Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland

Our 2020 Energy Vision for Oakland

By 2020 we see Oakland beginning to establish an equitable, sustainable economy that provides green jobs and ownership opportunities to local residents. Smart energy use and the development of local renewable energy resources are resulting in increased community health and resilience and in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

We see a Community Choice energy program as a key vehicle for local energy resource development, economic growth, and clean energy jobs. By putting the procurement of electricity under public control, it allows our community to use in-city renewable energy development to generate local wealth and use that wealth to benefit our community. We see all sectors of our community as stakeholders in that process. As a result, Oakland residents—and low-income communities, in particular—are better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Our Principles for a Community Choice Energy Program

1. Social Justice and Equity: An effective Community Choice energy program is rooted in social justice and equity.
2. Green Jobs and Livelihoods: An effective Community Choice energy program creates local jobs, new businesses, and new ownership opportunities. It helps businesses improve the environment and restore our communities.
3. Workforce Development: An effective Community Choice energy program includes a commitment to workforce development programs that create good prevailing wage jobs for local residents, especially for those most vulnerable to poverty and pollution.
4. Sustainability: An effective Community Choice energy program respects the limits of nature and its fragile balance, while creating the environmental conditions needed to support future generations.
5. Healthy Communities: An effective Community Choice energy program provides the electricity to support locally resilient, healthy foods systems; affordable, reliable, and accessible public transportation; clean air; clean water; and safe, efficient, affordable housing.
6. Energy Democracy: An effective Community Choice energy program depends on shared leadership and decision-making authority that involves all stakeholder communities.
7. Climate Adaptation: An effective Community Choice energy program strengthens vulnerable communities to prepare for disaster, adapt to the effects of climate change, and build community resilience.
8. Social Safety Net: An effective Community Choice energy program makes special provisions for those people unable to afford energy services at normal rates.
9. Precautionary Principle: An effective Community Choice energy program accepts that a project, policy, or decision should not be pursued if it could have an adverse impact on human or environmental health.

For more information on the Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland campaign, see http://www.localcleanenergy.org/policy-platform/campaign2012.