

2018 Highlights

In 2018 the [Local Clean Energy Alliance](#) (LCEA) has stepped up its game at the local, state, and national levels. Our focus has been on democratizing renewable energy as key to addressing climate change and building sustainable and resilient communities. Here are a number of groundbreaking victories and accomplishments this year!

Launch of East Bay Community Energy

LCEA's ten-year community organizing and advocacy effort to create a Community Choice energy program* in the East Bay that could address the environmental, economic, and social justice needs of East Bay communities resulted in the establishment of East Bay Community Energy early last year. And in spring of this year the agency began supplying electricity to commercial and industrial customers. Full roll-out of the program to residential customers will take place this fall.

East Bay Community Energy's commitment to maximizing community benefits and engaging the community in the governance of the program was achieved through LCEA's leadership of the **East Bay Clean Power Alliance**, which worked with the Labor Council to achieve these commitments.

* 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.

Adoption of Groundbreaking Local Energy Plan

On July 18, the Board of East Bay Community Energy adopted—after a more than year-long effort by the LCEA to support and assure its completion—a groundbreaking plan for local clean energy development in the East Bay.

The Local Development Business Plan (LDBP), as it is called, is a roadmap for providing local clean energy benefits in the East Bay by investing in the development of local renewable energy resources. The Plan spells out actions and strategies for promoting local clean energy such as solar, wind, energy efficiency, and energy storage projects. These projects help address the environmental, economic, and social justice needs of the East Bay community.



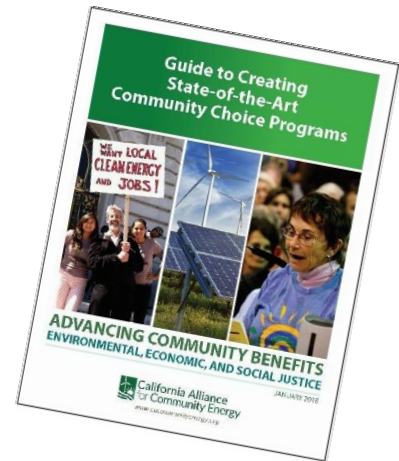
Legislative Victory: Defeat of AB 813

AB 813, the bill to create a new Western regional authority to control the energy market of eleven Western states died on the last day of the legislative season, August 31, 2018. The bill, promoted by big transmission line and fossil fuel interests and supported by Governor Brown, was bitterly opposed by the **California Alliance for Community Energy**, led by the Local Clean Energy Alliance, and hundreds of grassroots and advocacy organizations who value local and state control of energy resources and policies.

The defeat of AB 813 was a particularly sweet victory as we had to overcome the impact of a powerful lobby, the Governor, and a few corporate environmental organizations working against the interests of Californians and Community Choice energy programs, in particular. Thankfully climate and energy activists prevailed against this institutional onslaught.

Community Choice Best Practices Guide

Early this year, under the leadership of the LCEA, the **California Alliance for Community Energy** released its 25-page [Guide to Creating State-of-the-Art Community Choice Programs](#). Written for local activists and Community Choice practitioners, the *Guide* puts core principles at the center of efforts to achieve the community benefits that a well-designed Community Choice program can deliver. The *Guide* also covers program structure and operational best practices that are important for local decision-makers to think about. The *Guide* has become a key reference for Community Choice practitioners across the state.



Energy Democracy National Tour 2018

The **Energy Democracy National Tour**, organized by the LCEA, as a follow-up the book, [Energy Democracy: Advancing Equity in Clean Energy Solutions](#), moved into full swing this year with over a dozen local events around the country so far.



This inaugural [Energy Democracy National Tour](#) highlights the alternative, frontline-led and justice-centered renewable energy efforts of communities across the country. The Tour brings national attention to these efforts and helps provide material resources to advance them.

The struggle of these communities is to take ownership and control of energy resources away from powerful interest and place them in the hands of our communities. This is the struggle to democratize energy: to empower our communities and to meet their needs to survive and prosper. It is a strategy for realizing a just transition to a renewable energy economy.

Making Community-Owned Shared Solar Real

Hard work has brought community-owned shared solar closer to reality. Over a year ago the LCEA pulled together the **East Bay Shared Solar Collaborative** to create a program that could be adopted by East Bay Community Energy to enable low-income communities and communities of color to build and own shared solar facilities and to benefit from that ownership.

The Collaborative received some technical assistance vouchers from the Department of Energy SunShot Program to help design a model of community-owned shared solar, which has been presented to East Bay Community Energy. Meanwhile, with encouragement from the LCEA, the Local Development Business Plan calls for a community shared solar pilot program as an early action. The LCEA is also working with a national initiative to develop financing for community-based renewable energy projects of this type.

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.

Initiatives of the Local Clean Energy Alliance:

