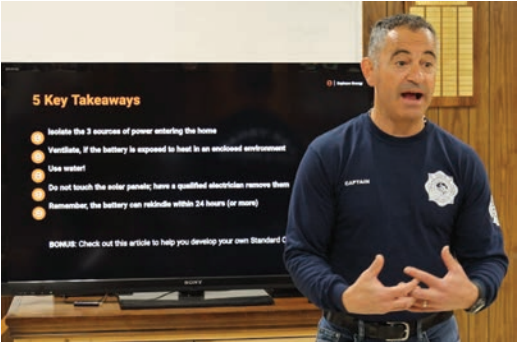
## Solar Energy Payouts to Customers

\$484,325 5-yr total	
2022	\$142,455
2021	\$182,653
2020	\$103,902
2019	\$44,733
2018	\$10,582

Customer participation has **TRIPLED** since our NEM program launched five years ago.

## First Responder Training

Basic firefighter strategies and tactics needed to fight structure fires have changed with the installation of thousands of solar panels and energy storage systems. Firefighters need updated training that addresses this new technology. RCEA hosted four such trainings in April 2022.



Captain Richard Birt conducted first responder training for fire agencies and Tribal fire agencies throughout Humboldt County.

## Coming soon: Net Billing Tariff

In December 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted a new tariff that will replace the Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariff.

The current tariff is known as NEM 2.0. The last date to enroll in NEM 2.0 was April 14, 2023. The replacement tariff, known as the Net Billing Tariff, is expected to be implemented by December 2023. The CPUC plans to release more details about the new tariff later this year.

To learn more and to see the CPUC's summary, please visit our website.

[RedwoodEnergy.org/net-energy-metering-residential](https://RedwoodEnergy.org/net-energy-metering-residential)





# Electrifying Transportation

One of RCEA's core strategic goals is decarbonizing our region by focusing on low-carbon transportation. This includes supporting efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled, increasing advanced fuel vehicles adoption and fuel efficiency, and expanding advanced fuel infrastructure.

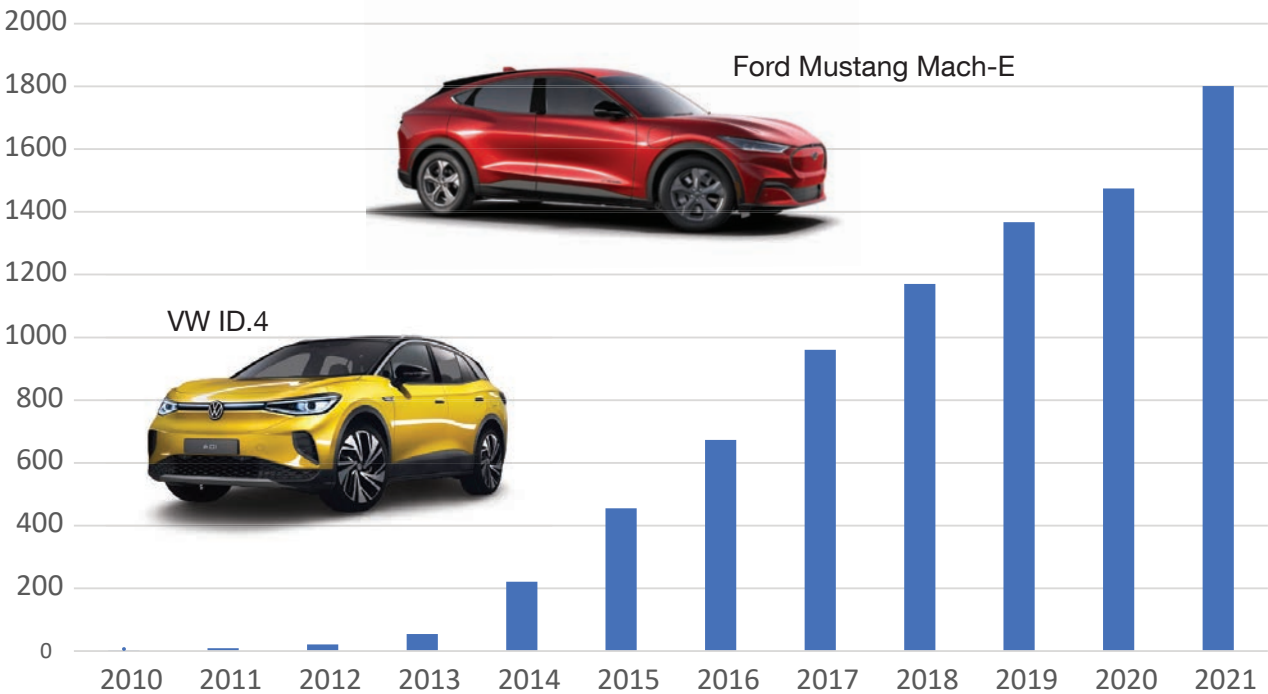
## EV Adoption

The electric vehicle (EV) industry experienced major supply issues in 2022, which limited the availability of new vehicles and also created a very tight used EV market.

