



REDWOOD COAST ENERGY AUTHORITY 2026 POLICY PLATFORM

INTRODUCTION

Redwood Coast Energy Authority (“RCEA”) is a joint powers authority of the cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Trinidad, the Yurok Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, County of Humboldt, and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. The mission of RCEA 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.

This Policy Platform serves as a guide for regulatory and legislative engagement based on principles set forth in RCEA’s RePower Humboldt 2019 Update¹.

AVENUES AND EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY

Legislation and regulation are two distinct, but related, policy tools. Legislation sets principles of public policy, while regulation implements these principles and brings legislation into effect.

Examples of RCEA legislative advocacy include submitting letters in support or opposition of specific bills, as well as meeting with legislators in the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate.

Most of RCEA’s regulatory engagement takes place through the California Public Utilities Commission, the primary State agency responsible for executing legislation and issuing regulations pertinent to Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”) and Regional Energy Network (“REN”) operations. However, RCEA’s operations are also impacted by other state and federal agencies including but not limited to the California Energy Commission, the California Independent System Operator, the California Air Resources Board, the California Department of Water Resources, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Examples of advocacy in this sphere include meeting with agency staff, agency decision-makers, and submitting comments in response to regulations.

PROCEDURES

RCEA regulatory and legislative engagement is conducted at the staff level under the authority of the Executive Director in a manner consistent with RCEA’s mission, this policy platform, RCEA’s strategic plan, RCEA’s Racial Justice Plan, and any applicable RCEA plans and policies.

Issues not addressed in the platform will continue to be brought to the Board on a case-by-case basis. To keep the Board apprised of advocacy activities, staff will notify the full Board of positions taken by RCEA through periodic reports to the Board summarizing policy engagement. This platform will be brought to the RCEA Board on an annual basis for review and input.

¹ <https://redwoodenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/850/2025/09/REpower-2019-Strategic-Plan-250919.pdf>

POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Local Governance and Statutory Authority

- a. Ensure jurisdictions and tribal governments can form or become members of a CCA or REN.
- b. Protect local governments and CCA rate-setting, programming, or procurement autonomy.
- c. Empower CCA and REN ability to effectively and affordably serve their customers.
- d. Support CCA and REN customer engagement and operational transparency.
- e. Enable CCAs and RENs to collaborate with their member jurisdictions on local energy resources and projects to advance environmental objectives.
- f. Support the development of energy generation projects that align with Board-adopted strategic plan goals and RCEA's energy risk policy, as long as local development and siting criteria are consistent with city and county land use authority, other local and state regulatory requirements, and informed by input from local communities including but not limited to tribal governments.

2. Restructuring the Electricity Utility Sector

- a. Reduce reliance on Investor-Owned Utilities ("IOUs"):
 - i. Support governments' ability to fund or own electric infrastructure, including transmission and distribution infrastructure.
 - ii. Stabilize, remove, or reduce costs associated with leaving IOU service, such as the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment or costs associated with maintaining a Provider of Last Resort.
- b. Where IOU service is retained:
 - i. Reform the utility regulatory and business model to transform IOUs into entities that solely provide transmission and distribution services.
 - ii. Discourage new gas infrastructure and retire or repurpose existing gas infrastructure, while recognizing and addressing social inequities that retirement of such infrastructure may cause.²
 - iii. Reform the utility regulatory and business model to ensure IOUs deliver effective service to ratepayers, increase safety and reliability, and reduce costs.
 - iv. Foster greater collaboration and data sharing among CCAs, RENs, tribes, state and local governments, and IOUs, particularly in local planning efforts related to energy resources, load planning, and programs.
- c. Oppose direct access electric service expansion.³

3. Reliability

- a. Outage Events
 - i. Reduce duration and frequency of power outages and improve grid reliability.
 - ii. Increase transparency surrounding outage events.

² For instance, low-income households that utilize gas appliances may be disproportionately disadvantaged by gas infrastructure retirement due to appliance replacement and operating costs.

³ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/consumer-programs-and-services/electrical-energy-and-energy-efficiency/community-choice-aggregation-and-direct-access-/direct-access>

- iii. Create standards and thresholds for outage events.⁴
- iv. Support equitable treatment of non-utility owned generation during shutoff events and during related island operation of sections of the grid.
- b. Resource Adequacy (“RA”)
 - i. Reform the RA program to improve system reliability cost-effectively.
 - ii. Remove barriers to demand response, microgrids, and behind the meter resources to provide RA or other demand-reduction value.
- c. Allow for reliable customer access to the grid and connection of new resources and loads through transmission and distribution development and maintenance

4. Community Resilience

- a. Support funding programs to increase community resilience to electric service disruptions.
- b. Increase the development of community-level resources distributed energy resources that reduce the need for new transmission and distribution infrastructure.

5. Climate Action

- a. Increase resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation and support initiatives that will strengthen climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

6. Energy Generation Sources

- a. Support development of local and regional sources of renewable energy, including efforts to establish Humboldt Bay as the primary west coast hub for the offshore wind industry.
- b. Advocate for permanent waste solutions for nuclear plants and oppose policies that extend the life of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

7. Environmental Justice and Equity

- a. Engage in policy developments that impact the ability of rural, low-income, and underserved communities to have affordable, reliable, and clean energy.
- b. Enable all communities, including emerging and historically marginalized communities, and individuals, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, in California to participate in the decarbonization of the state’s electric grid, building stock, and the transportation sector in a cost-effective manner.
- c. Advocate for metrics and cost effectiveness rules that do not create a disadvantage in serving equity customers.
- d. Support and advocate for policies that allow tribal governments to be recognized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as public agencies for the purpose of being eligible to be direct recipients of CPUC program funding.
- e. Oppose the shifting of marginal costs of interconnecting and serving large new industrial or commercial loads such as data centers to other rate classes such as residential and small commercial customers.
- f. Alleviate residential and commercial financial hardship caused by public health emergencies or

⁴ For example, RCEA has proposed equity metrics for outage frequencies and impacts.

natural disasters.

8. Programs

- a. Protect CCA and REN autonomy to administer Board approved programs, including but not limited to:
 - i. Integrated demand side management (including but not limited to microgrids, distributed energy resources, demand response, energy efficiency, electrification, distributed generation and storage, vehicle-to-grid storage)
 - ii. Low-carbon transportation (including but not limited to advanced fuel deployment, fuel efficiency, fueling infrastructure)
 - iii. Energy generation and utility services (including but not limited to rates and tariffs, transmission and distribution infrastructure)
- b. Avoid interruptions, gaps, or reductions in program funding.
- c. Protect Public Purpose Program support for energy efficiency and equity programs.⁵
- d. Treat non-regulated fuels, such as propane and firewood, comparably with natural gas in allowing for electrification incentives.

⁵ Public Purpose Program covers CARE, ESA, FERA, and more programs.

https://liob.cpuc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2024/03/Item-09b_Joint-IOU-Presentation-Programs-Update_PPP-Surcharge.pdf