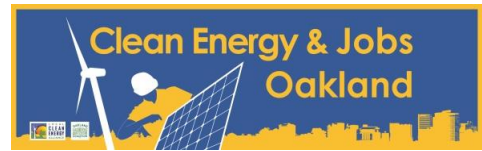


# Putting Our Community In Community Choice Energy

December 15, 2015



Putting Our Community in Community Choice Energy was organized by the Local Clean Energy Alliance to engage the social justice community in the Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland Campaign. The focus of the event was the Campaign's vision of a Community Choice energy program in the East Bay that advances economic, environmental, and racial justice.

## Participants/Attendees

The December 15th event drew 25 community leaders, mostly individuals of color from base-building, clean energy, social justice, religious, and union organizations in Oakland and neighboring communities.

## Purpose/Goal

The goal of the event was to increase community understanding and support for community-based clean energy development through *East Bay Community Energy*—Alameda County's emerging Community Choice energy program. An informed base of leaders in communities most-impacted by poverty, pollution and climate change is key to creating dignified, family-sustaining and unionized local clean energy jobs and an equitable, life-sustaining, and regenerative local economy.

## Program

The event began with a round of introductions and a viewing of the [Community Choice, Community Power](#) video, followed by a brief overview of Community Choice energy. We presented our vision of a Community-Development-Focused Community Choice energy program in the East Bay—one that meets the community benefits goals of the East Bay Community Energy program by emphasizing a local build-out of renewable energy resources.

The presentation was followed by a discussion that included comments from community leaders about what's at stake for their communities in Community Choice energy:

***“Only three of thirty-nine East Bay Community Energy Steering Committee self-identified as racial and social justice groups. We need to bring information to our community and represent the voice that is needed... We have a lot of pollution in people-of-color, low income, and immigrant communities; where we live. It's important that our community has a choice and know they have the option of clean energy.”***

Jing Jing He, Asian Pacific Environmental Network



***“It's not just rooftop solar, it's installation support, energy efficiency, demand reduction, storage, integrative planning - there are many pieces to this work - a lot of opportunities for good jobs!”***

Shiva Patel, Energy Solidarity Cooperative

## Outcomes

The principal outcome of this event was to inspire social, environmental justice and union leaders' interest in continuing the conversation and in maintaining a two-way engagement between the Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland Campaign and community leaders in the establishment of the East Bay Community Energy program. We agree that we need to do more community outreach and education on Community Choice energy and identify more sectors of the community that we need to include in our gathering.

## Follow-up

The Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland Campaign is seeking to build a broad constituency of labor, environmental/social justice, religious and youth groups. We will meet with organizations one-on-one, where possible, to do Community Choice energy workshops with an emphasis on local build-out of renewable energy resources. In addition, we plan to convene additional discussions. We encourage organizations to become engaged, depending on capacity, and invite leaders to be supporters of Clean Energy & Jobs Oakland and as members of the East Bay Clean Power Alliance.

## Available Resources

- [Program Vision: East Bay Community Energy](#)
- [East Bay Community Choice Energy: from Concept to Implementation](#) (in-depth 34-page report)
- [Community Choice: Economic Development Clean Energy & Jobs](#) (two-page handout)
- [Promoting a Labor Friendly Community Choice Program](#)

For organizations that are interested in joining the East Bay Community Choice energy initiative, we will do presentations for membership, executive boards, or other bodies within your organization. Please direct any inquiries about the campaign or presentations to:

Jessica Tovar: [jessica@localcleanenergy.org](mailto:jessica@localcleanenergy.org)