Despite these hurdles, Humboldt residents continue to purchase zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), which include battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in electric hybrids (PHEVs). In 2021 county residents purchased 252 ZEVs, about 60% of which were all-electric BEVs. During the first three quarters of 2022 we added 232 ZEVs, 65% of which were BEVs. If this trend continues, Humboldt County BEV sales will be up by about 19% over 2021.

There are now 40 different commercially-available electric vehicle models driving around the county, a big step forward from the four models zipping along Humboldt roads ten years ago.

Registered EVs in Humboldt County by Year





## Electric Vehicle Charging Network

RCEA operates a network of 27 local EV charging stations with a total of 52 charging ports to fill your vehicle with 100% renewable and carbon-free electricity.

In 2023, RCEA plans to add at least three new EV charging sites with four ports each, with ten more sites in the next two to three years. Thanks to a California Energy Commission grant, the future sites will be located alongside essential services and community centers to support EV charging during outages and disasters.

See our website for charging locations and details.

***RedwoodEnergy.org/evs/public-charging***



## Rebates

**E-Bikes** RCEA plans to bring back the popular e-bike rebate program in step with the launch of the State of California's new e-bike rebate launch this spring. Stacking RCEA's rebates onto state rebates will increase customer savings. E-bikes reduce car travel, give bike riders a boost, and are a great low-cost option to get around town. Our previous rebate was all gone in 3.5 weeks, so watch our website and social media for updates.



**Electric Vehicles** Congratulations to the 43 RCEA Electric Vehicle Rebate recipients! Although this round of funding has closed, staff is tracking federal Inflation Reduction Act incentive details, and evaluating options for another round of local rebates.



**Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment** Last year RCEA issued 19 Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment rebates and still has about \$16,000 available to give out. This is a great time to take advantage of the program.



**Inflation Reduction Act** - The IRA offers tax credits and other resources for new and used electric vehicles. Visit *RedwoodEnergy.org/IRA* for details.



RCEA's Infrastructure Team:

Juliette Bohn, Mike Avcollie, Dana Boudreau, and Marianne Bithell at RCEA's C Street charging station in Eureka.



RCEA is offering scholarships for certified electricians to become certified to install EV charging stations.

For more information on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program, visit: ***evitp.org/training***

Or contact RCEA's Marianne Bithell: ***MBithell@redwoodenergy.org***



# Let us help you with your energy needs!

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority is a local, not-for-profit government agency that procures electricity. We provide the generation portion of your electricity service at no extra cost.

We also provide commercial and residential energy efficiency services to our customers.

**Remember!** Before you upgrade your home or business or purchase any kind of vehicle, let us help you navigate the vast terrain of rebates, incentives and efficiency programs.

- ✓ become more energy-efficient
- ✓ cut your costs
- ✓ reduce your carbon emissions
- ✓ drive electric

**The path  
to efficiency  
starts here.**



 **RCEA Customer Interest Form**



**20<sup>th</sup>** 2003-2023  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**Energy Innovation, Efficiency, and  
Sustainability for Humboldt County**

Founded in 2003, RCEA has been serving the Humboldt community for 20 years, providing a range of energy services --from free energy efficient light bulbs to providing the electricity to power those bulbs. Join RCEA in celebrating this milestone at the Mad River Brewery on Friday, April 28, 3-6 p.m. See details at [RedwoodEnergy.org](http://RedwoodEnergy.org). RSVPs would be appreciated!

## **VISIT RCEA AT THESE SPRING EVENTS:**

**Earth Day at the Arcata Co-op, Saturday April 22, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Earth Day at Eureka Natural Foods in McKinleyville, Sunday April 23, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Bike Month Bike Celebration at the Jefferson Community Center, Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**HUMBOLDT'S ELECTRIC FUTURE, June 2023 - details TBD**

**Event details and more are on our website : [Redwoodenergy.org/events](http://Redwoodenergy.org/events)**

**(707) 269-1700 | [info@RedwoodEnergy.org](mailto:info@RedwoodEnergy.org) | [www.RedwoodEnergy.org](http://www.RedwoodEnergy.org)  
633 3rd St., Eureka, CA 95501**