2026 Legislative and Regulatory Policy Platform

Introduction

In 2024, the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) Board of Directors adopted the Legislative and Regulatory Policy Platform to guide the CEA Board and staff in their advocacy efforts and engagement on policy matters of interest to CEA. The Platform was implemented to allow both Board Members and staff to pursue actions at the legislative and regulatory levels in a consistent manner and with the understanding that they are pursuing actions in the best interest of CEA and its mission, its member agencies and its customers. The Platform enables the organization to move swiftly to respond to legislative and regulatory events. The Platform also provides guidance to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on the support or oppose positions that should be taken on legislative and regulatory matters that come before the California Community Choice Association (CalCCA) Board of Directors.

As was adopted in the 2024 Policy Platform, unless otherwise approved by the Board, all CEA positions on individual bills will be presented to the Board for approval. For urgent legislative or regulatory matters where time is of the essence, the CEO, with Board Chair concurrence, will take a position consistent with the Policy Platform and report the action to the full Board at the next Board meeting.

CEA's 2026 Legislative Priorities

In the 2026 legislative session, CEA will focus its advocacy efforts on affordability, decarbonization, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) autonomy, CPUC data transparency, infrastructure—particularly battery energy storage facilities—and reducing emissions. However, this list is not exhaustive. CEA stakeholders are strongly encouraged to present any relevant items, including those outside the main focus areas for 2026, to CEA's Regulatory and Legislative Affairs department for research, analysis, and consideration.

Policy Principles

CEA supports legislation and regulatory actions that enable, protect, and enhance CEA's priorities and ability to serve its customers as determined by the CEA Board of Directors. The Legislative and Regulatory Policy Platform is centered around four basic principles:

1. Protecting CEA's local control for the purpose of preserving the ability to self-procure power resources, to self-determine rates, and to choose the energy programs offered to residents, businesses, and the communities it serves, through the mechanisms of local governance.
2. Ensuring fair treatment of CEA customers by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and other state agencies.
3. Supporting recognition that electricity is an essential service, and that CEA should have the ability to set electric rates that are affordable and competitive to the utilities.
4. Pursuing environmental initiatives that exceed minimum State mandates, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote the growth in renewable energy capacity at the local level, encourage clean energy adoption by CEA customers, and reduce fossil fuel dependency.

Policy Priorities

CEA aims to support its member cities and customers by offering cleaner energy, competitive rates, and local programs. CEA's commitment to advocating for policies that empower Community CCA programs, ensure fair competition, and maintain independence is outlined below:

1. Customer Program Development
   - CEA will support legislation and regulatory actions which enables, protects, and enhances the development and expansion of CCA programs, and that supports CCA independence in procurement, program deployment, management, and decision making to deliver the highest level of service to CEA customers.

2. Local Initiatives
   - CEA will support legislation and regulatory actions which allow CEA to develop and procure local energy generation resources to meet the needs of its electric customers.

3. Fair Market Competition
   - CEA will support legislation and regulatory actions which promote a neutral, fair, and competitive energy market.

4. Maintain CEA Autonomy
   - CEA will oppose legislation and regulatory actions that jeopardize CEA's independence to self- procure power resources, determine rates and the energy programs it provides to customers in the present, or could restrict its independence to do so in the future.

5. Advocate for Customer Affordability
   - CEA will support legislation that assists CEA's efforts to keep rates affordable for customers and will oppose legislation that would inequitably or unjustifiably inhibit CEA's efforts to keep rates affordable.

The Legislative and Regulatory Policy Platform is to be reviewed by CEA staff and submitted for board approval at the beginning of each legislative session year.