



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

**Monday, December 9, 2024
5:30 p.m.**

**Demuth Community Center
3601 E Mesquite Avenue
Palm Springs, CA 92264**

Members of the public are encouraged to submit comment in connection with the Desert Community Energy meeting by email to: cvag@cvag.org by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the Board meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Savannah Gil

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

A. **Member Roster**

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3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the first of two opportunities to address the Committee. 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**

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

A. **Overview of Community Choice Aggregation and Desert Community Energy** – Savannah Gil

B. **Review of Background, Structure, & Scope of Work** – Savannah Gil

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C. **Election of Community Advisory Committee Officers** – David Freedman

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Recommendation: Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the Community Advisory Committee to serve through Fiscal Year 2025-26

D. **Schedule and Topics for Upcoming CAC Meetings** – Savannah Gil

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

This is the second of two opportunities to address the Committee. 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.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next DCE Board meeting will be held February 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Large Conference Room at Palm Springs City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, 92262.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**



DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Voting Members	City
Donald Barrett	Palm Springs
Erin Boyd	Palm Springs
Noel Loughrin	Palm Springs
Bernard Rottner*	Palm Springs
Berlinda Blackburn	Palm Desert
Paul Murphy	Palm Desert
Jeremy Roos	Palm Desert
Donald Zeigler*	Palm Desert

* The DCE Board of Directors will finalize the appointments at their meeting on December 9.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background, Scope & Structure

BACKGROUND

Desert Community Energy (DCE) is a locally controlled energy provider serving Palm Springs since 2020. The City of Palm Desert is also a member and is still considering a future launch date. DCE is dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by offering customers easy access to clean energy at competitive rates through Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). DCE is also committed to reinvesting in its member communities through programs that help both residential and commercial customers lower their electric bills through education, efficiency upgrades, and financial assistance for eligible low-income households. DCE was formed through a joint powers authority. DCE is led by a Board of Directors consisting of equal representation from each city. The DCE program and Board are supported by CVAG staff and a consultant team with CCA, public power, and energy expertise.

DCE's Community Advisory Committee provides a direct path for community members to get involved with DCE. The Committee supports the DCE Board on an ongoing basis with efforts to engage, educate, and assist its member communities.

SCOPE

Roles and Responsibilities. To help DCE meet its objectives and reach its full potential, the Community Advisory Committee:

- Advises the DCE Board on DCE's program(s) and ongoing operations.
- Serves as liaisons to the community, acting as ambassadors on behalf of DCE to promote its goals, objectives, and programs through advocacy, outreach, and education.
- Provides input on clean and renewable energy programs, energy efficiency initiatives, community incentives, and strategies to reduce carbon emissions.
- Helps shape DCE's efforts to engage, educate, and support low-income customers and under-served community members who may be eligible for financial assistance and other programs to increase energy efficiency, thereby lowering electric bills.
- Collaborates with stakeholder groups, sustainability commissions, environmental groups, unions, and others on best practices of Community Choice Energy programs, legislative and regulatory issues, and developments in the energy sector.
- Provides a forum for community discussions on a wide range of issues related to clean energy, energy efficiency and strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

STRUCTURE

Membership. Community Advisory Committee members are appointed by the DCE Board for two-year terms. Membership represents a diverse cross-section of each community, not just energy experts. Committee members are recruited through an open application. Committee members must be currently enrolled in Desert Community Energy or when it launches in their city. Membership includes equal representation from each member city and represents a diverse cross-section of each community.

Membership Criteria.

- Open to anyone who lives or works in DCE's service territory in Palm Springs and Palm Desert.
- Has relevant background in at least one or more of the following areas. Experience may be gained through professional or volunteer activity.
 - **Community:** May include involvement in neighborhood, business, environmental, social justice, faith, education, economic development, or other groups.
 - **Advocacy:** May include previous experience serving on a formal advisory committee, public commission, or similar body.
 - **Energy:** May include production, efficiency, demand reduction, technology, finance, policy, environmental impacts, or assistance for low-income customers.
- Demonstrates a personal commitment to investing the time and energy needed to be an active participant on the Committee, including attending regular meetings as frequently as possible to ensure a quorum and maintain consistency.
- Operates in a collaborative manner, hold civil dialogue with fellow Committee members, and act in accordance with the governing policies and procedures set forth by the Board and DCE.

Selection and Appointment. Members are recruited through an open application process through DCE's website. DCE staff collects and screens applications for eligibility. Applicants meeting eligibility criteria will be reviewed and considered for appointment by the DCE Board. Applications are public records, available for review upon request (sensitive contact information will remain private).

Expectations. Members will be subject to all applicable conflict of interest laws, and may be required to disclose potential conflicts by filing a Form 700 (For information about conflicts of interest, please visit: <https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/conflicts-of-interest-rules.html>). Members are expected to maintain a good attendance record.

Terms. Members will serve consecutive two-year terms, with no limitation on number of terms a member may serve so long as they remain in good standing. Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Meetings. The Community Advisory Committee will meet as needed, typically one to two weeks before the DCE Board's regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings will be held in the late afternoon or early evening, with the exact day and time set by the Committee at the first meeting of each term. Meetings will generally be held at DCE offices in Palm Desert but may be occasionally held at Palm Springs City Hall.

The Community Advisory Committee is subject to the Brown Act. Meetings will be publicly noticed and be open to the public. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the current membership. To ensure that the Committee regularly reaches quorum and functions with consistency, missing additional meetings may result in removal from the Committee.

Governance. DCE staff will serve as liaison between the Committee and Board. The Committee will elect a Chair who will facilitate meetings and provide brief reports to the Board as needed.

ITEM 5C

Desert Community Energy
Community Advisory Committee
December 9, 2024



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 to serve through Fiscal Year 2025-26

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 and its Vice Chair. No subsequent elections have yet been held. At its October 21 meeting, the DCE Board reappointed five existing CAC members and appointed a new member for a term that will extend through 2026. The Board will consider appointing two new CAC members at its December 9 meeting, prior to the CAC meeting.

The CAC does not have a formal officer rotation, or a set policy for how to select the Chair and Vice Chair. Staff recommends that the CAC provide nominations and elect its officers through the Fiscal Year 2025/26 term.

Fiscal Analysis: The CAC is a volunteer group, and staff support for the CAC is covered under existing resources.