



**DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, March 21, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 and the findings made by the DCE Board, this meeting will only be conducted via video/teleconferencing.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87977657209?pwd=SUUvZHVqYkVsWXhTVVRWSmE0cFdxZz09>

One tap mobile:

US: +16699009128,,87977657209#

By Phone:

Dial In #: +1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 879 7765 7209

Passcode: 039808

This will provide listening access and ability to address the DCE Community Advisory Committee when called upon.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CONNECT VIA DIAL IN OPTION, PLEASE CALL 760-346-1127

Members of the public are encouraged to submit comment in connection with the Desert Community Energy Community Advisory Committee meeting by email to: cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the committee meeting. Comments intended to be read aloud into the record should be no more than 300 characters in length.

THIS MEETING IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE.

ACTION MAY RESULT ON ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

A. Member Roster

4

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to address the Desert Community Energy Community Advisory Committee on items appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

A. Introduction of new DCE staff members

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes from Meeting of February 24, 2021

5

6. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. Election of Community Advisory Committee Officers – David Freedman

8

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Community Advisory Committee for 2022

B. Update on DCE Outreach Efforts – Burke Rix Communications

C. OhmConnect Smart Thermostat Program – Katie Barrows

9

D. Recap of Ongoing DCE Programs – Katie Barrows

11

Recommendation: Information

E. Schedule and Topics for Upcoming CAC Meetings – David Freedman

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Any person wishing to address the Committee on items not appearing on this agenda may do so at this time. Please limit comments to 2 minutes. At the discretion of the chair, additional public comment time and/or opportunities during the meeting may be granted.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next DCE Board meeting will be held March 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom videoconference. The next DCE CAC meeting will be held as needed.

9. ADJOURN

Item 2A

Community Advisory Committee Member Roster
Berlinda Blackburn Carl Baker Daniel Paris Don Barrett Jeremy Roos Kim Floyd Maricruz Osorio Noel Loughrin Paul Murphy
DCE Staff
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Katie Barrows, Director
David Freedman, Program Manager
Liz Barnwell, Management Analyst
Janice Reitman, Accounting Manager



Cleaner electricity • Local control • Competitive rates

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 - 5:30pm

Held via Zoom Videoconference

The audio file for this committee meeting can be found at:
<http://www.desertcommunityenergy.org>

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. and held via Zoom, which was pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 and the state's guidance on virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present were Carl Baker, Daniel Paris, David Freedman, Elmer Diaz (arrived during Item 4), Kim Floyd, Noel Loughrin, and Paul Murphy (arrived during Item 6A).

Members absent were Berlinda Blackburn, Jeremy Roos, Kathleen DeRosa, Lani Miller, Shelley Kaplan, and Terry Applegate.

DCE Staff and consultants present were Benjamin Druyon, Katie Barrows, Valdemar Galeana and Trisha Stull.

Others present were Kari H'Orvath (GRID) and Chad Ihrig (Franklin Energy).

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments made.

IV. COMMITTEE MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

The Inland Empire Regional Energy Network was highlighted, with Benjamin Druyon noting that the program is currently submitting a business plan to the CPUC.

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www.DesertCommunityEnergy.org

Kim Floyd proposed that the Palm Desert members of the CAC meet to discuss Palm Desert's participation in DCE. Benjamin Druyon stated that DCE is also coordinating with City officials about potential launch opens.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approve Minutes from CAC Meeting of October 15, 2020

A motion was made by Kim Floyd and seconded by Carl Baker to approve the consent calendar. The motion to approve the consent calendar was accepted unanimously.

VI. DISCUSSION / ACTION

A. DCE Updates on Power Purchase Agreements

Benjamin Druyon shared that PPAs with Terra Gen and Vesper Energy have been successfully negotiated. Valdemar Galeana shared that the PPAs will create a savings of millions of dollars and offer DCE rate stability. No action was taken.

B. GRID Alternatives Outreach Assistance

Kari H'Orvath, GRID Alternatives, provided an overview on potential collaboration, including mailers and possible workshops. Member discussion ensued. No action was taken.

C. CCA Program Research Updates

CAC members shared the research they had done on potential CCA programs. Member discussion ensued, including community participation, community beneficial contracts, and advertising energy rebate programs. No action was taken.

VII. INFORMATION

A. Attendance Record

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments made.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The next regular CAC meeting will be scheduled on an as needed basis. It was suggested that the CAC meet in May before Cathedral City withdraws from DCE.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Trisha Stull

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Item 6A

Desert Community Energy
Community Advisory Committee
March 21, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Election of Community Advisory Committee Officers

Contact: David Freedman, Program Manager (dfreedman@cvag.org)

Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Community Advisory Committee for 2022

Background: In March 2019, the DCE Board established a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in order to provide a structured opportunity for community members to participate in DCE, as well as help ensure that efforts to educate and inform member communities about Community Choice Energy are broad and inclusive. The first members of the CAC were appointed by the DCE Board at the June 17, 2019 Board meeting.

In 2019, the Community Advisory Committee also elected its first Chair, David Freedman of Palm Springs, and its Vice Chair, Shelley Kaplan of Cathedral City. No subsequent elections have yet been held. In recent months, there have been changes to the CAC membership to reflect Cathedral City's departure from DCE. Additionally, Mr. Freedman stepped down from the CAC and its Palm Springs Working Group in order to join the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) staff as DCE Program Manager.

The Committee does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair. Staff recommends that the Community Advisory Committee provide nominations and elect its officers for 2022.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost associated with this action.



Save money and energy

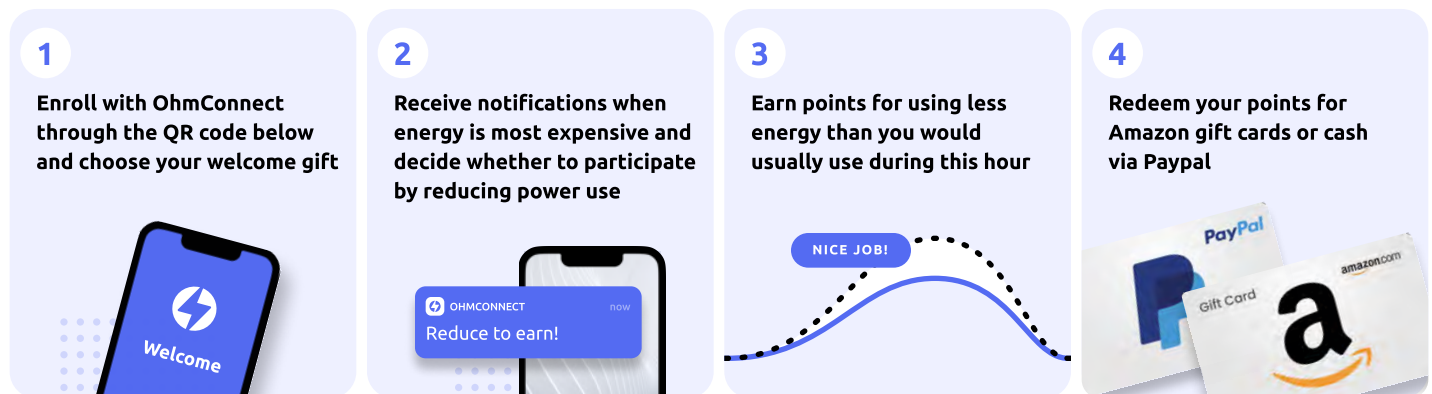
With OhmConnect and Desert Community Energy



Coachella Valley residents who are customers of Desert Community Energy or SCE are entitled to a smart thermostat or two free smart plugs for \$.99 to help you save energy!

If you are a customer of Desert Community Energy or Southern California Edison, you can save money and energy through a FREE program with our partner, OhmConnect. When you sign up for the program, you will receive alerts when energy is most expensive and polluting. This is usually between 4-9 p.m. on weekdays, when the energy grid is under peak stress.

HOW IT WORKS



Just scan this QR code with your phone to get started



*** \$.99 smart thermostat or 2 smart plugs offer available for a limited time, so act fast!**

Help make the future greener in the Coachella Valley.



Ahorre dinero y energía

Con OhmConnect y Desert Community Energy



Residentes del Valle de Coachella que son clientes de Southern California Edison están eligibles para recibir un termostato inteligente o dos enchufes inteligentes solo por \$.99 por ahorrar energía!

Si usted es cliente de Southern California Edison y vive en el Valle de Coachella, puede ahorrar dinero y energía a través de un programa de nuestro socio, OhmConnect. Cuando se suscribe al programa, usted recibirá alertas cuando el precio de energía es más cara y contaminada. Usualmente esto ocurre entre 4-9 p.m. durante la semana, cuando la red the energia está bajo el pico de estrés.

