

Clean Power Healthy Communities



The 5th Annual Conference of the Local Clean Energy Alliance

Thursday, March 5, 2015

California Endowment Conference Center, Oakland CA

The Local Clean Energy Alliance* is proud to announce the 5th annual *Clean Power, Healthy Communities* Conference, promoting the development of locally-controlled clean energy economies as a necessary path to a sustainable future.

The conference is a diverse gathering of policy makers, entrepreneurs, and community advocates engaged in a thoughtful and inspiring exploration of strategies and programs for advancing a local clean energy transition in the Bay Area.

The 5th annual conference will feature plenaries and breakout sessions on the role of energy democracy—community control and ownership of energy resources—in the transition to a renewable future. How can we leverage the distributed nature of renewable energy to build a new economy that is regenerative, sustainable, and equitable? What approaches are being used to build community control of energy sources from the ground up? What emerging technologies and alternative financing mechanisms will contribute to the growth of community-based energy development?

Why Energy Democracy

The urgency to address the growing threat of climate collapse is causing many to support quick-fix decarbonization models as alternatives to fossil-fuel-based energy, as solutions to the climate crisis. These models are based on large-scale, centralized, corporate energy generation (both renewable and nuclear), which leaves the logic of unlimited growth in consumption, extreme inequality, and centralized economic power unchallenged.

However, the Local Clean Energy Alliance joins a growing consensus that a new life-sustaining economic model is needed to avoid ecological disaster, and that decentralized, democratized energy resources are an essential aspect of the transformation to a sustainable future.

There have been hopeful developments in this regard: the significant increase in Community Choice initiatives throughout California, the rapid growth in rooftop solar installation, and the movement of institutions to divest from fossil-fuel holdings and reinvest in life-sustaining local economies. These developments have engendered a ruthless backlash from the corporate energy establishment.

Build the Movement

The Clean Power, Healthy Communities conference seeks to strengthen the movement for a sustainable energy, in which communities and grassroots organizations are playing an increasingly decisive role. The conference is a venue for discussions of how to overcome political and financial obstacles to advancing energy democracy. It provides an opportunity for organizations and individuals committed to these efforts to interact and share experiences.

**The Local Clean Energy Alliance, the Bay Area's largest clean energy coalition, promotes the equitable development and democratization of local renewable energy resources as key to addressing climate change and building sustainable and resilient communities.*

Preliminary Conference Program

Registration and light breakfast (8:00 – 9:00)

Opening Introductory remarks to set the stage (9:00 – 9:20)

Morning Keynote and Panel Response: *Local Clean Energy Matters* (9:20 – 10:20)

Nikki Silvestri, recent Executive Director of Green For All

How is community-based, decentralized energy key to community empowerment and building healthy, equitable and sustainable communities?

Morning Breakouts: Initiatives Promoting Resilient Communities (10:30 – 11:40)

Local initiatives that confront fossil fuels, and that point the way forward for local clean energy: fighting fossil fuel, Community Choice energy, energy efficiency, and community solar.

Networking and Lunch (11:40 -12:50)

Afternoon Keynote and Panel Response: *Organizing to Democratize Energy* (12:50-1:50)

Denise Fairchild, President & CEO of Emerald Cities Collaborative

What will it take to build a movement to democratize energy in the U.S?

Breakouts: Building Our Political Constituency (2:00 – 3:00)

Workshops on building political clout by sector: community, government, business, labor

Plenary: Energy Democracy and the New Economy (3:10 – 4:10)

How the distributed nature of renewable energy can be leveraged to stimulate a regenerative, sustainable and equitable economy.

Conference Wrap Up (4:15 – 4:30)

Post-Conference Social Hour (5:00 - 7:00)

“I was pleasantly surprised, inspired even, by the conference framing: that clean energy is just one piece of the broad goal of community power. I went in thinking I'd learn more about the innovations in clean energy, but came away with that *and* saw how various groups were weaving in community transformation right along side it.”

Mari Rose Taruc,
State Organizing Director,
Asian Pacific Environmental
Network (APEN)

Featured Speakers. Last Year's Conference



Tom Steyer
Next Generation

Gopal Dayaneni,
Movement Generation Justice and Ecology Project



Miya Yoshitani
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Susannah Churchill
Vote Solar



Danny Kennedy
Sungevity

Strela Cervas
California Environmental Justice Alliance