



## 2020 Highlights

In 2020, the Local Clean Energy Alliance (LCEA) was an antidote for the energy jeopardy confronting us at the local, state and national levels. Despite COVID-19, we achieved a number of substantial victories and accomplishments!

### Keeping East Bay and Other California Community Choice Programs Nuclear Free!

We [defeated](#) PG&E's attempt to dump nuclear power on East Bay Community Energy (EBCE), twice!



LCEA's efforts in the East Bay focused in 2020 on community organizing and advocacy to keep EBCE—the public energy services provider for Alameda County cities—nuclear free. On the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, the governing board of EBCE, under community pressure, voted 10-5 to keep PG&E's dangerous Diablo Canyon nuclear energy out of EBCE's 2020 power mix. The vote represented a big victory for the LCEA-led [East Bay Clean Power Alliance](#), which mobilized community opposition to a scheme by which PG&E intended to dump nuclear power on EBCE, an agency launched in 2018 to develop local renewable energy to benefit East Bay community residents and businesses.

Despite the April victory, the nuclear issue came up again this fall. This time the proposal was an attempt to rescue EBCE's Brilliant 100 product (100% carbon-free), by including in it PG&E's cheaper nuclear energy. Two cities in EBCE utilize that product to reduce their City's claimed GHG emissions. However, EBCPA mobilized to defeat this proposal as well, with LCEA hosting [a webinar panel](#) about the battles against the hazards of nuclear energy from East Bay to New Mexico. LCEA inspired other communities in Sonoma, Monterey Bay and San Francisco to successfully fight this nuclear scheme.

### Launching People Power for Utility Justice "Reclaim Our Power" Campaign Fights PG&E Bailout

In February, LCEA worked with grassroots environmental justice allies, to launch the [Reclaim Our Power Campaign](#), a frontline community-led utility justice initiative to restructure California's energy system.

Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic this year, the Campaign fought the [bankruptcy exit plan of PG&E](#), and pushed for a utility based on principles of justice.

In March, the Governor, who had been critical of PG&E's bankruptcy exit plan, suddenly flipped and agreed to a deal with PG&E that would leave all of us holding the bag on a dangerous PG&E bailout. The Reclaim Our Power Campaign rapidly [moved into action](#). Over the months of April, May, and June the Campaign went into high gear to put pressure on the CPUC to reject the exit plan and to call for changes that would address community needs, especially those communities most impacted by wildfires, utility shutoffs, rising utility bills, and the health and economic effects of the current pandemic.



Despite two petition efforts, street protests, a Facebook Live press conference, organized phone-in comments at CPUC meetings, filing of briefs in the CPUC bankruptcy proceeding, and meetings with Governor Newsom's top energy staff, the Campaign failed to modify PG&E's bankruptcy exit plan. However, it established the Campaign and put it on the political map.

This effort culminated in September in the Reclaim Our Power Summit, which brought together over 50 organizations in support of the Campaign efforts to restructure both PG&E and the energy system more broadly.



## **Moving Towards Community-Driven Energy Resilience *Equity is Essential***

In August 2020, an LCEA statewide initiative, the [California Alliance for Community Energy](#), published a position paper on [Community-Driven Energy Resilience](#), launching a campaign to advance community-based microgrid deployment, while advancing the critical engagement of the communities most at risk and most impacted by power shutoffs. The paper calls on Community Choice energy agencies to take a leading role in community energy resilience solutions.

In addition, LCEA has been engaged a number of related initiatives to put equity at the center community energy resilience. We co-hosted a [webinar about community-driven energy resilience](#), featuring a diverse group of local grassroots organizers who discussed the many challenges faced by their communities in building community-based microgrids. We are working with the Reclaim Our Power Campaign to promote community-driven energy resilience and with other organizations at the CPUC to remove the barriers to community-based microgrid deployment.

## **Establishing the National Energy Democracy Project *Broad Collaboration to Democratize Energy***

In 2019, LCEA brought together 36 organizations from across the U.S. for a Strategic Convening on Energy Democracy, the outgrowth of which has been the establishment in 2020 of the national [Energy Democracy Project](#). The Project is a collaboration of mainly locally-based organizations working to democratize energy in their communities and to strengthen the emerging energy democracy movement in the U.S.

At its 2020 Strategic Convening in November, the Project focused on building organizing capacity, strengthening organizational relationships, developing collective resources, and exploring strategies and tactics. Two main initiatives of the Project are the development of a Resource Hub (to connect organizations to existing energy democracy resources) and a Utility Justice Playbook (to strengthen organizing against private utilities).

### **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/Collaborations of the Local Clean Energy Alliance:**

