



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

633 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

**Jefferson Community Center Auditorium
1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501**

**May 14, 2024
Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Any member of the public needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting or access the meeting materials should email LTaketa@redwoodenergy.org or call (707) 269-1700 at least 3 business days before the meeting. Assistive listening devices are available.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, all writings or documents relating to any item on this agenda which have been provided to a majority of the Community Advisory Committee, including those received less than 72 hours prior to the Committee's meeting, will be made available to the public at www.RedwoodEnergy.org.

NOTE: Speakers wishing to distribute materials to the Committee at the meeting, please provide 17 copies to the Board Clerk.

THIS IS A HYBRID IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING.

The Community Advisory Committee has returned to in-person hybrid meetings. When attending CAC meetings, please socially distance as much as possible and be courteous to those who choose to wear a mask.

To participate in the meeting by phone, call (669) 900-6833 or (253) 215-8782. Enter webinar ID: 822 2338 1610. **To participate in the meeting online**, join the Zoom webinar at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82223381610>.

To comment by phone or online during the public comment periods, raise your hand in the online Zoom webinar, or press star (*) 9 on your phone to raise your hand. You will continue to hear the meeting while you wait. When it is your turn to speak, a staff member will ask you to unmute your phone or computer. You will have 3 minutes to speak.

You may email written comments to PublicComment@redwoodenergy.org. **Please identify the agenda item number in the subject line.** Comments will be included in the meeting record but not read aloud during the meeting.

While downloading the Zoom application may provide a better meeting experience, Zoom does not need to be installed on your computer to participate. After clicking the webinar link above, click "start from your browser."

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When														
1. Open	<p><u>Roll Call:</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Norman Bell</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Luna Latimer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth Burks</td> <td>Ethan Lawton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deborah Dukes</td> <td>Dennis Leonardi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Fiske</td> <td>Kit Mann</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Honar</td> <td>Pliny McCovey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Johnson</td> <td>Michael Shackelford</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Kris Mobley, Board Liaison</td> </tr> </table> <p>Remote member participation:</p> <p><u>Action (if needed): Approve teleconference participation request for this meeting by committee member pursuant to Brown Act revisions of AB 2449 due to an emergency circumstance to be briefly described.</u></p> <p>Review meeting agenda and goals.</p>	Norman Bell	Luna Latimer	Elizabeth Burks	Ethan Lawton	Deborah Dukes	Dennis Leonardi	Colin Fiske	Kit Mann	Chris Honar	Pliny McCovey	Richard Johnson	Michael Shackelford		Kris Mobley, Board Liaison	6-6:05 p.m. (5 min.)
Norman Bell	Luna Latimer															
Elizabeth Burks	Ethan Lawton															
Deborah Dukes	Dennis Leonardi															
Colin Fiske	Kit Mann															
Chris Honar	Pliny McCovey															
Richard Johnson	Michael Shackelford															
	Kris Mobley, Board Liaison															
2. Non-Agenda Item Public Comment	<p>This item is provided for the public to address the Committee on matters not on the agenda. At the end of public comments, the Committee may respond to statements, or refer requests requiring action to the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.</p>	6:05 – 6:10 p.m. (5 min.)														
3. Consent Calendar	<p>All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by the CAC and are enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion of any of these items. If discussion is required, that item is removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. At the end of the reading of the Consent Calendar, CAC members or members of the public can request that an item be removed for separate discussion.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3.1. <u>Approve March 12, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes.</u></p>	6:10 – 6:15 p.m. (5 min.)														
4. Items Removed from Consent Calendar	<p>This time is set aside for discussion of items removed from the Consent Calendar.</p>	6:15 – 6:20 p.m. (5 min.)														

Agenda Item / What	How / Action <u>Underlined actions</u> indicate that a vote is needed.	When
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5. Chair / Vice Chair Election	Action: <u>Accept nominations for, and appoint, a Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair for terms beginning May 14, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025.</u>	6:20 - 6:25 p.m. (5 min.)
6. New / Existing Member Training	Action: Review California government agency open meeting and ethics laws with RCEA General Counsel. (Information only)	6:25 - 6:45 p.m. (20 min.)
7. Subcommittee Volunteer Opportunity / Work Goal Review	Action: Review current CAC work groups/ad hoc subcommittees. Accept CAC volunteers for subcommittees.	6:45 – 6:55 p.m. (10 min.)
8. Proposed Customer Battery Storage Rebate	Action: Hear report on Customer Programs Subcommittee/contractor rebate work session. <u>Discuss and make a recommendation to RCEA’s Board of Directors.</u>	6:55 – 7:20 p.m. (25 min.)
9. Executive Director’s Report	Action: Hear updates from Eileen Verbeck, Interim Executive Director.	7:20 – 7:25 p.m. (5 min.)
10. Member and Board Liaison Reports	This time is provided for Committee members and the Board Liaison to share information on topics not on the agenda. At the end of member reports, the Executive Director will set requests requiring action to a future agenda or refer requests to staff or the Board. 10.1. Board Liaison 10.2. Committee Members	7:25 – 7:30 p.m. (5 min.)
11. Close & Adjourn		7:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR CAC MEETING – Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Jefferson Community Center Auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

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**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 1**

AGENDA DATE:	May 14, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Member Teleconference Participation

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 State of Emergency ended on February 28, 2023, and RCEA Board and CAC meetings returned to meeting in-person at a physical location, with allowances under existing Brown Act rules or new AB 2449 Brown Act rules should a Board or CAC member need to participate from a remote location for certain reasons. If another state of emergency is declared, these bodies may be able to return to completely remote meetings.

SUMMARY

CAC members may attend up to two meetings per year from a remote location without making the location accessible to the public for the following reasons:

1. "Just cause"
 - a. To provide childcare or caregiving need to a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner;
 - b. Due to a contagious illness that prevents the member from attending in-person;
 - c. Due to a need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Government Code sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated; and
 - d. Due to travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.
2. "Emergency circumstance" due to a physical or family medical emergency that prevents the member from attending in person.

If the CAC member would like to attend the meeting remotely due to an emergency circumstance, the committee will take action by majority vote to approve the member's remote participation. A vote is not necessary for a request to attend remotely for just cause. A brief description, protecting the member's (or member's family member's) medical privacy, needs to be provided in both cases.

The remotely participating CAC member needs to publicly disclose at the meeting before any action (vote) is taken, whether anyone 18 years of age or older is present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the individual's relationship with the CAC member.

If the CAC member anticipates needing to participate remotely for more than 2 meetings per year or for non-just cause or emergency reasons, staff recommends arranging for a publicly and ADA accessible space with visual and audio meeting capabilities from which to participate in keeping with previous Brown Act teleconference meeting requirements.

Staff asks to be notified one-week in advance, if possible, of remote meeting attendance so the member's publicly and ADA accessible remote meeting address can be published in the agenda, as may be required per Brown Act open meeting laws.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve teleconference participation request for this meeting by committee member pursuant to Brown Act revisions of AB 2449 due to an emergency circumstance to be briefly described.



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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

March 12, 2024 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Community Advisory Committee Chair Dennis Leonardi called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order on the above date at 6 p.m. at the Jefferson Community Center auditorium, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA. The agenda for this meeting was posted on March 1, 2024.

Members present:

Norman Bell

Elizabeth Burks (remote – just cause)

Deborah Dukes

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg

Christopher Honar

Luna Latimer (remote - Orleans, CA)

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Chair

Kit Mann

Emily Morris (remote – just cause)

Jerome Qiriazzi, Vice Chair

Jeff Trirogoff

Members absent: Richard Johnson

Board Liaison present: Kris Mobley (non-voting)

Staff present:

Ronnie Chaussé, Finance Specialist

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Sally Regli, Account Services Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

There were no comments on topics not listed on the agenda.

Consent Calendar

3.1. Approve February 13, 2024, CAC Special Meeting Minutes.

Neither committee members nor public participants requested discussion of any item.

Motion Goldberg, Second Lawton: Approve February 13, 2024, CAC special meeting minutes.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Ayes: Bell, Dukes, Fiske, Goldberg, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Morris, Qiriazzi. Noes: None. Abstain: Burks, Honar, Trirogoff. Absent: Johnson.

5. Humboldt Sawmill Biomass Discussion

Chair Leonardi explained discussion ground rules and the intent to inform committee members of multiple perspectives so they can recommend an action to the Board.

Dr. Wendy Ring of the Humboldt Coalition for Clean Energy described how the Scotia biomass plant's emissions harm public and planetary health in the context of greenhouse gas emission tipping points which current trajectories show the planet crossing in less than 6 years. Dr. Ring described the HSC power plant's air quality violation history. Standards are based on maximum emissions control technology achievable by power plants, not health-based criteria. Dr. Ring asked RCEA to procure renewable energy from less expensive, cleaner sources.

RCEA Power Resources Director Richard Engel described RCEA's reasons for local biomass procurement since 2017 and agency efforts to address community concerns over that period. The RCEA Biomass Technical Advisory Group considered recent Scotia power plant violation concerns but could not agree on a recommended Board action. HSC biomass power helps RCEA meet state renewable energy and resource adequacy mandates and RCEA Board local clean energy procurement guidelines at a competitive price. The HSC contract was extended to fill the mandated procurement gap left by the failed Terra-Gen wind project, a local, renewable, utility scale power source.

Humboldt Sawmill Company's Executive Vice President of Operations Dean Kerstetter explained how the state regulates Humboldt Redwood Company's timberland management as part of its wildfire risk reduction efforts. Mr. Kerstetter described the power plant's role in generating both power and heat from unsellable lumber-making waste products to run the sawmill and lumber drying kiln. This system is the company's lowest-emission solution to address production and waste management. By early 2025 HSC will have invested \$15.5 million in power plant improvements since the facility's 2015 purchase. The power plant meets federal Clean Air Act Title V permit program requirements.

Yana Valachovic of UC Cooperative Extension for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties described biomass power plants' role in regional ecosystem management, carbon sequestration and wildfire risk management. Ms. Valachovic described the statewide scale of wildfire losses and advocated for a "yes, and" approach where biomass power is one of many methods to address the wildfires that have consumed one of every eight acres of forested California land in the last decade.

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District Air Pollution Control Officer Brian Wilson described Humboldt Sawmill Company's monitoring technology, emissions testing measures, permit status, citizen complaint and violation history, and the Air District's notice of violation issuing method. Mr. Wilson described how the Scotia plant differs from other emission-producing biomass plants and the Air Quality Management District's role to monitor and enforce compliance with existing regulations and limitations. Mr. Wilson noted RCEA's role to determine HSC's contract compliance.

The committee members discussed the following with the presenters:

- Whether staying in a contract with HSC gives RCEA more influence on power plant operations.
- HSC would likely sell excess power and valuable resource adequacy attributes to PG&E and continue operation if RCEA terminated its contract.
- RCEA's need for biomass energy would decrease if more customers opted up to REpower+, RCEA's 100% renewable energy service. Only about 1% of RCEA customers have opted up so far.
- HSC produces 200 cubic yards of biochar per day from mill waste. The current market cannot accommodate more biochar production, which can sequester carbon for long periods and reduce criteria emissions to 1/10 of biomass power emissions.
- HSC contracted with a consulting firm to identify alternative sawmill waste uses. No commercial alternatives of adequate scale currently exist in the region. HSC will test an alternative biomass use in Mendocino first then in Humboldt.
- Wildfire emissions dwarf biomass plant emissions and have exceeded the state's CO2 reduction accomplishments.
- While for-profit corporations can focus solely on financial concerns, public agencies must consider broader needs such as health, equity and carbon emissions' social costs.
- The HSC plant uses best available control technologies. Other technologies to control smaller particles exist, but these measures are not required or regulated.
- RCEA's power portfolio manager, The Energy Authority, projected an additional \$50 million in costs through 2031 if RCEA terminated the HSC contract. Cost increase causes would be: finding and contracting new-construction solar plus storage projects; penalties for unmet state requirements and timelines; and very expensive short-term replacement resource adequacy, renewable certificates, and energy contracts. Cost increase impacts on RCEA's renewable goals, financial viability and customer rates were discussed.
- The region would benefit from constructing new facilities to manage its forest growth rates. New industrial projects are difficult to site and develop in California. Upgrading existing plants is more attractive and efficient as a result. The HSC plant's statewide generation efficiency rank was discussed.
- The need for 24/7 reliable, baseload power increases as more renewable but intermittent power flows into the grid, increasing HSC's baseload power capacity value. Other state energy planning policies encouraging biomass and other renewable energy development, such as BioMAT, were described. BioMAT could help pay for new technology power plants that run on biomass or dairy waste.
- HSC's power could be replaced by offshore wind power. Offshore wind power will not come online until the mid-2030's, after the 2031 HSC contract end.
- RCEA can end its contract with HSC if HSC does not comply with air quality laws on an ongoing basis. HSC may need to perform a health risk analysis to identify actual health impacts.
- Biomass power, like all power sources, has impacts. Impacts of all sources should be considered.

The following community members commented at the meeting:

Roberta Welty, Eureka resident, supported RCEA's continuation of the HSC contract to maintain a higher level of local regulation.

Mary Hurley, Eureka resident, opposed the HSC contract due to climate emergency tipping point impacts and favored cleaner energy sources.

Kristy Prescott, forest service social scientist, supported the HSC contract for biomass utilization and wildfire crisis mitigation, and alternate biomass use development. Ending the HSC contract could discourage other alternate biomass use investment in the area.

An unnamed member of public requested wide distribution of the air quality health risk analysis and information on how much capital is directed to biomass energy and other energy sources.

John Schaefer, Arcata resident, stated that it was unfair that four speakers were aligned in opinion against one speaker, opposed the biomass contract, supported near or onshore wind power and asked for stakeholders to work together on a solution.

Geoffrey Robinson, Blue Lake resident, disagreed with the statement that commercial logging mitigates wildfire risk and opposed RCEA helping the logging industry with its waste problem.

Eureka resident Cena Marino called for more stringent emissions standards to decrease atmospheric warming and volunteered to donate her solar true up refund to RCEA to lower carbon emissions.

Joann Kerns, Eureka resident, opposed the HSC contract because biomass is not clean energy, has health impacts and goes against RCEA's 100% clean and renewable energy by 2025 goal.

Martha Walden opposed carbon-intensive electricity due to externalized health and climate costs and supported more solar and battery storage procurement.

Stephen Paytash asked that RCEA promote its REpower+ service to increase customer participation and increase wind, solar and hydropower procurement.

Chris Lee, Westhaven resident and forest health specialist stated that 160 million trees died during California's 5-year drought and the state has too many trees in too little space. Forest residue processing infrastructure is connected to forest health.

Paul Harper, Arcata resident, spoke of the biomass plant's importance to the wood products industry, landowners of different scales for forest management, and wildfire risk reduction.

Jared Gerstein, Arcata resident and forester, spoke about the need for a functional

forest product sector and biomass plant to complement limited prescribed fire treatment ability. Mr. Gerstein stated that biomass energy is part of a reasonable solution.

Corinne Frugoni, physician and Humboldt Del Norte Medical Society member, opposed biomass incineration due to serious health problems from small particulate emissions. Dr. Frugoni cited poor Humboldt County asthma and cardiovascular disease statistics.

Michael Shapiro, Bayside resident, opposed biomass energy due to the too long carbon recovery time and short timeframe to mitigate climate change.

Mark André, Arcata resident and local forester, expressed support for RCEA procuring local biomass energy and a need for more biomass facilities on the North Coast to avoid mill waste transport emissions and costs.

Marla Weston, Eureka resident, stated that the Air District has more leverage to control HSC's actions than does RCEA and must hold HSC accountable for violations.

Chip Sharpe requested more information about opting up to RCEA's REpower+ 100% service. Mr. Sharp opposed biomass energy and supported more rooftop distributed solar with battery storage availability.

Mike Miles, Eureka resident and Humboldt Redwood Company Forestry Operations Director, supported the biomass plant contract and HSC's \$15.5 million power plant improvements. Mr. Miles expressed appreciation for the community holding HSC accountable and trust in California's stringent air quality standards and enforcement.

Jake Morris, Morris Logging Company owner, stated that HSC's biomass plant is cleaner than wildfires, plays a significant local green waste diversion role, and requested more local forest waste outlets. Mr. Morris stated that he owns the region's largest compost facility and the local customer base cannot support the volume of compost local green waste could produce.

Melodie Meyer of the Environmental Protection Information Center urged the CAC to recommend early HSC contract termination due to HSC's pattern of non-compliance. Ms. Meyer stated that the contract contradicts RCEA's policies and goals and tarnishes the agency's reputation.

Walt Paniak opposed biomass power due to cost relative to cleaner renewable energy sources and climate crisis concerns. Mr. Paniak submitted his calculations with his written comments.

Diane Ryerson, Arcata resident, opposed biomass due to the forest's inability to grow back quickly enough to prevent climate change impacts and opposed the statement that logging supports wildfire prevention. Ms. Ryerson supports distributed solar energy.

Randy Ganz, Mendocino and Humboldt Redwood Companies byproducts manager, pointed to negative impacts of trucking 18,000 semi truckloads of forest waste to other

locations each year and to negative impacts of all renewable energy sources. Mr. Ganz supports biomass energy as a local energy source from fuel grown in Forest Stewardship Council regulated local forests.

Caroline Griffith of the Northcoast Environmental Center opposed the HSC biomass contract and called for phasing out the power plant due to its high greenhouse gas emissions and lower efficiency compared to the gas-powered Humboldt Bay Generating Station. Ms. Griffith does not agree that commercial logging helps wildfire reduction.

Dan Close, Rainforest Action Group founder, opposed the HSC contract and pointed to climate change's role in creating hotter forest fires. Mr. Close stated the need for small-scale forest solutions and that RCEA is greenwashing biomass energy.

Ann Kilby, Kneeland resident, expressed gratitude for the divergent opinions expressed and observed that all opinions and abilities must work together to address rising global temperature tipping points.

Online participant George Rogers III, Chairman and CEO of the National E-Force, asked RCEA to partner with seven Native American tribes to pursue \$350 million in NTIA grants to develop a long-life, coal-based battery with a communications ability.

Susan Parsons thanked Wendy Ring for her leadership and reminded RCEA of its responsibility to protect public health. Ms. Parsons requested RCEA find new solutions.

Will Brieger, a retired environmental lawyer, opposed biomass combustion power and reliance on the Environmental Protection Agency and Air District to address the plant's problems.

Lynda McDevitt of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship opposed the HSC contract due to concerns that pollution and CO2 emissions undermine healthy and secure communities.

Julie Christie, Blue Lake resident, supported continuing the HSC contract, pointed to the lack of Rio Dell citizen health complaints, and expressed the need for existing and new local energy sources for self-sufficiency in the context of deteriorating grid infrastructure.

Daniel Chandler opposed the HSC contract due to carbon sequestration timing issues and imminent global warming climate disaster tipping points.

Ellen Golla called for ending the HSC biomass contract due to hazards to the community. Ms. Golla stated RCEA tarnishes its image by continuing the contract.

Carrie Peyton Dahlberg, Trinidad resident, asked RCEA to honor its mission by ending the HSC contract and to not be responsible for solving the timber industry's waste problem.

Ellen Taylor, Petrolia resident and Lost Coast League Chair, opposed the HSC contract and supported rooftop solar as a means of gaining autonomy.

Written comments opposing the HSC biomass contract were received from the following community members:

Andrea Armin	Kathryn Donahue	Jennifer Knight
Gisele Albertine	Gary Falxa	Craig Knox
Carolyn Ayres	Tina Garsen	Kristin Martinique
Helen Azevedo-Gale	Eric Grantz	Lynda McDevitt
Stacy Becker	Andrew Greer	Maria Mehegan
Petra Bingham	Catherine Hart	Sue Y. Lee Mossman
Barbara and John Brimlow	Patty Harvey	Juliet O'Barr
Olivia Brock	Carolyn Hawkins	Walt Paniak
Jennie Brown	Dorre Kidd Howard	Sue Parsons
Barbara Burns	Nancy Ihara	Gary Rees
Daniel Chandler	Jessica	Geoffrey Robinson
Suzanne Cook	Colleen Kandus	Diane Ryerson
Gail Coonen	Rena Kaminsky	Richard Salzman
Lee Dedini	Pat Kanzler	Steve Salzman
Marc Delany	Kathleen Kelcey	Emily Siegel
Joan Dixon	Joyce King	

The following groups are members of the Humboldt Coalition for Clean Energy, which submitted a comment letter:

350 Humboldt	Lost Coast League
Humboldt Unitarian Climate Action Campaign	Sierra Club Redwoods North Group
EPIC	Friends of the Eel River
Northcoast Environmental Center	Humboldt Green Party
Women's Intl League for Peace & Freedom-Humboldt	Humboldt Democratic Central Committee
Humboldt Health Care for All	Humboldt Progressive Democrats
Buddhist Peace Fellowship	Climate Health Now
HOPE Coalition	CA Alliance for Retired Americans-North State
Redwood Alliance	CA Nurses for Environmental Health & Justice

Matthew Simmons, EPIC Climate Attorney (submitted by Wendy Ring and Melodie Meyer)
Jason Davis, NCUAQMD Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer (submitted by Wendy Ring and Melodie Meyer)
Howard Hughes, EHS Compliance Specialist (submitted by Wendy Ring and Melodie Meyer)

Written comment in support of RCEA's contract with RCEA was received from the following community members:

Les A. Charter	Charity Marcelli
Teresa Davis	Rob McBeth, O & M Industries
Michael Furniss	Kris Payne
Treasure Hunt	

The Community Advisory Committee Charter requires a 2/3 vote of the full committee (10 votes) if there is significant disagreement over a recommendation.

Motion Qiriaz, Second Fiske: Recommend that the RCEA Board exits the contract with Humboldt Sawmill Company as soon as a viable long term replacement contract can be negotiated that allows RCEA to meet its compliance requirements.

The motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Dukes, Fiske, Honar, Morris, Qiriaz. Noes: Burks, Goldberg, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann. Abstain: Bell, Trirogoff. Absent: Johnson.

Motion Bell, Second Trirogoff: Recommend the RCEA Board terminate the contract with Humboldt Sawmill Company in three years unless HSC can eliminate greenhouse gas production in the process.

The motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Bell, Dukes, Fiske, Morris, Trirogoff. Noes: Burks, Goldberg, Honar, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann. Abstain: Qiriaz. Absent: Johnson.

Staff will provide the Board with a summary of the different points of view presented at this meeting. Chair Leonardi, Vice Chair Qiriaz, and members Lawton and Honar volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to review the summary before presentation to the Board.

Motion Trirogoff, Second Bell: Call a special meeting of the Community Advisory Committee within 72 hours to entertain George Roger's proposal to obtain \$350 million for battery storage development.

The motion failed with the following vote: Ayes: Bell, Trirogoff. Noes: Burks, Dukes, Fiske, Goldberg, Honar, Latimer, Lawton, Leonardi, Mann, Morris, Qiriaz. Abstain: None. Absent: Johnson.

6. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Marshall reported his impending departure from RCEA at the end of the month. Member Lawton thanked staff.

Chair Leonardi adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 8**

AGENDA DATE:	May 14, 2023
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	Selection of CAC Chair and Vice Chair

BACKGROUND

Following procedure outlined in the Community Advisory Committee Charter, the chair and vice chair are to be selected during the first quarter of each calendar year. The term for each role shall be one year, beginning in April and ending the following April. According to the Charter, no member will serve as chair or vice chair for more than two consecutive terms.

Current Chair Dennis Leonardi has served in his role for two consecutive terms. The Vice Chair position is currently vacant due to a change in CAC membership. Chair Dennis Leonardi served as Vice Chair for two consecutive terms in 2020 and 2021.

The duty of the chair is to:

- Facilitate meetings, or request staff assistance to facilitate meetings
- On an as-needed basis, call special meetings between regularly scheduled meetings
- Encourage participation and help create a civil, collaborative environment
- Make sure each committee members' thoughts and ideas are heard and that input and feedback from the public is fairly considered for each discussion item
- Help group stay focused on task and build agreements.

The vice chair fulfils these roles when the chair is unavailable.

The CAC membership term expiration dates are as follows:

Representing Jurisdiction	Member Name	Term Expiration
At-Large	Colin Fiske	3/31/2026
At-Large	Pliny McCovey	3/31/2026
Appointed Members		
Arcata	Norman Bell	3/31/2025
Blue Lake	Kit Mann	3/31/2025
Blue Lake Rancheria	Michael Shackelford	3/31/2026
County 1	Luna Latimer	3/31/2025
County 2	Christopher Honar	3/31/2025

County 3	vacant	3/31/2026
Eureka	Deborah Dukes	3/31/2025
Ferndale	Dennis Leonardi	3/31/2026
Fortuna	Elizabeth Burks	3/31/2026
HBMWD	Ethan Lawton	3/31/2026
Rio Dell	Vacant	3/31/2026
Trinidad	Richard Johnson	3/31/2025
Yurok Tribe	vacant	3/31/2026

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept nominations for, and appoint, a Community Advisory Committee chair and vice chair for terms beginning May 14, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025.



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 6**

AGENDA DATE:	May 14, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director Nancy Diamond, RCEA General Counsel
SUBJECT:	New and Existing CAC Member Training

BACKGROUND

The RCEA Board of Directors formed the Community Advisory Committee in 2016 to help plan and conduct informational public workshops about the proposed Community Choice Energy program, gather and synthesize community feedback and develop program implementation recommendations for the Board of Directors. After the CCE program launch, the Board voted to continue the CAC to fulfil the adjusted role of supporting RCEA public engagement efforts and provide decision-making support and input to the RCEA Board.

Community Advisory Committee key points:

- The CAC was formed as a Brown Act body following California’s open meeting laws.
- The CAC is advisory in nature and has no final decision-making authority.
- Any activity or recommendation from the CAC requiring policy direction or action is presented to the Executive Director and/or the Board Liaison to refer to the Board.
- CAC agendas are developed by the Executive Director and include Board-requested items and items deemed appropriate by the Executive Director.
- CAC members must follow California local government official ethics practices and financial transparency requirements.

SUMMARY

To help CAC members efficiently fulfil their role within the agency, the Board has instructed staff to familiarize members with RCEA’s work as well as with ethics requirements. Following Political Reform Act requirements will protect the agency’s reputation and ability to further its mission within the community.

RCEA General Counsel Nancy Diamond will provide an overview of the Brown Act open meeting law, the CAC Charter, RCEA’s Conflict of Interest Code and general local government agency ethics requirements and recusal procedures.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. Information only.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AND ATTACHMENTS

In preparation for this training session, please review these links:

- Watch “[How were CCAs formed in California?](#)” (length: 12:19) Includes: California Energy Crisis context, founding bipartisan legislative bill, CCA concept and growth.
- Watch “[RCEA’s Mission and History](#)” (length: 7:54) Presentation by Matthew Marshall. Includes: RCEA’s 2003 founding, purpose, organizational chart.
- Read [Community Advisory Committee Charter](#), attached:
<https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CAC-Charter-Revised-5.10.2022.pdf>.
- Scan [RePower Humboldt](#),” RCEA’s Board-approved strategic plan, attached:
<https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RePower-2019-Update-FINAL-.pdf>.

Key webpages/documents:

- RCEA [organizational chart](#), <https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Organizational-Chart-Adopted-August-2023.pdf>.
- Community Advisory Committee webpage, <https://redwoodenergy.org/cac/>. Includes upcoming and past meeting agendas, minutes.
- Board and CAC Member Reference webpage, <https://redwoodenergy.org/bodreference/>. Includes: government transparency information, RCEA key document links, Community Choice Energy FAQs, links to customer program pages.
- [Opt up to REpower+](#), RCEA’s 100% renewable and carbon-free energy service, <https://redwoodenergy.org/residential-electricity-service/#1679608337938-db11d732-c7b7>.
- RCEA [resilience projects](#), <https://redwoodenergy.org/resilience/>.
- Map of [public agencies](#) served, <https://redwoodenergy.org/local-agencies/>.
- Residential and commercial energy efficiency [rebates](#), <https://redwoodenergy.org/rcea-rebates/>.
- RCEA Board of Directors [Operating Guidelines](#), https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/RCEA_Board-Operating-Guidelines_8.22.19-with-rev-voting.pdf.

REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

Adopted 6-20-16, Revised 8-21-18, 5-10-22

Public Engagement Process

Purpose of Redwood Coast Energy Authority

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) is a Joint Powers Authority whose members include the County of Humboldt, the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

RCEA's purpose is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region.

Purpose of Public Engagement

- Provide clarity to the public and the board on RCEA programs, particularly the Community Choice Energy Program (CCE)
- Provide education to increase understanding and awareness of RCEA programs
- Build trust and confidence in the programs with the public
- Create inclusion for members of the public so they are—and feel—heard and understood
- Build community support for RCEA programs
- Provide input to the board and staff before decisions are made
- Engage a broad diversity of community stakeholders
- Ensure that RCEA decisions are made in alignment with explicitly stated criteria

Goals and Desired Outcomes of Public Engagement

- Community enthusiasm and support for RCEA decisions
- High participation in the public engagement process
- Establish and maintain high standards for public engagement strategies and processes
- High CCE customer participation rate (>90%)

RCEA Public Engagement Principles

Accountability and Transparency

RCEA will enable the public to participate in decision making by providing clear information on the issues, the ways to participate, and how their participation contributes to the decision.

Fairness and Respect

RCEA will maintain a safe environment that cultivates and supports respectful public engagement.

Accessibility	RCEA will respect and encourage participation by providing ample public notice of opportunities, resources, and accommodations that enable all to participate.
Predictability and Consistency	RCEA will prepare the public to participate by providing meeting agendas, discussion guidelines, notes, and information on next steps.
Efficient Use of Resources	RCEA will balance its commitment to provide ample opportunities for public involvement with its commitment to delivering government services efficiently and using RCEA resources wisely to make effective forward progress on RCEA's goals.
Evaluation	RCEA will monitor and evaluate its public participation efforts to identify and act on opportunities to improve its processes.

Charter of the Community Advisory Committee

Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The role of the Community Advisory Committee is to support RCEA public engagement efforts and to provide decision-making support and input to the RCEA Board. ▪ The Community Advisory Committee is a Brown Act body and will abide by that Act's open meeting rules. ▪ When the need arises, the committee will help plan and conduct community meetings to educate and/or get input from the public on RCEA programs. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping develop the content and process for the meetings • Participating in and assisting with facilitating the meetings • Understanding and summarizing the feedback from the meetings • Providing the RCEA Board with a synthesis of the feedback from the meetings • Making recommendations to the board based on the feedback from the meetings.
Advisory Committee Decision-Making Process	<p>Agree on the recommendations to the RCEA Board by consensus. In other words, every Advisory Committee member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understands the decision ▪ Has had a chance to express their concerns ▪ States that they are willing to actively support the decision(s). <p>Every effort will be made to reach consensus. When consensus on any recommendation cannot be reached in a timely fashion and there is significant disagreement over direction, the decision will "fallback to" and be made by a super majority (two-thirds) of the full committee. In the event of a "fallback decision," the board will request that the broad range of thinking underlying the recommendations be reported. The RCEA Board will make the final decision.</p>

**Advisory Committee
Decision-Making
Process (continued)**

Quorum to conduct business is 50%+1 (8) of committee membership.

This committee is advisory in nature and shall have no final decision-making authority. Any activity or recommendation from this committee requiring policy direction or action shall be presented to the Executive Director and/or the RCEA Board Liaison who will refer the request to the board.

**RCEA Board Liaison
Member(s) Role**

- Contribute content knowledge and board perspective
- Encourage participation and help create a civil, collaborative environment
- Communicate committee recommendations and perspectives to the board
- Participate as a non-voting committee member.
- Attend all agreed-upon meetings. If the Board liaison is unable to participate, they will request that the alternate Board liaison attend the meeting.

Committee Member's Role

- Participate actively and fully in committee work to achieve the charter
- Surface issues and work to resolve them collaboratively
- Take responsibility for assignments between meetings and preparing for meetings
- Actively solicit and encourage participation in community meetings
- Actively challenge themselves to understand different perspectives on the committee and from the public
- Attend all agreed-upon meetings. If a committee member is unable to participate fully and has frequent absences, the board will replace the member.
- Appointments are two years long, staggered, and expire on March 31st.

Chair/Vice Chair Roles

- The duty of the chair will be to:
 - Facilitate meetings, or request staff assistance to facilitate meetings
 - On an as-needed basis, call special meetings between regularly scheduled meetings
 - Encourage participation and help create a civil, collaborative environment
 - Make sure each committee members' thoughts and ideas are heard and that input and feedback from the public is fairly considered for each discussion item
 - Help group stay focused on task and build agreements.

- Vice chair fulfills these roles when the chair is unavailable.
- Individual nominations for each role will be made at a regular or specially scheduled CAC meeting.
- The election of the chair and vice chair shall be held during the first quarter of each calendar year.
 - The term shall be one year, expiring on March 31st.
 - No member will be allowed to serve as chair or vice chair for more than two consecutive terms.
 - Selection of nominees will follow the CAC decision-making process outlined above. Should consensus or super-majority not be possible, the CAC will appoint the member with the most votes to the role of chair and the member with the second-highest vote count to vice chair.

RCEA Supporting Staff Roles

- A staff member or members will capture committee members' and the public's ideas during meetings and document meeting notes.
- Staff will provide guidance and content expertise, or request content advice and expertise from technical experts as needed.
- Provide support for scheduling and noticing meetings, transcribing notes, preparing documents for the committee and board.
- Help plan and facilitate committee and community meetings.

Proposed Ground Rules

- Listen carefully — try to understand, **first**.
- Ask questions to increase your understanding of others' points of view.
- Be open to divergent views.
- Keep the "good of the whole" in mind at all times.
- Help the group stay on track.
- Share the "air time."
- One speaker at a time (avoid interrupting each other).
- End group meetings with an evaluation of how you are doing as a committee.
- Have fun!

Meeting Procedures

- Plan outcomes and agenda for each meeting beforehand.
- Review and agree on outcomes and agenda at start of each meeting.
- Close each meeting by summarizing agreements, action items and evaluating committee functioning.
- Distribute meeting notes within a reasonable amount of time following each meeting.
- Distribute meeting agendas prior to the meetings.

RePower Humboldt

The Redwood Coast
Energy Authority's
Comprehensive Action
Plan for Energy

2019 UPDATE

12-12-19



REDWOOD COAST
Energy Authority



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Executive Summary

Consistent with Humboldt County’s General Plan, the County of Humboldt recognizes the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (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. This action plan consists of implementation measures specific to the functions of RCEA as the regional energy authority for Humboldt County and in alignment with the mission and purpose in RCEA’s Joint Powers Agreement, which is to:

Develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region.

The strategies within this 2019 update of the RePower Humboldt strategic plan will be implemented between 2020-2030 to achieve the goals listed below. Reduction targets are from a baseline year of 2018, unless otherwise stated. While this plan has a ten-year time horizon, RCEA will revisit it regularly during that period to keep it updated and reflective of changes to our community’s needs and energy market trends.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

RCEA will take a leadership role to develop and advance strategic regional energy goals through economic development, funding, planning efforts, and education. This work will be done in coordination with RCEA’s member governments, other local public agencies, local tribes, and other public and private stakeholders.

Goals: Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions county-wide by 2030.

By 2030 fully establish Humboldt County as an energy secure community that can affordably and reliably meet its local energy needs with local renewable resources and has the robust local capabilities and infrastructure necessary to effectively respond to energy emergencies or disruptions in energy supply.

Build the clean energy sector into a cornerstone of the local economy through a breadth of strategies that include innovation, research and development, local energy-related business development, and establishing Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind energy industry.

INTEGRATED DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT

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

Goals: Support the wide-spread installation of customer solar photovoltaic energy systems, with a target to increase installations to a rate of one system every day for the next decade and reach 30MW of customer solar installed by 2025 and 50MW installed by 2030.

Make energy efficiency and conservation services available to every household and business in the county by 2030.

Expand existing energy efficiency, conservation and electrification programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030 and maintain a trajectory to reduce emission from natural gas by 90% by 2050.

Develop a network of community microgrids and renewable-energy back-up power systems across the county to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide energy resiliency and long-duration emergency energy supply at all critical facilities by 2030.

LOW-CARBON TRANSPORTATION

RCEA will decarbonize regional transportation through efforts to reduce vehicle miles travelled, increase advanced fuel vehicles adoption and fuel efficiency, and expand advanced fuel infrastructure.

Goals: Accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, with a target of over 6,000 electric vehicles on the road in Humboldt County by 2025 and 22,000 vehicles by 2030. Develop public, workplace, and residential electric vehicle charging infrastructure necessary to support these county-wide electric vehicle targets.

Work with other local public entities to reduce vehicle miles traveled in Humboldt County by at least 25% by 2030.

By 2030 reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by over 65% through reductions in vehicle miles traveled, improved vehicle efficiency, the adoption of electric vehicles, and, where determined to be an effective emissions-reduction strategy, the use of biofuels as a bridge to a full transition to zero-emissions vehicles. Maintain a trajectory of emissions reduction to eliminate the use of fossil fuels by 2050.

ENERGY GENERATION AND UTILITY SERVICES

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

Goals: By 2025 100% of RCEA's power mix will be from a combination of state-designated renewable energy sources—solar, wind, biomass, small hydroelectric, and geothermal—and state-designated net-zero-carbon-emission existing large hydroelectric facilities.

By 2030 Humboldt County will be a net exporter of renewable electricity and RCEA's power mix will consist of 100% local, net-zero-carbon-emission renewable sources.

Humboldt County can effectively respond to regional and local disruptions to energy supply and distribution systems through modernization of the local electric grid, the deployment of local distributed energy resources, and the development of community microgrids.