COMO TRABAJA:

1

Inscribirse con OhmConnect a través del código QR abajo y escoja su regalo de bienvenida

2

Reciba notificaciones cuando el precio de energía es mas cara y decida su participación reduciendo su uso de electricidad

3

Ahorre puntos por reducir el uso de energía menos de lo cual normalmente usara durante esta hora

4

Intercambie sus puntos por una tarjeta de regalo de Amazon o dinero en efectivo a través de Paypal

Solo escanea este código QR con su teléfono para empezar



*** Termostato inteligente o dos enchufes por \$.99 disponible por tiempo limitado, actúe pronto!**

Ayude hacer el futuro del Valle de Coachella más verde.

Item 6D

Desert Community Energy
Community Advisory Committee
March 21, 2022



STAFF REPORT

Subject: Recap of Ongoing DCE Programs

Contact: Katie Barrows, Director (kbarrows@cvaq.org)

Recommendation: Information

Background: DCE staff regularly provides updates to the DCE Board and the Community Advisory Committee about ongoing programs. At the March meeting, DCE staff will provide a recap of recent activities and a preview of some upcoming initiatives. These include the following efforts:

- Recent rate updates;
- Revolving line of credit and associated guaranty from City of Palm Springs;
- Midterm Reliability procurement;
- Status of program launch in the City of Palm Desert;
- Distributed Energy Resources pilot program;
- Net Energy Metering (NEM) updates;
- Launch of the Inland Regional Energy Network (IREN);
- Southern California Edison's Time of Use (TOU) transition and DCE's TOU bill protection program; and
- Bill assistance and payment arrangement programs.

Staff is also providing additional details on some of these programs as attachments.

Fiscal Analysis: There is no additional cost associated with this action.

Attachments: DCE's NEM resolution and flyers on IREN and TOU



Cleaner electricity • Local control • Competitive rates

February 28, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: DCE Supports the Sustainable and Equitable Growth of Rooftop Solar, Particularly for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities, via the Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 Proceeding

Dear Governor Newsom and CPUC Commissioners,

Desert Community Energy (DCE) requests your support to ensure that rooftop solar coupled with energy storage continues to grow sustainably and equitably in California, through the existing Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 proceeding.

Adoption of distributed energy resources (DERs), such as solar plus storage, is fundamental in the fight against climate change. Further, increased solar plus storage adoption improves resiliency for the entire grid, and has the potential to lessen the impacts of the climate crisis via reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. High DER penetration also creates green jobs to benefit our communities.

NEM allows DCE customers to power their homes, apartments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, cities, and schools using clean solar energy by giving them a bill credit for the excess clean electricity they send to the grid. Today, the sustainable and equitable growth of rooftop solar is in question. California's investor-owned utilities (IOU) and other parties in the NEM proceeding are proposing to make changes which would impact the financial incentives of NEM customers.

Recently, the DCE Board of Directors adopted a resolution that supports protecting and expanding rooftop solar via a strong succeeding NEM tariff and expanding clean energy access by making it easier, not harder, for people to adopt rooftop solar and energy storage in order to meet California's ambitious clean energy targets and deploy solar in all communities and households, particularly those struggling to pay for electricity.

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Some studies show that historically, rooftop solar adoption has disproportionately benefited higher income, white, single-family homeowners.¹ However, DCE is focused on creating sustainable and equitable outcomes for all our member communities. When determining the structure of the program under a NEM 3.0 framework, DCE urges you to consider those customers who have traditionally been excluded from the benefits of NEM, such as those who are lower-income and/or live in multi-unit dwellings and disadvantaged communities (DACs).

DCE is focused on getting battery storage, coupled with solar, into our communities to help with resiliency during emergency outages and PSPS events, and to improve grid health and reliability. Battery storage is especially important for medically vulnerable customers, critical facilities, and in DACs, where Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events have been an added burden. These battery solutions, coupled with solar, shift the benefits of solar to the evening, when the energy is needed most, and they reduce the need for fossil-based generation during the high demand 4-9 pm timeframe.

NEM solutions should bolster and incentivize storage to improve grid health and community resilience. However, the proposed policy changes to NEM would make going solar more expensive to future customers, increase the amount of time it takes to pay off their investments and ultimately have the potential to limit the amount of rooftop solar (and solar plus storage) in California. Some of the proposed changes would also create monthly fixed fees that DCE customers could not avoid in their transmission and distribution charges, regardless of the Net Surplus Compensation (NSC) that is provided by DCE.

It is critical to consider impacts of the proposed changes to NEM to our low-income communities like those in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) discount programs. While these customers may wish to enroll in NEM, decreased financial incentives to solar DER adoption may discourage those customers that could significantly benefit.

To promote a sustainable and equitable NEM future, DCE urges a strong focus on incentivizing solar plus storage adoption (particularly among low-income customers and those living in DACs), avoiding punitive fees for installing solar, and ensuring any changes do not dissuade customers from installing battery storage. While there may be a need for a modest grid-use charge for NEM customers who rely on the grid during non-solar hours to avoid cross-subsidization, there should be no “penalty” fees for NEM customers. Any such grid-use charge should be carefully researched and developed before implementation to confirm it would not act as a disincentive to battery storage adoption.

DCE opposes any CPUC proposal that imposes a penalty fee on past or future solar and solar + storage adopters. It is critical that low and middle-income customers (including

¹ Barbose, Galen L., *et al.* Residential Solar-Adopter Income and Demographic Trends: 2021 Update. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Berkeley, CA 2021.

homeowners and renters, as well as those living in disadvantaged communities) are not discouraged from enrolling in NEM programs. Potential solutions to consider include:

- Expanding NEM benefits for residents with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income, as determined by the Department of Housing and Community Development;
- Exempting low-income customers, especially those that live in High Fire Threat District (HFTD) areas or DACs, or those who have experienced multiple PSPS events from additional fixed charges.
- Providing stronger incentives for low-income customers that live in HFTD areas to install solar plus storage systems;
- Exempting low-income customers and those who live in DACs from additional fixed charges;
- Providing stronger upfront incentives for low-income customers and those who live in a DAC to install solar plus storage systems; and
- Exempting customers who install batteries from any proposed fixed charges (and providing compensation for those DERs), as their batteries provide additional grid benefits.

California has long been a model for the clean energy transition, and what happens here will inform the clean energy landscape across the United States. As we emerge from the economic and public health crises caused by COVID-19, DCE urges you to maintain the benefits of solar energy for all Californians when storage is included, ensure that rooftop solar plus battery storage continues to grow sustainably and equitably, and focus investment on the ratepayers and communities who are at the forefront of the social justice and climate crisis.

Sincerely,



Geoff Kors

Chair, DCE Board of Directors

cc: Members of the California Public Utilities Commission
Senator Melissa Melendez
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Chad Mayes

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY IN SUPPORT OF NET ENERGY METERING

WHEREAS, Net Energy Metering (NEM) is designed to support the installation of customer-sited renewable energy generation; and

WHEREAS, NEM allows customers to receive bill credits for power generated by their solar system and shared with the power grid and ultimately save money on their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, NEM is what has allowed solar to become increasingly accessible to low- and moderate-income households; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has launched a formal proceeding to update the current NEM structure to be introduced in 2022 as NEM 3.0, and a number of parties have submitted their proposal for what they believe NEM 3.0 should look like; and

WHEREAS, the California Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs), Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison, have submitted a joint proposal (the "IOU Proposal") that calls for drastic changes to NEM that would make customer-sited renewable energy more expensive, increase the amount of time it takes for customers to pay off their systems, and grind to a halt the installation of distributed solar in California; and

WHEREAS, the IOU Proposal would make it impossible for customer-sited renewables to continue to grow sustainably as mandated by law as a result of high monthly fixed fees for all solar installations, and slashing credits customers receive for sharing their excess electricity with the power grid; and

WHEREAS, proposals submitted to CPUC by GRID Alternatives, Protect Our Communities Foundation, Vote Solar, California Solar & Storage Association, Solar Energy Industries Association, and others not only would encourage new solar adoption but also include additional subsidies for low-income customers; and

WHEREAS, California cannot meet its clean energy targets in time with utility-scale solar alone and needs to triple the amount of rooftop solar, as reported by the California Energy Commission's 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report Summary; and

WHEREAS, protecting rooftop solar and expanding access to rooftop solar in communities of concern will help California as well as our own region to move toward 100 percent clean energy, lessen the impacts of the climate crisis, and reduce climate injustices from polluting energy; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021, the CPUC issued a Proposed Decision that is very similar to the IOU Proposal. Notable elements of it include the following:

- Credit value of excess energy saved and exported to the grid is slashed by nearly 80%
- Inadequate market transition credits
- Eligibility term reduced for existing (NEM 1.0 and NEM 2.0) solar customers

