CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Board of Directors Meeting

March 26, 2026

Presentation: BESS Standards

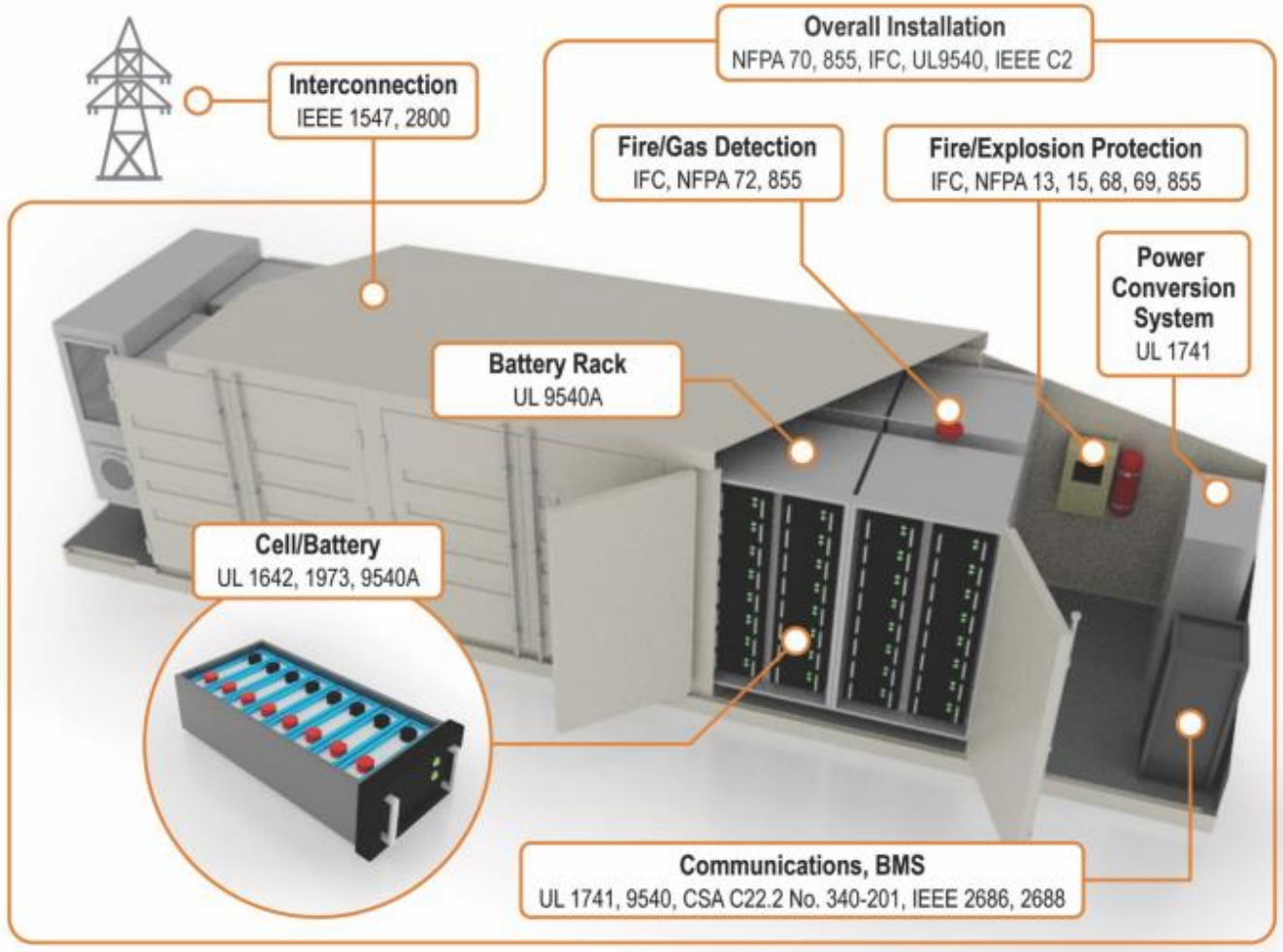
BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM SAFETY

