PRESS ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Area's Largest Energy Alliance to Host Town Hall with Asssemblymember Nancy Skinner Dynamic Cross-Sector Conference to Accelerate Local Clean Energy Projects and Green Job Growth

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Oakland, CA —150 renewable energy movers and shakers will gather on May 10 for the third annual <u>Clean Power, Healthy Communities</u> conference in downtown Oakland. Participants will bolster efforts to accelerate urban clean energy projects and create local green jobs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

As PG&E fumbles to maintain its energy infrastructure and drags its feet on clean energy development, Bay Area cities and local renewable power companies are demonstrating visionary leadership, with new models and programs that are bringing the benefits of local renewable power to our communities.

Organized by the Local Clean Energy Alliance, Clean Power, Healthy Communities will focus on how cities can ramp up local renewable energy while cutting global warming pollution and creating thousands of family-supporting clean energy jobs. The conference also includes a town hall discussion with Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, who chairs the Natural Resources Committee and sits on the Utilities and Commerce Committee. Other speakers include international energy experts, representatives from social justice, labor, and the environment, local government agencies, and green businesses. For a complete schedule of activities, please see http://localcleanenergy.org/2012-conference-program

"We're very motivated by the economic and climate challenges faced by our communities. And we feel we're at a watershed moment for local clean energy development here in the Bay Area," said Alliance Coordinator Al Weinrub. "As San Francisco, Marin County, Sonoma County, and East Bay cities move forward on Community Choice energy programs, we are organizing grassroots support to ensure that these strategies truly benefit our communities." The Alliance's signature issue is advocating for and implementing Community Choice energy, which can give residents and businesses the choice of obtaining electricity from local renewable resources rather than buying it from PG&E.

The Local Clean Energy Alliance is now Northern California's largest renewable power alliance, with 90 affiliates. "Our 2010 conference launched the grassroots effort to defeat PG&E's Prop 16, which we won despite being outspent 500 to 1," said Kirsten Schwind, Program Director at Bay Localize, which hosts the Alliance. "Our 2011 conference and rally gained major news coverage of community demands for safe, clean energy, while opposing the re-licensing of California's nuclear plants after the disaster in Fukushima."

Featured Speakers and Workshops This Year:

- ❖ California Assemblymember and clean energy policy leader **Nancy Skinner**
- ❖ Keynote address by policy shaker **Bill Gallegos** of Communities for a Better Environment
- ❖ Panels featuring <u>350.org</u> co-founder **Jamie Henn**, international energy expert **Paul Gipe**, labor organizer **Lisa Hoyos**, and many outstanding clean power advocates
- ❖ Workshops on game-changing initiatives like feed-in tariffs and Community Choice Energy

For more, see www.LocalCleanEnergy.org

