

East Bay Clean Power Alliance Vision: A Community-Development-Focused East Bay Community Energy Program



We envision an East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) program in Alameda County that prioritizes the development of local renewable energy resources (both demand reduction and new generation) as a way to meet its stated community benefit goals.

This kind of community-development-focused Community Choice program differs in some substantial ways from an investor-owned utility. In addition, this kind of Community Choice program would include a number of features to help it meet its community benefit goals, as outlined below.

Basic characteristics of a community-development-focused program

The following table shows a few important ways in which a community-development-focused East Bay Community Energy program would be substantially different from an investor-owned utility.

Community-development-focused EBCE program	Investor-owned utility
Non-profit public agency	For-profit private corporation
Purpose is to maximize community benefits: meet GHG reduction, economic development, good clean energy jobs, rate stability, social equity, local ownership and control of energy, and other community benefit goals	Purpose is, by law, to maximize shareholder returns
Net electricity revenues remain in the community: to expand services, invest in new assets, build reserves, or reduce rates	Net electricity revenues leave the community as utility profits and shareholder dividends
Based on an Energy Service Provider model (provide optimum energy services to community: cut waste, reduce demand, lower overall system costs of electricity service)	Based on a Utility model (buys and sells electricity to ratepayers: the more electricity delivered, the better) ¹

Features of a community-development-focused program

The following table shows the features of a community-development-focused East Bay Community Energy program and the impacts these features would have on meeting community benefit goals.

Feature	Impact
<p>Implements a local build-out plan for renewable energy resource development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds and Integrates local renewable resources Integrates local resources with market procurement Specifies 10 year build-out scenarios to meet portfolio targets Identifies financing/capitalization requirements, sources, and mechanisms, as well as return on investment 	<p>Builds economic development platform, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greenhouse gas reduction clean energy jobs rate stability social equity local ownership and control of energy community resilience other community benefit goals

¹ The CPUC does not allow PG&E to profit directly from electricity sales, only from the delivery of electricity, based on a return on investments in distribution and transmission infrastructure.

Feature	Impact
<p>Flattened electricity load profile: reduces/spreads out peak loads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses load data to identify sources of peak loads • Designs programs to reduce/eliminate peaks • Uses storage, demand response, etc, to shift peak loads 	<p>Significantly lowers overall system costs of electricity by reducing expensive peak-load electricity</p>
<p>Reduced overall electricity load:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes conservation, energy efficiency, demand response, building retrofits, etc. • Provides energy efficiency services for commercial, residential, non-profit, and public buildings, and monetizes the savings • Creates neighborhood-based programs to foster ratepayer consciousness of electricity consumption/waste • Promotes building retrofit financing for low-income property owners and multifamily residences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saves money for ratepayers • Increases economic development in energy efficiency and demand reduction • Reduces local greenhouse gas emissions • Creates local clean energy jobs • Increases social equity • Increases community energy consciousness
<p>High renewable portfolio content: Exceeds California renewable portfolio standard (RPS)</p>	<p>Maximizes reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</p>
<p>High local renewable portfolio content: Prioritizes community-based renewable generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies prospective sites for development and initiates development projects • Invests in building local assets • Builds technical capacity of new local businesses as renewable energy project developers and contractors • Incentivizes cooperatives, minority businesses, and collective enterprise development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces local greenhouse gas emissions • Increases local business development • Creates local clean energy jobs • Builds a more reliable, disaster-secure, and resilient electricity system • Increases social equity • Stabilizes electricity rates
<p>Integrated power planning: scheduling local and market-purchased power to lower costs, hedge against market volatility, and provide adequate reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases reliability • Lowers overall system costs of electricity
<p>Promotes behind-the-meter development: energy efficiency and renewable generation resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets behind-the-meter services and financing to building owners • Creates neighborhood or sector-based programs to promote building upgrades • Establishes easy financing mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases local ownership of energy • Increases social equity • Increases community resilience • saves money for building owners
<p>New programs to incentivize local build-out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prices for excess net-metering production that encourage maximum rooftop installation • Feed-in Tariff program for new generation • Shared renewables program (virtual net-metering) • PACE financing • On-bill repayment • Streamlined solar permitting for all participating municipalities • Incentives for demand response implementations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces local greenhouse gas emissions • Builds local business • Generates ratepayer savings • Increases social equity • Increases local ownership of energy assets • Creates local clean energy jobs

Feature	Impact
<p>Labor, workforce development, and performance standards for EBCE projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiates EBCE Community Workforce Agreements (or project labor agreements) • Aggregates large numbers of small projects into larger projects done under Community Workforce Agreement • Builds pathways for local residents and disadvantaged communities into family-sustaining jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves wages and benefits for clean energy jobs: increasing skill level of workers, increasing union jobs, and building union strength • Stabilizes communities • Increases social equity • Reduces costs of unemployment, crime, health care and other safety net programs
<p>Experimental/pilot programs for new technologies: micro-grid development, new local business development, neighborhood involvement, and partnerships with the water districts (like EBMUD) and transportation agencies (like BART)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases new business development and innovation • increases local economic development • creates local clean energy jobs • builds a more reliable, disaster-secure, and resilient electricity system
<p>Builds synergy with electric vehicles: for public transportation, goods movement, private travel, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowers pollution and greenhouse gas emissions • Makes optimum use of resources • Improves local health
<p>Social Equity: Programs to benefit communities most impacted by environmental and economic injustice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive programs and financing tailored to needs of low income communities • Local hire and workforce development programs for disadvantaged communities • Minority and small business development programs • Opposition to utility shut-offs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All neighborhoods benefit from energy resource development and improved environmental health • Historically disadvantaged communities benefit from local business growth and clean energy employment development
<p>Promotes community participation in shaping and implementing the EBCE program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowers communities • Increases social equity • Increases democracy

Community - Development - Focused Program Features