Introduction

ENERGY FUELS OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

With the impending consequences of global climate change on the horizon, it's never been a more important time to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It's imperative that Humboldt County does its part to reduce emissions within the next ten years as the world strives to keep global warming at or below 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. The effects of climate change will impact Northern California by increasing annual maximum temperatures, altering stream flows, lengthening the fire season, sea level rise, and increased risk of flooding, as well as increasing the likelihood of intense storms within a shorter wet season and a prolonged dry season. The surest way to take action to reduce emission and lessen the effects of climate change is by targeting the biggest source of emissions, the energy sector.

In Humboldt County, each of us depends on energy 24 hours a day, and we continuously benefit from the direct and indirect use of energy resources. Energy is ever present in our daily lives and much of the time it's taken for granted. From the sun we draw heat, light, and solar power; while it works to grow our food, forests, flowers, and more. We depend on fossil fuels to get us to work, school, local shops, as well as to transport our food, commodities, mail, and garbage. Electricity enables us to work after the sun goes down; we depend on it to light our offices, classrooms, and streets; to keep our food cold and our ice cream frozen; to pump water through pipes; to transmit information and keep in touch. Energy in a diversity of forms fuels our industries and business ventures: from powering lumber mills to dairy farms; from firing ceramics to pizzas, and from brewing beer to baking bread. It's clear that reliance on energy resources characterizes a large part of our everyday lives.

The production and consumption of energy also affects our daily lives in more indirect ways, particularly with regard to the environment. The burning of fossil fuels has led to damaging environmental effects such as acid rain, smog, water pollution, and global warming. Exploratory drilling and extraction of non-renewable energy sources (such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas), and their attendant infrastructure, has resulted in the degradation of other natural resources, for example forests, coastal communities, and rainforests. Although these areas may be far away, the environmental impacts can reach Humboldt County.

Defining "Clean" Energy

On March 28, 2019, the RCEA Board of Directors, acting on a recommendation from RCEA's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and with support from many community members, adopted a policy calling for RCEA to provide a 100% clean and renewable electricity portfolio by 2025. Subsequent to this, the CAC took up discussion of how "clean and renewable" should be defined. The committee agreed that it would be unwise to depart from the State of California's definition of "renewable," as embodied in the Renewable Portfolio Standard that governs renewable energy procurement by RCEA and other load-serving entities in the state.

Defining "clean" energy is more problematic, as this is a value-laden term that has no strict or consistent definition applied by energy markets or regulators. It is however a relevant topic for RCEA's planning purposes, given that the organization's mission statement in its Joint Powers Agreement calls for RCEA to "advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources."

In its final review of this update to RCEA's RePower Humboldt plan, the CAC revisited the question of defining "clean." After receiving public comments and discussing the matter at length, the CAC members generally agreed that the term is too subjective to be used as a litmus test for making specific energy procurement decisions. In lieu of an explicit definition of "clean," the CAC endorses the goals stated in the Power Resources section of this plan that call for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and maximizing renewable energy content of RCEA's CCE program, while also taking into consideration other environmental or public health impacts.

The fact is, all forms of energy production, including renewable energy, have environmental and social impacts, and responsible energy planning seeks to minimize negative impacts while maximizing community benefits.

The original RePower Humboldt strategic plan published in 2013 showed that Humboldt County has hundreds of megawatts of untapped renewable energy potential from a variety of sources, including solar, wind, wave, and biomass. With a population of less than 140,000 and a limited industrial base, electric loads in Humboldt are light. In contrast, California's urban counties have much larger loads and little potential for renewable energy generation other than rooftop solar. For example, in 2018 San Francisco consumed seven times as much electricity as Humboldt County, and Los Angeles County used 85 times Humboldt's load. If California as a whole is to meet its renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals, resource-rich counties like Humboldt will need to export a portion of their energy wealth to these urban load centers.

In Humboldt County, energy is used as a transportation fuel and as electrical and heat energy in homes, businesses, industries, and agriculture. In 2015 it is estimated that Humboldt County spent over \$400 million to meet local energy demands, the majority of which left the county. A major portion of the energy was used as transportation fuel (gasoline and diesel), with large amounts also used to meet end use electrical demands and end-use natural gas heating demands. Primary energy sources were comprised mainly of natural gas, gasoline, diesel, and propane.

REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY MISSION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Redwood Coast Energy Authority is to develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region for the benefit of the Member agencies and their constituents. To further that purpose, the Redwood Coast Energy Authority will work toward the following goals, as enumerated in our Joint Powers Agreement:

- A. To lead, coordinate and integrate regional efforts that advance secure, sustainable, clean and affordable energy resources.
- B. To develop a long-term sustainable energy strategy and implementation plan.
- C. To increase awareness of, and enhance access to, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy opportunities available to the region.
- D. To add value to, but not duplicate, energy services offered by utilities and others serving the region in a manner that does not conflict with acting as a community choice aggregator.
- E. To keep key decision makers and stakeholders informed of policy, regulatory, and market changes that are likely to impact the region.
- F. To support research, development, demonstration, innovation, and commercialization of sustainable energy technologies by public and private entities operating in Humboldt County.

G. To develop regional capabilities to respond to energy emergencies and short-term disruptions in energy supply, infrastructure, or markets that could adversely affect Humboldt residents and businesses.

In striving to achieve the above goals, RCEA will ensure that environmental and social impacts associated with production and consumption of energy are minimized, and that any unavoidable impacts are borne to the extent possible within Humboldt County rather than by other communities, and will seek to maximize social, economic, and environmental benefits to Humboldt County associated with local energy production

The RePower Humboldt plan is intended to support achieving these goals through strategies that specifically address: Regional Energy Planning & Coordination, Integrated Demand Side Management, Low-Carbon Transportation, and Energy Generation & Utility Services.

VISION STATEMENT

The below vision statement was developed in 2005 through the public comment process for the original draft of the Humboldt County General Plan Energy Element prepared by RCEA. It expresses the community qualities and characteristics that the RePower Humboldt plan aspires to achieve, expressed as how Humboldt County could be described in 2030. Minor modifications have been made to the original vision statement to reflect recent changes to the state and local energy economies, as well as community input gathered in developing this 2019 RePower Humboldt update.

In 2030...

Humboldt County has achieved the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and is a net exporter of renewable energy. We achieve energy independence and self-sufficiency through high levels of energy conservation, efficiency, and electrification combined with locally-produced and -managed energy generation. Our energy comes from renewable sources. Money spent on energy stays in the county.

Individual communities have developed greater energy self-sufficiency and independence as has the county overall. Citizens have a diversity of choices for how to meet their energy needs. We have local control over energy prices. We readily adapt to any major external changes in energy supply or technology.

Our energy consumption is level from year to year, due to increasing conservation and efficiency to offset increases in growth-related demand.

Our overall quality of life is better than it was in 2005. The population is healthier as a result of leading energy-conserving lifestyles. It is common, safe, pleasant, and economically favorable to have a lifestyle that doesn't consume much energy.

Energy conservation education has reached, and continues to reach, effectively, everyone in the county. Energy considerations and decisions are integrated with all other decision-making arenas.

The county has minimized negative environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with meeting its energy needs, while ensuring any unavoidable impacts are borne locally rather than by other communities

The County is energy efficient through neighborhood design. Good community planning has reduced sprawl. There are fewer automobiles used for travel; people depend more on transit, bikes, walking, and shared-use automobiles than they depend on private automobiles. Public transportation is conveniently available and well utilized. There is much less consumption of energy from non-renewable sources for transportation.

All buildings are energy efficient. All new construction is all-electric and done in the most energy efficient manner, starting with building design. All existing buildings have been upgraded to be more efficient and many have converted their previous uses of natural gas and propane to electricity. Energy efficiency is integral to locally adopted building standards, which have flexibility and include meaningful incentives. Many homes and businesses produce more energy than they consume.

The County is a thriving research and development center and incubator for energy technology and related manufacturing, which is a stable source of local jobs.

Strategies

1. Regional Energy Planning & Coordination

RCEA will take a leadership role to develop and advance strategic regional energy goals through economic development, funding, planning efforts, and education. This work will be done in coordination with RCEA's member governments, other local public agencies, local tribes, and other public and private stakeholders.

Goals: Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions county-wide by 2030.

By 2030 fully establish Humboldt County as an energy secure community that can affordably and reliably meet its local energy needs with local renewable resources and has the robust local capabilities and infrastructure necessary to effectively respond to any energy emergencies or disruptions in energy supply.

Build the clean energy sector into a cornerstone of the local economy through a breadth of strategies that include innovation, research and development, local energy-related business development, and establishing Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind energy industry.

1.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.1.1 Attract Energy-related Business. Collaborate with local economic development entities to attract technology developers, manufacturers, and energy service providers to locate operations in the County when appropriate.

1.1.2 Support Proactive Energy-related Business Development. Collaborate with local jurisdictions to identify and pre-assess locations and facilities for energy-related business ventures.

1.1.3 Support Energy-sector Workforce Development. Work with other local entities to provide training and continuing education that develops and maintains a qualified local workforce available to implement energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy projects, and advanced-vehicle technology deployment.

1.2 ENERGY-RELATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1.2.1 Develop Emergency Response Capabilities. Coordinate with other local entities to develop regional capabilities to respond to energy emergencies and disruptions impacting energy supply, infrastructure, or energy markets. Incorporate efforts to enhance emergency response capabilities across all of RCEA's customer programs.

1.2.2 Assist with Energy Emergency Response Procedures. Assist the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services in the preparation of energy response procedures for the Humboldt County Emergency Response Plan.

1.2.3 Support Climate Change Adaptation. Work with other local entities to conduct a climate change risk assessment and develop an adaptation plan consistent with the best-practices guidance provided by the California Natural Resources Agency and California Office of Emergency Services.

1.3 FUNDING

1.3.1 Develop Regional Energy Funding Mechanisms. Offer support and act as the fiscal agent and funding clearinghouse for countywide energy programs.

1.3.2 Pursue Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds. Work regionally to access Cap and Trade auction proceeds and other State funding mechanisms to ensure effective, efficient, coordinated, and equitable resource allocation in the North Coast Region.

1.3.3 Develop Job Development Incentives. Collaborate with local economic development entities to identify funding opportunities for developing jobs in the field of energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable sources.

1.3.4 Implement Energy Project Financing. Work with local economic development entities and/or financial institutions to develop and implement financing programs that enable residents and businesses to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Facilitate Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and other financing programs that access the needed capital to deploy regional energy independence strategies.

1.3.5 Develop Local Energy Investment Programs. Work with local economic development entities and financial institutions to develop programs and resources that facilitate local community investment in and/or ownership of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

1.3.6 Pursue an Investment Grade Credit Rating for RCEA's Community Choice Energy Program. Through building program reserves and responsible program management, secure an investment grade credit rating from a major financial services company to support long-term energy transactions.

1.4 PLANNING

1.4.1 Support Renewable Energy Permitting. Support the County in streamlining permitting for renewable energy generation including updating zoning codes and creating wind energy GIS overlays.

1.4.2 Support Carbon Sequestration. Support the development and deployment of mechanisms for retaining carbon in the region's abundant natural areas and working lands.

1.4.3 Assist with Climate Action Planning. Work with local jurisdictions to regularly complete greenhouse gas inventories, set greenhouse gas reduction targets, and develop climate action plans.

1.4.4 Support Countywide Strategic Energy Planning. Coordinate an effective energy strategy based on self-sufficiency, development of renewable energy resources, energy conservation, and electrification that is actively implemented countywide through Climate Action Plans, General Plans and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority's RePower Humboldt plan.

1.4.5 Encourage Adoption of Energy Elements. Encourage and assist with the adoption of energy elements by other local and regional jurisdictions. Periodically review local energy elements and recommend updates, as necessary, to reflect changing technologies for the generation, transmission, and efficient use of energy.

1.4.6 Encourage Energy Policies and Plans. Encourage other jurisdictions and entities, including the cities in Humboldt County, to adopt and implement sound energy plans and policies, to include energy elements and/or energy policies in their general plans and ordinances. Advocate and disseminate energy planning strategies, policies, and other information.

1.4.7 Promote Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Storage Permitting. Support local ordinances that streamline permitting processes for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and storage technologies.

1.4.8 Develop Programs that Foster Social Equity. Identify, fund, and establish new programs that address the energy needs of the least advantaged and underserved members of our community.

1.4.9 Embrace Public Health and Environmental Quality as Key Objectives of Energy Planning. Seek to maximize public health and environmental benefits and minimize negative impacts in selecting, planning, and implementing energy policies, programs, and projects.

1.5 EDUCATION

1.5.1 Maintain an Energy Resource Center. Operate an energy resource center open to the public and provide information on energy conservation, energy planning, renewable energy, energy storage, low-carbon transportation, all-electric buildings, and energy-efficient building design and retrofits.

