

## 2019 Highlights

2019 has been a year of resistance, organizing, and movement building at the local, state, and national levels for the Local Clean Energy Alliance (LCEA). Here are a number of groundbreaking victories and accomplishments for energy democracy this year!

### Boosting Alameda County's Local Green New Deal

The East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) Board of Directors, on June 19, after hearing from community organizations mobilized by LCEA, approved a \$1.5 million increase in the agency's Local Development Business Plan budget. This was a significant boost for EBCE's groundbreaking local Green New Deal.



That \$1.5 million means a total EBCE expenditure for local clean energy projects for 2019-2020 fiscal year of \$5.1 million. While the Green New Deal is being held hostage at a national level, EBCE, the East Bay Community Choice energy program LCEA led in establishing, is setting a precedent for community-based energy development. This local Green New Deal is allocating millions of dollars toward programs and projects that reduce energy waste, install solar energy and storage, electrify vehicles and buildings, create jobs, engage our community, and build community resilience.

As of November 2019, the budget was increased by another \$500 thousand to develop a program to meet the needs of medical baseline customers during PG&E power shutoffs.

### Taking On PG&E

Amidst the PG&E electricity shutoffs and wildfire threats that endanger northern California, especially our most vulnerable communities, LCEA has been busy fighting back against the state's bailout of PG&E. Most recently we have initiated and are incubating a new project: the [California Utility Justice Campaign](#).

The Campaign builds upon our work with the No PG&E Bailout protests of the last year to mobilize social justice forces and their allies to oppose billion dollar bailouts of PG&E, achieve a publicly accountable utility model, and begin restructuring California's energy system to be more equitable, sustainable and resilient in the face of the climate crisis.

The Campaign prioritizes the leadership of frontline communities and workers impacted by pollution, wildfires and shutoffs. When Governor Newsom recently called for restructuring PG&E, we sent him [a letter](#) outlining a set of core principles to guide an energy transition that benefits all Californians, not just the wealthy few. The letter was co-written by the Campaign and the California Environmental Justice Alliance to urge the Governor to include frontline communities at his restructuring table.

We're also developing educational materials like [The PG&E Bailout & What It Means For You](#) to deepen community understanding of what is needed to take on PG&E.



## Building the National Energy Democracy Movement

As an outgrowth of the publication of [Energy Democracy](#) in 2017 and the organizing of the [Energy Democracy National Tour](#) in 2018, LCEA brought together 36 organizations for a Strategic Convening on Energy Democracy in 2019.

The outcomes of this Strategic Convening will be carried forward as a national “Energy Democracy Project.” The Project is envisioned as a mutual aid structure that serves as a collaborative resource and strategy center for organizations across the U.S. working to democratize energy. In particular, it would serve to create programs and initiatives that advance the work of these organizations and strengthen the emerging movement to democratize energy.



## Advancing Community Choice Energy Statewide

The LCEA has been actively working to defend and strengthen Community Choice energy programs statewide through the California Alliance for Community Energy, which we initiated in 2015. The Alliance has been busy in 2019 fighting both regulatory and legislative attacks on Community Choice.

This involved a major campaign to fight dramatic increases in a fee imposed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on Community Choice customers—the PCIA. The campaign to [Roll Back the CPUC Attack on Community Choice](#) exposed and opposed the efforts of the CPUC, on behalf of the state’s monopoly utilities, to undermine Community Choice programs like EBCE.

We also saw almost a dozen bills in the 2019 California Legislature that would imperil Community Choice energy programs. We launched a campaign to [Stop the California Legislature’s Coup against Community Choice](#), which built opposition to these measures and helped defeat or neutralize a majority of them. We also stepped up to oppose AB 1054, Governor Newsom’s wildfire utility bailout bill. Our opposition [paper](#) and an online letter writing campaign exposed how the bill supported PG&E at ratepayers’ expense.

## Kudos to the LCEA Team

- A [2019 Environmental Champion Award to Jessica Tovar and LCEA](#) from the League of Conservation Voters, for our EBCE work.
- Another Roddenberry Fellow! In 2019, Roddenberry Foundation recognized [Jessica Guadalupe Tovar](#) and LCEA for our groundbreaking work in establishing EBCE. For 2020, the Foundation is recognizing [Crystal Huang](#), LCEA team member, for her work building the People Power Solar Cooperative.
- Op-ed in *Newsweek* magazine: [Billionaires Won’t Save California from PG&E Disasters](#), Jessica Tovar of LCEA and Sylvia Chi of Asian Pacific Environmental Network on why it’s time we own our power.

### 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:

