



## SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Green Paper: CEA offers renewable energy options

#### Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

In the 1990s, California legislation paved the way for the creation of Community Choice Energy (CCE) local governmental entities. These community-based, nonprofit organizations can offer options to customers that contain a higher percentage of renewable energy than those of traditional utilities while investing profits in local community energy projects. California CCE's were created to accelerate the transition to renewable and low carbon electricity<sup>1</sup>. With CCE's, local utilities like SDG&E continue to deliver energy to the homes of residents, maintain their power lines, and process electricity bills.

In 2019, the City of Del Mar adopted an [ordinance](#) to form a CCE—Clean Energy Alliance (CEA)—with other cities in north San Diego County. This was a significant step toward meeting Del Mar's Climate Action Plan goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50 percent below the city's 2012 emission levels, and to continue with further reductions to meet the State goal of an 80 percent reduction in 1990 emission levels by 2050<sup>23</sup>. The Clean Energy Alliance now includes the cities of Solana Beach, Carlsbad, Escondido, San Marcos, Oceanside, Vista, and Del Mar. The CEA Board of Directors includes one City Council member from each of the member cities. In San Diego County, two CCE's—Clean Energy Alliance and San Diego Community Power—now provide energy for more than 1.5 million households throughout the county. Numerous CCE's have been established in California, providing electricity to more than 11 million residents in more than 200 cities and counties.<sup>4</sup>

While residents of member cities are automatically enrolled in CEA's default *Clean Impact Plus* plan, residents can opt-out if they wish to continue having their energy purchased by SDG&E or opt-up. A major benefit provided by CEA to residents who wish to reduce their carbon footprint is the ability for residents to opt-up to 100 percent renewable energy (*Green Impact* plan) for less than \$2.5 per month.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cal-cca.org/ccas-accelerate-californias-clean-energy-transition-providing-a-model-for-other-states-report/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/6101/Del-Mar-Climate-Action-Plan?bidId=> pp.11, 13, 30.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/6019/Item-7---Adoption-of-CCE-Ordinance\\_2nd-Reading](https://www.delmar.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/6019/Item-7---Adoption-of-CCE-Ordinance_2nd-Reading)

<sup>4</sup> <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/faqs/>

In addition, residents who generate their own energy can sell excess energy to CEA. Last year, the *Green Impact* plan content was 100% solar energy, compared to the *Clean Impact Plus* plan, which included 59% renewable energy, mostly from solar and wind sources<sup>5</sup>. The City of Del Mar voted to opt-up to Green Impact for all municipal buildings.

| <b>CEA Plan</b>          | <b>Description</b>                                       | <b>Energy Content</b>     |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Opt-Out</b>           |  |                           |
| <b>Clean Impact</b>      | <b>Opt-Down</b>  | <b>50% renewable</b>      |
| <b>Clean Impact Plus</b> | <b>Default Choice</b>                                    | <b>50% renewable</b>      |
| <b>Green Impact</b>      | <b>Opt-Up</b>  | <b>100% renewable</b>     |
| <b>Personal Impact</b>   | <b>Customers who generate their own solar/wind power</b> | <b>Sell excess to CEA</b> |

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<sup>5</sup> <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/your-options/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://thecleanenergyalliance.org/clean-impact/>