



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.