- Dramatic increases in payback periods for rooftop solar systems; and

WHEREAS, we are in a climate crisis and need to make the transition to clean energy more accessible.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Desert Community Energy supports protecting and expanding rooftop solar via a strong succeeding NEM tariff and expanding clean energy access by making it easier, not harder, for people to adopt rooftop solar and energy storage in order to meet California's ambitious clean energy targets and deploy solar in all communities and households, particularly those struggling to pay for electricity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Desert Community Energy urges the CPUC to reject the Net Energy Metering 3.0 Proposed Decision issued on December 13, 2021, and instead to:


1. strengthen NEM to expand access to all households, particularly of low and moderate income;
2. expand access to other clean energy technologies that pair with solar, such as battery storage;
3. ensure that the solar installations continue to grow to meet the State's and DCE member jurisdictions' climate goals; and
4. exclude provisions in the IOU Proposal such as imposing high monthly fixed fees and reducing or eliminating credits for sharing electricity with the power grid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom, State Senator Melissa Melendez, Assemblymembers Eduardo Garcia and Chad Mayes, and the members of the California Public Utilities Commission.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 14th day of February 2022.

AYES: Kors, Jonathan
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


 Geoff Kors
 Chair, Desert Community Energy

ATTEST: 
 Tom Kirk
 Secretary, Desert Community Energy

Approved as to form:


 Ryan Baron
 General Counsel, Desert Community Energy

I-REN

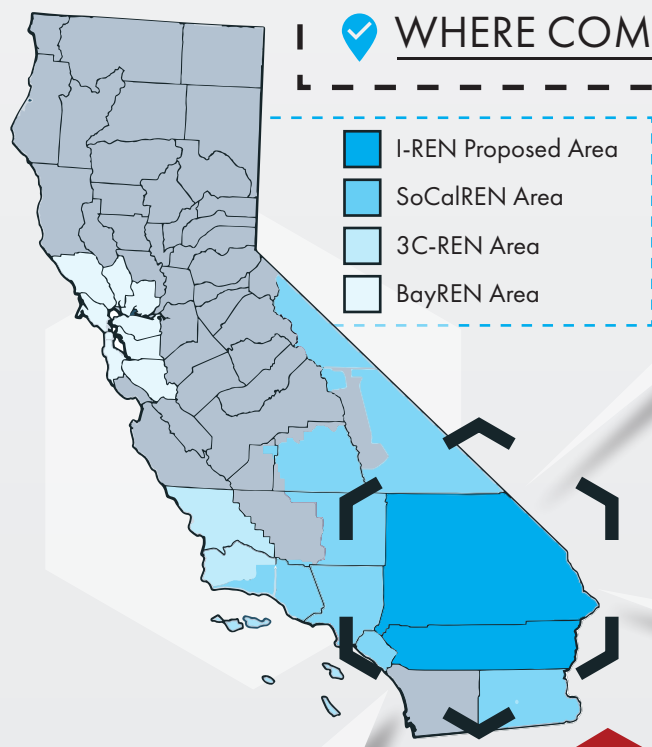
INLAND REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

WHAT IS THE I-REN?

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is an exciting new offering of nearly \$10 Million per year in energy efficient programs and services specifically designed and tailored for Inland Southern California.

NEARLY \$10 MILLION PER YEAR
IN ENERGY EFFICIENT PROGRAMS

WHERE COMMUNITY, ENERGY & EQUITY INTERSECT



COMMUNITY

I-REN WOULD BE THE

1ST TO UNIFY AN INLAND COMMUNITY

AND IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE LOCAL CONTROL

EQUITY

The Establishment of the I-REN is the opportunity for Inland SoCal to receive its FAIR SHARE.

Communities That Pay Surcharge

Communities Served by REN

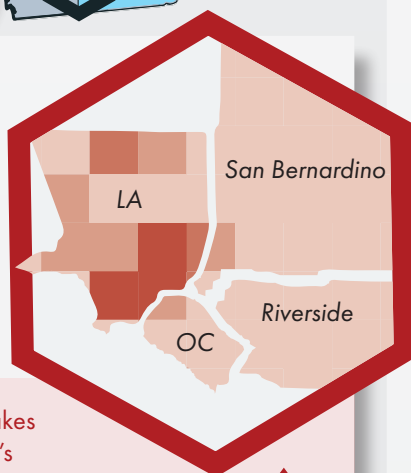
Communities That Administer REN

I-REN would fall into this category.

ENERGY

Rate payer dollars are already allocated to the development of energy efficiency programs (like RENs) by the CPUC.

The Inland SoCal region makes up over 20% of SoCal REN's population yet few energy projects have been completed in the inland region.



HEAT MAP OF PROJECTS IN LA COUNTY VS INLAND SoCAL COUNTIES.



How Can We Leverage Local Control?

The establishment of an I-REN through the three Councils of Governments (COGs) will maximize local resources and input to best serve the unique and diverse needs of our communities.

The I-REN will leverage the three COGs':

- Existing committee structures
- Member input and program customization
- Administrative oversight
- Program delivery for equitable outcomes

What Will Be I-REN's Impact?



Goal 1: Capacity Building

Build capacity and knowledge to enable local governments to effectively leverage energy efficiency services and to demonstrate best practices.

Example:

Public Agency Program Services | SoCalREN



Goal 2: Strong Workforce

Ensure there is a trained workforce to support and realize energy efficiency savings goals across sectors.

Example:

Building Performance Training | 3C-REN



Goal 3: Scalable Tools and Resources

Work closely with local building departments and building industry to support, train and enable long-term streamlining of energy code compliance.

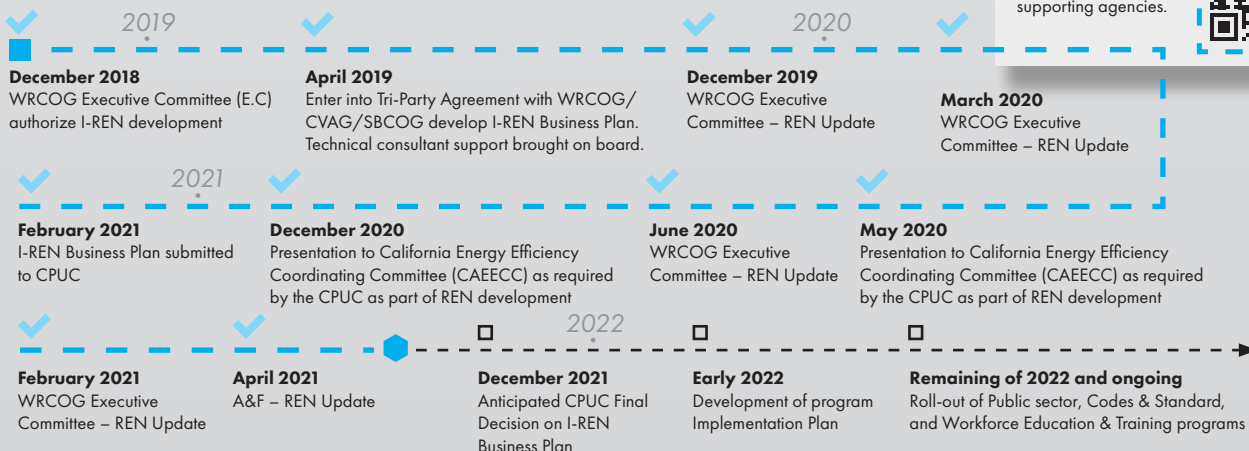
Example:

BayREN Codes & Standards | BayREN



A Timeline of Support Through the Years

Scan the QR Code to see a complete list of supporting agencies.



Ways to Save with Time-of-Use

The time of day when you use electricity is as important as how much electricity you use. Working with nature, you can use less energy and save more money. Using the renewable power of the sun during the day and wind during the night also provides you a level of energy independence. Time-of-Use, or TOU, plans allow you to take advantage of lower electricity rates by avoiding the peak hours between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m., depending on your chosen plan.

Here are tips to saving both money and energy:



Run your dishwasher, washer, and dryer in the morning, early afternoon (before 4:00 p.m.!), or after 8:00 or 9:00 p.m.



It's best to set your pool pump to run 4 to 6 hours in the morning or after 9:00 p.m.



Pre-cool your home in the morning and set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or higher) later in the day.



Best time to charge your electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle is after 9:00 p.m.

More ways to save with Time-of-Use Plans:

<https://www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings/Ways-to-Save-with-Time-of-Use-Plans>

More information from SCE:

<https://www.sce.com/residential/rates/Time-Of-Use-Residential-Rate-Plans>

DCE has lots of tips to help you save more:

<https://desertcommunityenergy.org/save-money-energy/>