1.5.2 Hold Regional Energy Forums. Serve as a forum for addressing countywide energy issues.

1.5.3 Develop Public Displays. Encourage and assist development of educational displays for exemplary renewable energy and distributed energy systems installed throughout Humboldt County. Displays should provide county residents and businesses with information on how the systems work and how well they perform and should inform county residents about the importance, benefits, and associated impacts of developing local energy resources.

1.5.4 Provide Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Electrification Education and Training. Provide community education, information, and resources on energy issues to support informed

decision making related to customer energy use, including the benefits of conservation, electrification and increased energy efficiency. Collaborate with schools and colleges for energy-related research, education, and conservation practices.

1.5.5 Provide Energy Professional Education and Training. Provide and encourage training for local contractors and energy professionals on energy-related topics such as: energy code, energy efficiency, demand response, zero net energy retrofits and construction, electrification, heat pumps, battery storage and solar.

2. Integrated Demand Side Management

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

Goals: Support the wide-spread installation of customer solar energy systems, with a target to increase installations to a rate of one system every day for the next decade and reach 30MW of customer solar installed by 2025 and 50MW installed by 2030.

Make energy efficiency and conservation services available to every household and business in the county by 2030.

Expand existing energy efficiency, conservation and electrification programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use in buildings by 20% by 2030 and maintain a trajectory to reduce emission from natural gas by 90% by 2050.

Develop a network of community microgrids and renewable-energy back-up power systems across the county to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide energy resiliency and long-duration emergency energy supply at all critical facilities by 2030.

2.1 INTEGRATED DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

2.1.1 Support Member Agency and Local Government Energy Management. Support member agencies in managing their energy usage. RCEA will support activities that reduce and align energy

use with available clean and renewable supplies to reduce costs while being consistent with state energy goals and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction goals. Additional activities will be prioritized where they support energy resiliency and independence.

2.1.2 Support Implementation of Codes and Standards. Support the State's goals related to residential and commercial net-zero-energy and zero-net carbon standards along with other green building standards, including the local implementation of Title 24 building energy codes, Title 20 appliance efficiency standards and individual projects that strive to achieve energy efficiencies that exceed state and local requirements. Support the consideration, adoption, and implementation of above code energy ordinances.

2.1.3 Assist with Facility Benchmarking. Assist local governments and businesses with facility benchmarking to evaluate and track the energy performance of non-residential buildings.

2.1.4 Perform Energy Assessments. Advise building owners on the life cycle costs and benefits of energy efficiency, conservation, demand response, generation, electrification and storage opportunities through assessments. Assessments will be followed with comprehensive reports detailing an integrated strategy for energy management.

2.1.5 Integrate Distributed Energy Resources. Develop and implement customer programs that support, promote and integrate distributed energy resources, including but not limited to grid-connected generation, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric vehicle and demand response technologies.

2.1.6 Integrate a Distributed Energy Resource Management System. Support the development and installation of systems needed for effective and responsive management of distributed energy resources. Evaluate the potential integration of distributed energy resources into a unified system that would allow RCEA to aggregate and automate demand response activities.

2.1.7 Support and Deploy Microgrids. Support and deploy energy microgrids, focusing on critical infrastructure and community facilities, that combine onsite generation, energy storage, and advanced control systems to provide energy resiliency and maintain emergency-response capabilities as well as ongoing economic and environmental benefits.

2.1.8 Use Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Support advanced metering infrastructure to expand every customer's visibility into their energy usage for more ownership and control of their energy related behavior and decisions. Use advanced metering data to make informed program decisions.

2.2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION

2.2.1 Maximize the Efficiency of Buildings. Support energy efficiency and conservation as core strategies toward achieving environmental, economic, and community goals. Promote the whole-house approach to energy efficiency using the latest building science and incorporating interactive effects between passive and active energy systems in a home. First reduce the need to use energy and then use energy efficiently where it is required. An example would be to air seal and insulate the home and furnace ductwork to reduce heat loss before upgrading the furnace. Support programs

that increase building shell efficiency through air sealing, insulation, and window upgrades while improving comfort and indoor air quality.

2.2.2 Support Electrification. Prioritize the development and implementation of programs and services that promote the replacement of fossil fuel burning appliances with the most energy-efficient electric equipment including heat pump hot water and space heaters and the electrification of commercial and industrial processes.

2.2.3 Increase Equipment Efficiency through Market Transformation. Prioritize the development and implementation of programs and services that promote the use of the most energy-efficient equipment for space and water heating, ventilation, lighting, refrigeration, and air conditioning in all buildings, including residential, commercial and industrial facilities.

2.2.4 Promote Performance Contracting. Promote residential and commercial performance contracting that is consistent with current best practices for energy efficiency and environmentally sound construction techniques.

2.2.5 Develop and Support Behavioral, Retro-Commissioning and Operations Programs. Promote, develop, and implement programs that enable energy conservation and load-shifting through customer behavior changes, building system retro-commissioning, and operational changes.

2.2.6 Promote Smart Technologies and Smart Controls. Support the replacement of existing plug load devices with smart technology devices that are programmed to save energy, shift energy use outside of peak hours, and/or provide automated demand response using utility signaling. Examples include internet-of-things enabled lighting, water and space conditioning, dish and clothes washing, and refrigeration. Promote control technologies that adjust the use of equipment based on environmental input or demand. Examples include variable speed fans and ventilation, variable speed pumps and motors, daylighting controls, occupancy sensor controls, smart thermostats, and building management systems.

2.3 DEMAND RESPONSE

2.3.1 Implement Demand Response and Distributed Energy Resource Programs. Support and prioritize demand response programs that offer customers a role in balancing energy usage with the availability of electricity on the grid. Demand response programs and offerings will, where possible, integrate with distribution-connected efficiency systems and controls, renewable energy generation, and energy storage measures. Where feasible, energy technologies will be controllable and integrated as a distributed resource; any such efforts will require customer education and approval and will be implemented with a commitment to respecting and protecting customers' rights to privacy.

2.3.2 Support Reduced Energy Use During Peak Hours and Peak Event Days. Notify, support, and enable action from customers who choose to participate by shifting energy usage to off-peak hours, reduce daily energy usage during peak hours, and/or reduce energy usage during peak event days.

2.3.3 Enable Automated Demand Response. Install communicable controls with electrification, efficiency, and storage technologies that automatically reduce energy use during demand response events. Implement building demand response systems that allow for the curtailment of loads without major impacts to occupants and operations.

2.4 CUSTOMER DISTRIBUTED GENERATION & STORAGE

2.4.1 Support Customer Installation of Distributed Generation. Support the deployment of behind-the-meter grid-connected renewable energy and storage systems as core strategies toward achieving environmental, economic, and community stability/resilience goals.

2.4.2 Implement the Public Agency Solar Program. Continue to implement the solar and energy-storage technical assistance program for public agencies; integrate grid-connected resources, efficiency, electrification and microgrids as feasible.

2.4.3 Implement a Community Solar and Storage Program. Evaluate, design and launch community solar and storage program services that support the increased adoption of grid-connected solar and storage technologies.

2.4.4 Integrate Vehicle to Grid Storage. Integrate vehicle to grid storage solutions with transportation and demand side management goals and objectives.

3. Low-carbon Transportation

RCEA will decarbonize regional transportation through efforts to reduce vehicle miles travelled, increase advanced fuel vehicles adoption and fuel efficiency, and expand advanced fuel infrastructure.

Goals: Accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles, with a target of over 6,000 electric vehicles on the road in Humboldt County by 2025 and 22,000 vehicles by 2030. Develop public, workplace, and residential electric vehicle charging infrastructure necessary to support these county-wide electric vehicle targets.

Work with other local public entities to reduce vehicle miles traveled in Humboldt County by at least 25% by 2030.

By 2030 reduce greenhouse gas emission from transportation by over 65% through reductions in vehicle miles traveled, improved vehicle efficiency, the adoption of electric vehicles, and, where determined to be an effective emissions-reduction strategy, the use of biofuels as a bridge to a full transition to zero-emissions

vehicles. Maintain a trajectory of emissions reduction to eliminate the use of fossil fuels by 2050.

3.1 REDUCE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

3.1.1 Strengthen Broadband Infrastructure. Support efforts to strengthen rural regional broadband infrastructure to facilitate remote access to educational and business opportunities, and deploy advanced, resilient grid management technology and integrated energy efficiency and demand response solutions.

3.1.2 Encourage Transportation-efficient Land Use Planning. Encourage infill, transit-oriented development, and walkable and bikeable communities through thoughtful zoning and land-use planning processes.

3.1.3 Facilitate Multi-modal Transportation Infrastructure. Support improving multi-modal transportation options through regional trail networks, transit infrastructure, and complete streets infrastructure strategies that support walking, biking, carsharing, ridesharing, and the use of public transportation.

3.2 INCREASE ADVANCED FUEL VEHICLE ADOPTION & FUEL EFFICIENCY

3.2.1 Support Local Vehicle Fleet Owners Leading by Example. Encourage local government and private fleets to maximize the use of low-carbon vehicles and support low-carbon transportation initiatives at other agencies.

3.2.2 Promote Advanced Fuels. Equitably promote, support and incentivize low carbon vehicle and fuel adoption by local governments, commercial fleets, and the public. Encourage the use of non-fossil sources of advanced fuels that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which may include electricity, hydrogen, biodiesel, ethanol, and renewable diesel.

3.2.3 Support Electric Vehicle Adoption. Conduct public outreach campaigns to promote electric vehicles. Offer electric vehicle incentives and provide customers with web and in-person decision support when considering the purchase of an electric vehicle. Conduct leadership by example among government agencies.

3.2.4 Promote Efficient Driving Practices. Promote the use of energy-efficient driving practices that improve fuel efficiency, such as moderate speed changes and legal speeds, anti-idling, and traffic-calming features.

3.2.5 Support Shipping Efficiency. Support the implementation of trucking efficiency technologies and best-practices, including idle-reduction technologies, aerodynamic retrofits, and low rolling resistance tires. Support the analysis of other potential transportation modes that could provide efficient shipping alternatives such as barge and rail.

3.3 EXPAND FUELING INFRASTRUCTURE

3.3.1 Develop Transportation Electrification Infrastructure. Develop and implement Electric Vehicle charging stations. Provide local incentives for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and prioritize technologies that align with integrated demand-side management goals.

3.3.2 Utilize Biofuels. Promote use of biofuels with low California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) scores, particularly those produced with local waste feedstocks.

3.3.3 Streamline Permitting for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. Encourage local jurisdictions to list vehicle charging as a permitted use across a broad range of zoning classifications. If a zoning review is triggered, consider vehicle charging as an accessory use to another permitted use whenever possible. Develop a standard vehicle charging permitting process.

3.3.4 Promote Vehicle-to-Grid Connection. Promote integration of electric vehicles with the electric grid. Evaluate the development status of vehicle-to-grid interconnect standards and the use of grid-connected or building-connected vehicles for short-term, on-site energy storage, particularly where this can enable islanded operation of critical facilities during grid power outages.

4. Energy Generation & Utility Services

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

Goals: By 2025 100% of RCEA's power mix will be from a combination of state-designated renewable energy sources—solar, wind, biomass, small-hydroelectric, and geothermal—and state-designated net zero carbon emission existing large hydroelectric facilities.

By 2030 Humboldt County will be a net exporter of renewable electricity and RCEA's power mix will consist of 100% local, net-zero-carbon-emission renewable sources.

Humboldt County can effectively respond to regional and local disruptions to energy supply and distribution systems through modernization of the local electric grid, the deployment of local distributed energy resources, and the development of community microgrids.

4.1 POWER RESOURCES

4.1.1 Maximize the Use of Local Renewable Energy to the Extent Technically and Economically Feasible and Prudent. Use the CCE program with its renewable energy targets, and programs supporting distributed energy resources, to achieve this goal.

4.1.2 Minimize Greenhouse Gas Emissions Associated with RCEA's CCE Program. Procure a power mix that by 2025 has zero greenhouse gas emissions as counted under the California Air Resources Board's Regulation for the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, other than emissions from resources meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Assess, evaluate, and monitor the short-term and lifecycle emissions from all generation sources to ensure power resources align with RCEA's greenhouse gas emissions goals.

4.1.3 Act as Community Liaison to Renewable Energy Developers. Using RCEA's position as a wholesale power purchaser, work with developers on proactive strategies to reduce and mitigate the environmental and community impacts of potential energy projects. Ensure that local projects are developed in such a way that prioritizes community benefits.

4.1.4 Maximize Renewable Energy Content of RCEA's CCE Program. Procure a power mix that reaches 100% clean and renewable content by 2025.

4.1.5 Ensure Diversity in Local Sources. Pursue development of a diverse, locally produced renewable electricity supply that is price-competitive in the California power market and that can be generated in a way that minimizes adverse environmental and community impacts.

4.1.6 Promote Energy Feasibility Studies. Encourage and support feasibility studies of local wind, solar, hydropower, and ocean energy resources. Make recommendations on preferred alternatives that are consistent with community goals for energy security and sustainability.

4.1.7 Power Resources: Distributed Generation

4.1.7.1 Designate "Renewable Energy Parks." Work with County and City planning departments to designate areas of the county preferred for renewable energy development.

4.1.7.2 Develop Distributed Generation. Encourage studies to identify key locations throughout the county that would benefit from distributed generation systems. Encourage development of responsive distributed generation demonstration sites

4.1.7.3 Provide Feed-In-Tariff Power Procurement Program for Small Generators. Offer long-term contracts at a market-adjusting rate for Renewable Portfolio Standard eligible renewable energy generators.

4.1.8 Power Resources: Solar

4.1.8.1 Support Utility Scale Solar Energy Development. Support local efforts to develop solar electric systems in the county. Support development of local training programs for solar contractors and installers. Educate the public about the benefits of solar energy systems. Develop programs that facilitate an increase in the number of solar energy systems in the county.

4.1.8.2 Procure Local Solar Energy. Contract for local onshore solar energy as part of RCEA's community choice energy portfolio to the extent economically feasible and compatible with portfolio diversity needs.

4.1.9 Power Resources: Offshore Wind

4.1.9.1 Develop Offshore Wind Energy. Work with public and private entities to develop offshore wind energy off of the north coast region's coastline, and support establishing Humboldt Bay as a west-coast hub for the offshore wind industry.

4.1.9.2 Procure Local Offshore Wind Energy. Contract for local offshore wind energy as part of RCEA's community choice energy portfolio to the extent economically feasible and compatible with portfolio diversity needs.

4.1.10 Power Resources: Onshore Wind

4.1.10.1 Promote Large-Scale Wind Energy. Provide information about the potential for cost-effective, commercial-scale wind farms in the county. Educate the public about the benefits and impacts of wind energy systems. Work with utilities, local government, and private companies to develop onshore wind energy projects.

4.1.10.2 Procure Local Onshore Wind Energy. Contract for local onshore wind energy as part of RCEA's community choice energy portfolio to the extent economically feasible and compatible with portfolio diversity needs.

4.1.11. Power Resources: Bioenergy

4.1.11.1 Support Biomass Fuels Reduction and Utilization. Develop strategies and technologies for improved biomass utilization in ways that effectively support restoration objectives and fire management priorities. Coordinate with local agencies, communities, and landowners to develop biomass energy plans that are consistent with sustainable forest management, hazardous fuels reduction, fire safety, and restoration needs.

4.1.11.2 Procure Local Biomass Energy. Contract with local biomass facilities as a means of providing locally generated renewable power and managing wood waste from mills and, when feasible and appropriate, from forest management and restoration activities. Require and support a high standard of environmental performance from RCEA's biomass suppliers. Support the deployment of the best-available emissions control technologies, recognizing that power producers' ability to implement such technologies is affected by the price they are paid for their power and term length of contracts.

4.1.11.3 Investigate the Impacts of Biomass Emissions. Support research and quantification of the gross and net emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants associated with local biomass energy production, and the potential emissions reductions associated with disposing of biomass feedstocks by other means. Support development of a locally specific model to estimate human exposure to criteria pollutants from biomass power plants under different operating scenarios. Adjust RCEA's biomass power procurement strategy as appropriate based on these findings and power producers' progress in limiting emissions, and in keeping with achieving RCEA's power mix goals for 2025 and 2030. Consider power producers' historic emissions performance in making procurement decisions.

4.1.11.4 Establish a Biomass Technical Advisory Committee. Create a technical advisory committee made up of local government representatives; state and federal natural resource agencies; and subject matter experts on biomass energy, public health, the local forest products industry, and environmental impacts associated with biomass energy. The committee shall meet periodically and provide a quarterly report to the RCEA Board of Directors on technical feasibility and financial, environmental, and health implications of biomass use alternatives.

4.1.11.5 Promote Small-Scale Biomass Generation Sites. Monitor feasibility of smaller and/or mobile biomass electric generators fed with wood waste and very small diameter logs (e.g., from thinning for fire safety and timber harvest slash). If/when technology proves feasible and cost effective, promote its use in county areas where appropriate.

4.1.11.6 Plan for a Long-Term Transition Away from Direct Combustion of Forest-Derived Biomass and Toward Lower-Impact Uses of this Material. Investigate and pursue development funding for alternative pathways that could address local forest products industry biowaste management needs, including:

- Repowering of the existing biomass plants to substantially reduce emissions and/or improve efficiency
- Emerging biomass energy technologies, including but not limited to gasification, torrefaction, and briquetting
- Non-energy products, including but not limited to biochar and durable goods

Limit procurement of biomass power from existing direct combustion plants to short-to-mid-term contracts, recognizing that power producers' ability to reduce their emission output is affected by the price they are paid for their power and term length of contracts. Pursue partnerships with others, including research organizations and interested public agencies, in development of pilot projects to produce low-emissions energy as a means of treating mill waste and where feasible sequestering the carbon in this material; where potential non-energy products are identified, refer potential pilot projects to appropriate stakeholders.

4.1.11.7 Pursue Biogas Development. Support HWMA and others with the evaluation and development of organic waste digesters. Develop and publicize dairy biogas demonstration sites and work with local farm organizations to promote dairy biogas energy systems where appropriate. Publicize the use of biogas at existing local wastewater treatment facilities and encourage its use at additional facilities where appropriate. Encourage biogas use to produce electricity onsite rather than pipeline injection to support long-term phaseout of natural gas distribution infrastructure and avoid the potential greenhouse gas emission impacts of pipeline leaks. Seek opportunities to aggregate feedstock from dairies, wastewater plants, and food waste streams to achieve economies of scale in developing cost-effective local biogas facilities.

4.1.12 Power Resources: Wave and Tidal

4.1.12.1 Pursue Wave and Tidal Energy Development. Build on the previous WaveConnect and CalWave projects to explore and evaluate opportunities for local wave and tidal energy research, development, and pilot deployment.

4.1.13 Power Resources: Hydro

4.1.13.1 Support Existing and New Local Small-scale Hydroelectric Power. Evaluate options for contracting with existing small hydroelectric projects as well as the development of new run-of-river hydroelectric projects that would be eligible for Renewable Portfolio Standard designation and compatible with environmental and cultural priorities. Update the Oscar Larson and Associates' 1982 assessment of small hydroelectric resource potential in the county.

4.2 UTILITY ENERGY SERVICE

4.2.1 Minimize Energy Interruptions. Work with local utility providers to minimize the impact of power outages and improve the reliability and resiliency of the local electricity delivery service.

4.2.2 Provide Energy via Direct Access. Explore the feasibility of RCEA acting as an electricity provider through direct access.

4.2.3 Review Utility Options. Review the effectiveness of the incumbent utility in meeting Humboldt County's long-term energy needs and evaluate the feasibility of establishing a local municipal electric utility or joining a new regional public power entity.

4.2.4 Provide Outstanding Customer Service to RCEA Customers. Ensure that participants in RCEA's community choice energy program receive high-quality customer service related to enrollment, rates, billing, and customer programs supported by CCE program customer funds.

4.3 RATES & TARIFFS

4.3.1 Provide Community Choice Energy Program Customer Rate Savings. Provide customer rates that are affordable and price-competitive with customers' other electric supply options.

4.3.2 Provide Electricity Buyback from Self Generators. Provide a net energy metering program that encourages more distributed local generation and more equitably compensates such generation.

4.3.3 Retain and/or Redirect Rate-Payer Dollars Back into Humboldt County. Work to maximize the amount of ratepayer dollars retained in Humboldt County when taking into consideration local power procurement, electricity rates, local program spending, and allocations toward building the reserve fund for RCEA's Community Choice Energy program.

4.3.4 Provide Match Funding for State, Federal, and Foundation Energy Grants. Support bringing resources into Humboldt County to pursue CCE community energy goals.

4.3.5 Support Transition to Time of Use Rates. Inform and educate CCE customers on CPUC transition to default Time Of Use rates. Support customer adoption and transition to time of use electricity rates.

4.3.6 Provide Education on all Electric Rate Schedule Options. Provide information on all available electric rate schedules including Net Energy Metering, Time Of Use, and RePower+ (100% renewable energy). Offer electric rate analysis to estimate financial impacts of different rate schedules. Inform and educate the community of the California Public Utilities Commission's transition to default Time Of Use rate schedules.

4.3.7 Provide a 100% Carbon-Free Service Option for CCE Customers. Develop an additional opt-up choice for CCE customers consisting of solar energy and other emissions-free resources, with a portion of the incremental revenues used to underwrite energy programs benefitting community non-profits and/or low income residential CCE participants.

4.4 TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE

4.4.1 Facilitate Transmission Assessments and Monitoring. Encourage development of long-term transmission assessments and, if necessary, electrical transmission grid upgrade and/or expansion plans. Monitor local electricity transmission system planning to ensure that projected growth areas are adequately served and to support the development of local renewable energy projects.

4.4.2 Support Upgrade of the Electricity Transmission and Distribution System. Collaborate with PG&E, the California Independent System Operator, and renewable energy developers to upgrade the regional transmission and distribution electrical grid to enable increased development of both utility-scale renewable energy projects and community-scale distributed generation systems, including capability to export surplus renewable electricity from Humboldt County to other areas of the state and to operate Humboldt County's grid independently during regional emergencies.

RCEA
Community Advisory Committee

**Conflicts of interest, Brown
Act and Ethical Conduct
in Public Service**

(May 14, 2024)

Nancy Diamond, General Counsel

OVERVIEW OF TODAY

Outline ethics laws applicable to public service on the CAC

- Become familiar with Conflicts of Interest laws and Brown Act
- Learn best practices
- Learn when to ask
- Discuss ethical conduct

WHY PROMOTE ETHICAL CONDUCT IN GOVERNMENT?

- Public Business
- Government Agency is Steward of Public Funds

To Promote, Protect, and Preserve the Public's Trust
in Government

PROMOTING, PROTECTING, PRESERVING THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

AVOID:

- Personal Gain or Advantage
- Secrecy
- Favoritism

FOLLOW:

- Conflict of Interest Laws
- Open Government Laws

PRACTICE:

- Ethical Conduct

ETHICS LAWS VS ETHICAL CONDUCT

ETHICS LAWS

- Minimum standard of conduct
- Required compliance
 - ❖ Penalties

ETHICAL CONDUCT

- Desired standard of conduct
- Above and beyond legal minimum

PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN LAWS

Public servants should not benefit financially from their positions

- A. Financial interest disclosure and disqualification
- B. Bribery laws
- C. Self dealing prohibitions

Penalties: Loss of office, prison time, fines, restitution, attorneys fees and public embarrassment

Financial Interest *Political Reform Act*

A public official may not participate in a decision if his or her financial interests will be materially affected by the decision

- Positive or negative affect
- Penalties: Decision or action invalidated, misdemeanor, loss of office, fines (\$5,000 - \$10,000), attorneys fees, embarrassment

Financial interest

Political Reform Act

Six types of financial interests

1. Sources of Income
2. Real Property
3. Business Investments
4. Business Employment
5. Sources of Gifts
6. Personal Financial Gain

Financial interest

Political Reform Act

1. Source of income:

- Income of \$500 or more in prior 12 months: yours, spouse's or partner's, dependent child's; includes loans

2. Real Property:

- Property worth \$2000 or more: yours, spouse's or partner's, dependent child's

3. Business Investments:

- Investment worth \$2000 or more: yours, spouse's or partner's, dependent child's

Financial interest

Political Reform Act

4. Business Employment

- Director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, management position

5. Sources of Gifts

- \$470 or more from one source within prior 12 months

6. Personal Financial Effect

- \$250 or more prior 12 months of personal expenses, income, assets or liabilities. Yours and your immediate family

Financial Interest

Political Reform Act

Ask:

- Will the decision affect your economic interests?
- Is the effect on your economic interest “reasonably foreseeable” and “material?”
- Does an exception apply?

Financial interest *Political Reform Act*

How do you disqualify yourself?

- Identify nature of conflict on the record and leave room (usually)

Disqualification does not imply wrong doing.

- Who is responsible for making decision to disqualify?
- Who is liable for making decision?

Financial interest

Political Reform Act

Life after disqualification:

Do not

- Make or

- Participate in

the making of the decision

What is the making of a decision?

Financial Interest

Best Practices

- Look at every decision and ask whether it involves some kind of financial interest for you
- Avoid temptation to look at public service as an opportunity for financial gain

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS LAWS

- Gifts
- Honoraria
- Misuse of public funds
- Gifts of public funds

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

A gift can be:

- Payment
- Tangible or intangible
- Real or personal property
- Goods or service
- Debt forgiveness
- Special discount not provided to others

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

GIFTS

Anything of value that provides personal benefit for which adequate consideration was not provided

Disclose

\$50+

Disqualify

\$470/12 months

Refuse

\$470

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

Common Gift Exceptions

- Gifts to agency
- Gifts from family members
- Gifts of hospitality (pre-existing relationship)
- Equal-value gifts on holidays, birthdays or similar occasions

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

BEST PRACTICES FOR GIFTS

1. Don't accept gift
2. Return gift unused
3. Deliver gift unused within 30 days to a nonprofit organization (IRS 501(c)(3)) without claiming a tax deduction for donation
4. Donate gift unused within 30 days to state, local, federal or other government agency; or
5. Reimburse gift-giver for fair market value

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

More Best Practices

- Disclose gifts \$50 or more (Form 700)
- Do not accept gifts aggregating over \$590 from single source in one year
- Accept free travel expenses only under limited circumstances
- Do not accept free or discounted transportation from transportation companies – Elected and non-elected Public officers, not employees
 - Frequent flyer program upgrades - ok
 - Discounts provided as part of program not targeting official - ok

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

Honorarium

A payment made to give a speech, publish article, or attend a public or private conference, convention, meeting, social event, meal, or like gathering.

Rule:

- Do not accept if required to disclose on Form 700.

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

Best Practices for Honoraria

1. Don't accept honorarium
2. Return honorarium unused
3. Deliver unused within 30 days to a nonprofit organization (IRS 501(c)(3)) without claiming a tax deduction for donation
4. Donate unused within 30 days to state, local, federal or other government agency; or

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

Misuse of Public Funds

1. Expense Reimbursement

- Expense allowances may be taxable
- Agency may not pay meals of third parties
 - Staff parties, travel
- Travel reimbursement by third parties
 - Permissible only in some situation

BRIBERY LAWS

Public officials may not solicit, receive or agree to receive a benefit in exchange for their official actions

Penalties:

- Imprisonment: up to four years
- Restitution fines: up to \$10,000 or double actual amount of the bribe received whichever is greater
- Forfeiture: office or employment, appointment
- Forever disqualified: from holding any office, employment, or appointment, in this state.

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

PENALTIES

- Up to \$5,000 fine
- Prison term
- Loss of office
- Loss of employment
- Attorneys' fees (your own and others)
- Income tax consequences

OTHER PERSONAL ADVANTAGES AND PERKS

General Best Practices

Avoid perks and the temptation to rationalize them

- It was necessary (ends justify means)
- It was legal
- It won't hurt anyone
- Others do it
- I didn't gain personally
- I deserve it
- The laws don't apply to me

TRANSPARENCY LAWS

1. Financial Interest Disclosure (FPPC Form 700)
2. Ralph M. Brown Act
3. Public Records Act, California Constitution

TRANSPARENCY LAWS

Financial Interest Disclosure

FPPC Form 700

When:

1. Within 30 days of assuming office
2. Annually while on CAC
3. Within 30 days of leaving CAC

TRANSPARENCY LAWS

Brown Act

- Conduct business in open and publicized meetings, allow public to participate
 - Majority of CAC members may not consult outside noticed meeting
- Avoid serial meetings
 - Email, text communications
 - Use of intermediary

TRANSPARENCY LAWS

Public Records

Public may inspect and or obtain copies of public records

A “public record” is “any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics”

TRANSPARENCY LAWS

Public Records

“Writings” prepared, owned, used or retained by agency regardless of physical form that relate to the conduct of the people’s business:

- Includes electronic communications
 - Private electronic devices
 - Email
 - Text messages
 - Teams messages

TRANSPARENCY LAWS: Penalties

- Nullification of Decision
- Criminal sanctions for intentional violations (up to 6 months in jail/\$1000 fine)
- Payment of attorneys' fees (agency's and others)
- Media attention

TRANSPARENCY LAWS: Best Practices

- Assume all information is public or will become public
- Don't discuss business with CAC colleagues outside meetings
- Avoid acting as intermediary in a serial meeting
 - Answering CAC member questions
 - Distributing materials to CAC members

PROMOTING FAIRNESS

The public expects decisions that are impartial
and avoid favoritism

- Due Process: bias prohibition, decision based on record
 - Hearing board hearings
- Competitive bidding requirements: construction and services contracts, RFP, RFQ
 - Everyone has an equal right to compete for agency's business
 - Competition produces best price for taxpayers

PROMOTING FAIR PRACTICE

Incompatible office prohibitions:

- Cannot simultaneously serve two masters
- Overlapping jurisdictions

PROMOTING FAIR PRACTICE

Penalties

- Decision nullification
- Loss of office
- Fines and penalties
- Exposure to litigation

PROMOTING FAIR PRACTICE

Best Practices

- Avoid favoritism
- Treat everyone equally
- Be objective

PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICS

Just because it's legal doesn't mean it is ethical

- Laws provide starting point
 - Public service requires conduct above and beyond legal minimum
- What will the public perceive?
 - Perception as important as reality

ETHICAL CONDUCT

Context driven norms of acceptable behavior

- Religious
- Cultural
- Personal

BUT

Context for public service ethical conduct is different

- How do you know when your conduct is ethical?

PUBLIC SERVICE ETHICAL CONDUCT

Values that can guide your public service:

- Trustworthiness
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Compassion
- Loyalty

ANALYZING ETHICAL DILEMMAS

- Is your decision influenced by
 - Personal gain?
 - Personal relationships?
 - Personal goals?
- What would best inspire public confidence?
- What would you want to read about on the front page?
- How do you want to be remembered?

PROMOTING PUBLIC TRUST

Will the public be confident that you have done the right thing?

1. What is the right thing to do? Is there an applicable law?
2. What is the public's perception of the right thing to do?

KEY LESSONS

- The law sets minimum standards for ethical behavior
 - Violations of laws carry stiff penalties
 - When in doubt, ask and ask early
- Set your standards of ethical conduct above legal minimum

Additional Resources

FPPC:

<http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=477>

Attorney General:

<http://oag.ca.gov/ethics>

Institute for Local Government:

<http://www.ca-ilg.org/>

OPEN MEETING LAWS
RALPH M. BROWN ACT (Government Code Sections 54950 et seq.)
(May2024)

1. It's The Public's Business; The Public Trusts A Process It Can See And Participate In

- a. Conduct business in open, noticed *meetings*
 - Avoid use of cell phones and texting during meetings
- b. Allow public to participate

2. Meetings Defined

- a. A majority of members of *legislative body* congregating at same time and place to hear, discuss, deliberate upon an item within subject matter jurisdiction of legislative body
- b. Regular, special and serial meetings

3. Legislative Bodies Defined

- a. *Includes*: Appointed bodies, task forces, temporary advisory committees created by formal action of the governing body
- b. *Excludes*: Task forces, temporary advisory committees comprised solely of less than a quorum of legislative body

4. Notice and Agenda Requirements

- a. Notice must state time, place and business to be transacted or discussed
 - Discussion limited to items on noticed/agenda
- b. Notice must be posted in advance at ADA accessible location and on web site
 - 72 hours in advance for regular meeting,
 - 24 hours in advance for special meetings
- c. Written notice of meeting must be sent to
 - Each member of legislative body, unless waived
 - Each media outlet that has requested it
 - Any member of public who has filed a written request for such notices

5. Written Materials

- a. Materials distributed to legislative body with notice/agenda must be distributed to public with notice/agenda
- b. Materials distributed to legislative body after posting of notice must be made available to public at meeting

6. Public Participation

- a. Regular meetings
 - Must allow members of public opportunity to speak on matters not on agenda, so long as it falls within subject matter of legislative body. If time limit is imposed for public comment, must provide at least twice the allotted time to persons using a translator unless agency uses simultaneous translation equipment.

- b. Special meetings
 - Must allow members of public opportunity to speak on matters on agenda,
 - Do not have to allow members of public to speak on other matters
- c. Permitted Methods of Public Participation
 - Public may not be required to register, sign in or give name
 - Meeting location must be ADA accessible, or accessibility arrangements made
 - Public may tape or video record meeting
 - Semi-public meetings prohibited
 - Persons who willfully disrupt meetings may be removed
 - Time limits may be imposed on length of public participation

7. **Exceptions**

- a. Closed Sessions
 - Permitted for specific matters only: e.g., litigation, personnel, real property transactions
 - Must be noticed
 - Public must be allowed to speak in advance
 - Only governing body and limited staff members may attend
- b. Information discussed or distributed in closed session is confidential
 - **Do not share**

8. **Serial Meetings**

- a. *Defined*: Member A contacts Member B, who contacts Member C, who contacts Member D, etc. until quorum has discussed, deliberated or taken action on an item within subject matter of legislative body
 - “Daisy-chain” or “hub-and-spoke” communications.
 - In person, in writing, by telephone, **by email**
 - Through an intermediary, staff person
- b. *Problem*:
 - Public is deprived of meaningful opportunity to observe and participate in legislative-body decision making
 - Prohibited by Brown Act
- c. *Solution*: Avoid serial meetings
 - Do not discuss issues with other Board members outside open, noticed meeting
 - Do not distribute relevant documents to other Board members
 - DO NOT EMAIL other Board members



REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT Agenda Item # 7

AGENDA DATE:	May 14, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
FROM:	Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director
SUBJECT:	CAC Ad Hoc Committee Volunteers

BACKGROUND

The Community Advisory Committee forms ad hoc subcommittees to work on specific tasks. An ad hoc subcommittee can have up to seven (7) volunteer committee members and can meet informally. Ad hoc subcommittees must serve a limited purpose and have a sunset date.

Currently the CAC has six (6) active ad hoc subcommittees. With changes in CAC membership, staff would like to ask if new and existing CAC members would like to volunteer to join any of the below listed subcommittees.

SUMMARY

The active subcommittees are as follows:

1. Bond Subcommittee (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Elizabeth Burks, Colin Fiske, Richard Johnson

Scope of work: Work with staff to evaluate and assess the feasibility of potential options for a County revenue bond to fund local energy independence and resilience.

Sunsets: When recommendations are submitted to the County.

2. Climate Action Plan Outreach Subcommittee (Staff Liaison: TBD)

Members: Elizabeth Burks, Richard Johnson, Ethan Lawton

Scope of work: Advise and assist in implementing outreach about the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan. The CAC may elect to form a more technically-oriented ad hoc subcommittee after hearing the presentation on a draft CAP. This ad hoc subcommittee will report back to the CAC at regularly scheduled meetings as needed.

Sunsets: This group's work would end after countywide adoption of the CAP.

3. Critical Facilities (and At-Risk Communities) Subcommittee (Staff liaison: Juliette Bohn)

Members: Luna Latimer

Extended scope of work: Help create a clearer methodology for prioritizing facilities for which to pursue resilience funding. This ad hoc subcommittee will report back to the CAC at regularly scheduled meetings as needed.

Extended sunset: The Subcommittee will sunset upon completion of a draft prioritized (possibly heat map style) matrix of critical facilities in need of resilience infrastructure funding.

4. McKinleyville - Arcata Major Project Subcommittee (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Beth Burks, Colin Fiske, Chris Honar, Richard Johnson

Scope of work: Identify at a high level areas of RCEA relevance and interest in McKinleyville Town Center, Arcata Gateway Project, Eureka development on City-owned land, and county-wide accessory dwelling unit plans. Identify areas related to RCEA's goals and objectives where RCEA may assist. Determine after initial review, scope of subcommittee's plan reviews. After subcommittee identifies areas of concern/interest, staff will reach out to jurisdictions and flag areas of interest and potential assistance.

From 7/11/23 staff report:

Since the subcommittee's formation, staff have identified other significant projects which warrant consideration for strategic plan intersection and impacts, including harbor development for offshore wind industry uses. Staff will be initiating work with subcommittee members to consider the project list and will hone the subcommittee's sunset date based on levels of project review and staff engagement with jurisdictions.

At a future meeting the ad hoc Local Major Project subcommittee will report back to the CAC on possible ways RCEA can provide feedback for these projects.

Sunsets: When the County and Arcata finalize and adopt the Gateway Project and Town Center plans.

Alternate sunset: Once RCEA has offered comments or engaged with the jurisdictions for the Gateway Project and Town Center plans. Staff will suggest changing sunset date and readdressing scope re: ADUs and Eureka housing development once we get closer to staff engagement/comment.

5. Offshore Wind Outreach Subcommittee (Staff Liaison: Interim Executive Director Eileen Verbeck)

Members: Norman Bell, Elizabeth Burks, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann

Scope of work: Advise and assist in implementing outreach around the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore wind lease auction process. This ad hoc subcommittee will report back to the CAC at regularly scheduled meetings as needed.

Sunsets: After the first quarter of 2023. (end date to be revised)

6. Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee (Staff Liaison: Demand Side Management Director Stephen Kullmann)

Members: Deborah Dukes, Colin Fiske, Luna Latimer, Dennis Leonardi, Kit Mann, Michael Shackelford

Scope of work: Assist in community education and messaging regarding Program Administrator (PA) programs, provide input on Rural Regional Energy Network (RuralREN) programs. Input and development of new and expanding RCEA customer programs will be limited to assistance in developing RuralREN programs. This ad hoc subcommittee will report back to the CAC at regularly scheduled meetings as needed.

Sunsets: In the fourth quarter of 2023 when the agency's Program Administrator contract with PG&E ends. (end date to be revised)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept CAC volunteers for subcommittees.

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STAFF REPORT
Agenda Item # 8

AGENDA DATE:	May 14, 2024
TO:	RCEA Community Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY:	Stephen Kullmann, Demand-Side Management Director
SUBJECT:	Battery Storage System Rebate Program

BACKGROUND

The Redwood Coast Energy Authority Board directed staff to create and implement a battery storage rebate program to incentivize new solar installations due to the change from Net Energy Metering (NEM) to the Net Billing Tariff (NBT) and resulting solar installation downturn. The Demand Side Management and Power Resources Departments teamed up to develop a residential battery storage rebate program for NBT customers.

Staff reached out to other Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) to learn of their battery storage rebate programs and spoke with the California Solar + Storage Association (CALSSA). CALSSA is working with CCAs to encourage battery system rebate programs to help the solar industry with the change from NEM to NBT. Staff created program options based on this research. Additional outreach included engaging with the Community Advisory Committee Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee and Humboldt County solar and battery system installers at a meeting on May 2, 2024, to gain their input on the program options.

The battery storage rebate program is proposed for an initial one-year period and may be extended and expanded to include commercial businesses. The program is expected to launch in fall 2024.

SUMMARY

A variety of potential rebate program options were created and evaluated for residential NBT customers that purchase battery systems paired with new solar installations. In addition, the following program objectives and goals were developed:

Objectives:

1. Increase equity among customers to enable the purchase of battery storage systems.
2. Support the solar industry with respect to potential loss of business due to NBT.
3. Increase resiliency in Humboldt County with solar and storage in line with the Strategic Plan.
4. Support adoption of NBT.

Goals:

1. Increase the installation of solar with battery storage in residential single-family homes.
2. Offset the cost of storage batteries to assist customers that start with the Net Billing Tariff rate.
3. Support clean energy and reliability by leveraging batteries during peak periods and outages.
4. Continue to build strong relationships with contractors and customers.

The following options were discussed at the meeting with the CAC Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee and solar and battery system installers. The meeting discussion is included below.

Battery Storage Rebate Program Options

Program Option	Rebate Amount	**Proposed Annual Budget
Flat Rebate 1	\$1,500 Standard \$3,000 *CARE/FERA/MBR	\$90,000
Flat Rebate 2	\$2,500 Standard \$3,500 CARE/FERA/MBR	\$135,000
Per kWh 1	\$150 per kWh Standard \$250 per kWh CARE/FERA/MBR	\$85,000
Per kWh 2	\$250 per kWh Standard \$350 per kWh CARE/FERA/MBR	\$135,000

*California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), Medical Baseline Rate (MBR) customers

**Budget calculations are based on 40 standard rate customers and 10 CARE/FERA/MBR customers participating, and an average battery system size of 10kWh

This program is intended to be a least partially revenue neutral, supported by the lower amount of payments made to customers on NBT vs. NEM. Without actual data, however, it is impossible to calculate the payment differential. Initial estimates vary widely from \$150-\$1,000 per year depending on system size, battery use algorithms, and calculation methodology, although our best estimate is that it is on the lower end of this range. Using a battery lifespan of ten years, a revenue neutral rebate could range from \$1,500-\$10,000 per system. Until we have more data on actual usage patterns, we cannot determine the actual difference in customer payments between NEM and NBT.

It is challenging to create a rebate program addressing equity given the high cost to purchase and install new solar systems along with new storage batteries. CALSSA recommended steering low-income customers toward the California Public Utility Commission's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP). The SGIP program provides incentives to support existing, new, and emerging distributed energy resources, including battery storage systems. The funding is available for all PG&E and RCEA customers with a prioritization of communities living in high fire-threat areas, communities that have experienced two or more utility Public Safety Power Shut-off events, as well as low income and medically vulnerable customers. SGIP funding is expected to cover all or nearly all of the cost for a new battery storage system for low-income residents. However, navigating the SGIP process and filling out the forms is difficult and takes a fair amount of time, and the continuation of incentives is uncertain.

There was good discussion and feedback at the meeting with the CAC Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee and local solar and battery system installers. Key takeaways were that the attendees preferred the per system size (kWh) rebate option with the higher amount rebate, and to provide CARE and FERA customers with upfront funding. In addition, it was recommended to provide greater assistance to those that would not be eligible for tax credits.

Based on the feedback and discussion, staff recommends the "Per kWh 2" program option where standard customers would receive a \$250 per kWh rebate and CARE/FERA/MBR customers would receive a \$350 per kWh rebate. It was also suggested that the 15 kWh cap be raised to 30 kWh, to reflect larger systems being installed.

The eligibility criteria are still being developed; however, some of the inclusions are:

1. Applicants must be RCEA customers.
2. Applicants must be on the NBT rate.
3. Only SGIP qualifying batteries are allowed.

4. Battery systems must have a combined system minimum of 3 kWh with an incentive cap of 15 -30 kWh (to be determined).

The battery storage system rebate program will be widely promoted. In addition, outreach on other resources and funding sources will include Demand Response programs, SGIP, the Inflation Reduction Act tax credits (30%), and programs offered by other providers.

ALIGNMENT WITH [RCEA'S STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

The Battery Storage Rebate Program contributes to the RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan goals to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions county-wide by 2030 and supports the wide-spread installation of customer solar energy systems.

Specifically, the following Plan goals include:

- **2.1.5 Integrate Distributed Energy Resources.** Develop and implement customer programs that support, promote and integrate distributed energy resources, including but not limited to grid-connected generation, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric vehicle and demand response technologies.
- **2.2.2 Support Electrification.** Prioritize the development and implementation of programs and services that promote the replacement of fossil fuel burning appliances with the most energy-efficient electric equipment including heat pump hot water and space heaters and the electrification of commercial and industrial processes.
- **2.3.2 Support Reduced Energy Use During Peak Hours and Peak Event Days.** Notify, support, and enable action from customers who choose to participate by shifting energy usage to off-peak hours, reduce daily energy usage during peak hours, and/or reduce energy usage during peak event days.
- **2.4.1 Support Customer Installation of Distributed Generation.** Support the deployment of behind-the-meter grid-connected renewable energy and storage systems as core strategies toward achieving environmental, economic, and community stability/resilience goals.
- **2.4.3 Implement a Community Solar and Storage Program.** Evaluate, design and launch community solar and storage program services that support the increased adoption of grid-connected solar and storage technologies.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The cost of the Battery Storage Rebate Program for the preferred option is expected to be approximately \$135,000 per year. This is expected to be at least partially offset by a decrease in customer payments due to NBT vs. NEM. Staffing and outreach expenses will be additional.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss and make a recommendation to RCEA's Board of Directors.

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REDWOOD COAST
EnergyAuthority

Battery Storage System Rebate Program
RCEA Community Advisory Committee
May 14, 2024

Stephen Kullmann, Demand Side Management Director
Shelly Reider, Outreach Specialist
Forrest Novotny, Power Resources Specialist



Presentation Overview

- Program Background
- Objectives and Goals
- Net Billing Tariff Review
- Review Options, Eligibility, Other Resources, and Recommendations
- Questions

Background

- The RCEA Board directed staff to create and implement a battery storage rebate program for helping to incentivize new solar installations due to the change from Net Energy Metering (NEM) to Net Billing Tariff (NBT).
- RCEA Demand Side Management and Power Resources departments teamed up to develop a rebate program.
- Outreach was conducted to other CCAs to learn of their battery storage rebate programs and staff spoke with the California Solar + Storage Association (CALSSA).
- Options were created based on this research.

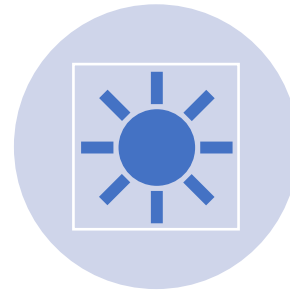
Background

- RCEA staff met with the Community Advisory Customer Programs Outreach Subcommittee and solar and battery storage system installers.
- The program options and considerations were discussed and feedback gained.
- Key takeaways will be reviewed later in the presentation.
- The battery storage rebate program will start as a residential pilot project and based on its success, may be extended and expanded to include commercial businesses.
- The program is expected to launch in fall 2024.

Objectives



Increase equity among customers to enable the purchase of battery storage systems.



Support the solar industry with respect to the loss of business due to NBT.



Increase resiliency in Humboldt County with solar and storage in line with the Strategic Plan.



Support adoption of the Net Billing Tariff.

Goals



Increase the installation of solar with battery storage in residential single-family homes.



Offset the cost of storage batteries to assist customers that start with the Net Billing Tariff rate.



Support clean energy and reliability by leveraging batteries during peak periods and outages.



Continue to build strong relationships with contractors and customers.



Net Billing Tariff

- The Net Billing Tariff (NBT) replaced PG&E's Net Energy Metering (NEM) programs, known as NEM 2.0 and NEM 1.
- NBT went into effect in April 2023.
- NBT determines compensation rates for the electricity generated by solar panels and exported back to the grid through the “Electricity Export Credit.”
- PG&E and RCEA both require residential customers to switch to the Home Electric Rate (E-ELEC).



Net Billing Tariff

- NBT customers are credited much less than under the prior NEM rates leading to a major decline in solar installations.
- Approximately 82% fewer customers statewide applied for solar interconnections from May through November of last year.
- PG&E has an energy export compensation adder for CARE/FERA customers; RCEA NBT has an additional \$0.01/kWh adder for all customers.

Program Options

Program Options	Rebate Amount	**Budget
Flat Rebate 1	\$1,500 Standard	\$90,000
	\$3,000 *CARE/FERA/MBR	
Flat Rebate 2	\$2,500 Standard	\$135,000
	\$3,500 CARE/FERA/MBR	
Per kWh 1	\$150 per kWh Standard	\$85,000
	\$250 per kWh CARE/FERA/MBR	
Per kWh 2	\$250 per kWh Standard	\$135,000
	\$350 per kWh CARE/FERA/MBR	

*California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), Medical Baseline Rate (MBR) customers

**Budget calculations are based on 40 standard rate customers and 10 CARE/FERA/MBR customers participating with an average 10 kWh battery storage system

NOTE: -Battery systems must have a combined system minimum of 3 kWh with an incentive cap of 15 kWh
-Budget does not include marketing costs

Partial Eligibility Criteria

1. Must be an active RCEA electric residential customer.
2. Must be a NBT rate customer.
3. Must own a single-family home where solar and a battery storage system(s) is being installed.
4. Systems must be properly permitted and interconnected.
5. Battery must be charged completely by newly installed on-site solar.
6. Only new battery systems are eligible.
7. Battery warranty must be for a minimum of ten years.
8. Only the CPUC's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) qualifying batteries are allowed
9. Battery systems must have a combined system minimum of 3 kWh with an incentive cap of 15 kWh.

Other Resources

Other resources and funding sources will be promoted to customers:

- Demand Response Programs
- Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)
- Inflation Reduction Act tax credits (30%)

CAC Subcommittee / Solar & Battery System Contractor Meeting

A number of considerations were presented at the meeting:

- Should participants be required to enroll in Demand Response programs?
- Should NEM customers that transition to NBT be considered for this program?
- Should the rebate be provided upfront to CARE/FERA/MBR customers?
- Should the NBT customers that started prior to the program launch be included in this program?

CAC Subcommittee / Solar & Battery System Contractor Feedback

Meeting attendee feedback:

- The higher per kWh rebate option was favored to help offset the cost of the battery more and incentivizes larger systems with greater storage capacity
- Provide CARE/FERA/MBR customers with upfront funding
- Provide assistance with those that wouldn't be eligible for tax credits
- Increase the size of the storage rebate to 25-30 kWh



Recommendations

Based on research and the meeting feedback, the following is being recommended:

- The “Per kWh 2” rebate program option
- Provide CARE/FERA/MBR customers with upfront funding
- Allow those that started with the NBT rate from the beginning be eligible for a rebate
- Do not allow those that transition from NEM to NBT be eligible
- Educate on Demand Response Programs but do not require it

Questions?

