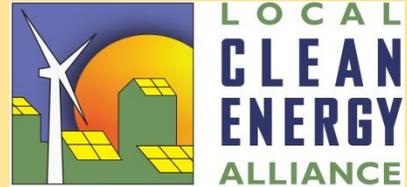


2016 Report: Groundbreaking Energy Democracy Achievement



In 2016 the [Local Clean Energy Alliance](#) (LCEA) led efforts at the local, state, and national levels to democratize local renewable energy as key to addressing climate change and building sustainable and resilient communities. We achieved a number of groundbreaking victories and accomplishments!

Founded in 2008, the LCEA is the Bay Area's largest clean energy coalition working for a clean energy future in the Bay Area and beyond.

San Francisco Bay Area: A Big Win for Community Choice Energy

LCEA's efforts locally have focused on community organizing and advocacy to establish a Community Choice energy program* in the East Bay that could address the environmental, economic, and social justice needs of East Bay communities.

On October 4th the Alameda County [Board of Supervisors voted to approve](#) establishing a Community Choice energy program with a commitment to maximizing community benefits and including community input in the governance of the program.

Some groundbreaking achievements formalized in the foundational document include:

- Establishing a Community Advisory Committee, with the chair of the Committee sitting on the governing board of the new agency as a non-voting member
- Committing to community benefit goals with quantifiable economic benefits to the region, including jobs and community ownership of renewable resources
- Developing a business plan for achieving local renewable energy development, union and family-supporting jobs, and other community benefits within eight months of agency formation,
- Committing to take steps to minimize impacts to workers displaced by the transition to a clean energy economy



Martha Kuhl, First Vice-President of the Alameda Labor Council and leader of the California Nurses Association, speaks in favor of community/labor Unity Proposal at press conference, October 4, 2016 outside County administration building.

The LCEA led the East Bay Clean Power Alliance, which worked with the Alameda Labor Council develop a groundbreaking Unity Proposal to achieve these measures.

* Community Choice energy enables cities and counties to choose where the electricity will come from for their homes and businesses. Local communities can decide to get their electricity from renewable energy sources: either by purchasing renewable electricity on the market, or even better, by developing local renewable energy resources in the community. The incumbent monopoly utility company (such as PG&E) continues to deliver electricity and service customers.

Statewide: The California Alliance for Community Energy

The LCEA has led the formation and on-going coordination of the [California Alliance for Community Energy](#), a statewide coalition of advocates supporting and defending Community Choice energy programs that advance local clean energy for the environmental and economic benefit of California communities.



The Alliance conducts statewide conference calls to address issues that impact the formation and success of Community Choice programs across the state, largely as a result of the pro-monopoly utility, anti-Community Choice bias of the California Public Utilities Commission. It has taken leadership in opposing the privatization of Community Choice programs and in strengthening advocates' ability to advance community-based energy solutions.

The Alliance is the outgrowth of a campaign in 2014 in which a coalition of 200 organizations defeated utility-backed legislation (AB 2145) that would have killed Community Choice energy in California.

National: The Energy Democracy Project

In 2016 the LCEA has taken the lead in building a national [Energy Democracy Project](#) to convene activists around the country who are working to democratize energy through many different programs and initiatives. This movement building effort included a national strategy session in Washington, DC in February 2016 that focused on the many challenges in building a national Energy Democracy movement.

Following that convening, the LCEA led a national coordinating committee that put together one of the most popular workshop tracks at the New Economy Coalition's CommonBound 2016 Conference this past summer in Buffalo, NY. The workshop track featured ten workshops presented by leaders from across the country working on initiatives key to strengthening decentralized renewable energy development. Topics included community engagement, confronting utility policies, community organizing strategies, addressing the impact of racism, energy development models, and financing local renewable energy projects.



These national efforts are the basis for popularizing community control and ownership of renewable energy resources, while building the leadership needed to replace our current corporate fossil-fuel economy with one that puts racial, social, and economic justice at the forefront of the transition to a 100% renewable energy future.

Mission of the Local Clean Energy Alliance:

To promote the equitable development and democratization of local renewable energy resources as key to addressing climate change and building sustainable and resilient communities.