Operating Battery Storage Safely

- Equipment includes sensors and alarms
- Emergency response plan before construction
- Specific training/resources to fire departments before construction
- Designed to applicable codes and standards
- In today's industry we are fortunate to have tools that exist to manage the associated risks responsibly

Pacific Northwest
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Codes & Standards



Safety Standards:

9540A – Standard Test Method for Evaluating Thermal Runaway Fire Propagation in Battery Energy Storage Systems

- This is tested at the cell, module, and unit level to evaluate thermal propagation from one area to another.

NFPA 855 – Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems

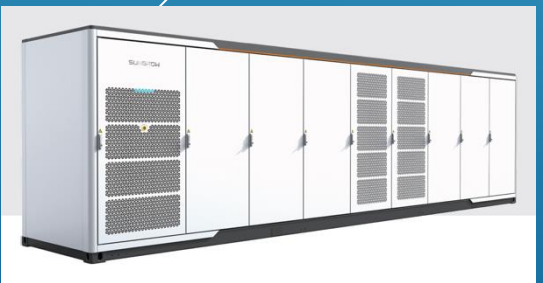
- This is how the site is designed to fire code, involving proper setbacks to further prevent propagation, and to give plenty of safety setbacks

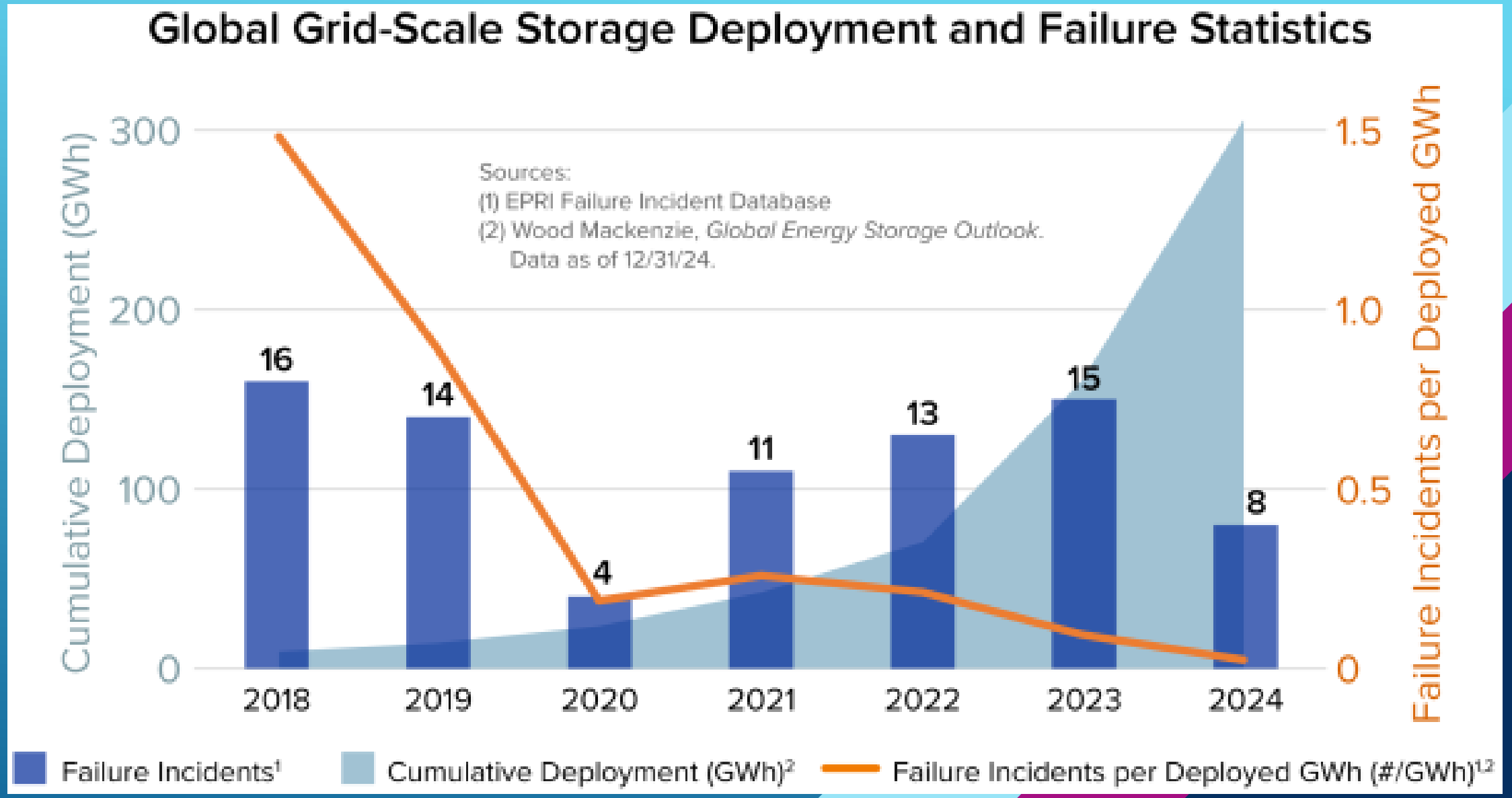
NFPA 69– Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems

- This is how Sungrow utilizes hydrogen sensors in conjunction with active ventilation to purge any buildup of hydrogen and prevent any risk of explosion. Typically designed in conjunction with site controller Uninterrupted Power Supply and small generator, so the active purge is not reliant on grid power.

NFPA 72– National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code

- This is how the site is designed with the fire alarm system, with a fire alarm control panel outside of the gate so first responders have information to work with. It also is related to the separate power system mentioned in NFPA 69.





STORAGE DEPLOYMENT AND FAILURE STATISTICS

BESS Incident Lessons Learned

- Battery fires can occur from thermal abuse during charging or discharging, mechanical failures, or environmental influences like water intrusion. However, between 2018 and 2024, the BESS failure rate (incidents per gigawatt installed) fell by 97% largely due to current rigorous codes and improvements in manufacturing.

- In the instance of an incident occurring that results in a fire, the industry best practices advise to monitor adjacent exposures and to let the involved unit consume itself safely. This approach addresses concerns with stranded energy and additionally, the heat from the fire safely consumes many toxics produced.

BESS Incident Lessons Learned (cont.)

- Current code direction is to not include suppression systems within the containers and that water should be used only to cool adjacent exposures. The fire safety emphasis is on early gas or smoke detection with integrated exhaust system activation.

- All fire alarm devices are monitored at a UL Central Station 24/7 per NFPA 72. The monitoring station would then contact fire dispatch on any detector activation.

BESS Incident Lessons Learned (cont.)

- Arriving first-in emergency responders would look for site contact information at the entrance and make direct contact with a site representative prior to taking any action.
- Site representatives can provide valuable diagnostic information on the involved enclosure and adjacent enclosures' battery status.
- Sites have the ability to remotely disconnect the BESS site from the grid to ensure optimum life safety.

BESS Incident Lessons Learned (cont.)

- A multi-agency command post can be established once the site representative arrives and makes a face to face with emergency response personnel.

- The Large-Scale Fire Test that is required by code for the battery technology demonstrates that a fire located in the unit under test will not propagate to adjacent enclosures. This creates a finite fire area of involvement and gives first responders valuable insight on how best to manage the incident.

Federal EPA BESS Fact Sheet

- Set an isolation zone for large commercial BESS that is at least 330 feet, depending on the site.
- Position responders upwind and uphill.
- Current guidance is to focus the response on preventing the spread of fire. Direct fire crews to let the fire burn itself out and to use water to prevent the spread of fire to neighboring batteries or other structures

Battery Energy Storage Systems: Main Considerations for Safe Installation and Incident Response

International Association of Fire Chiefs:
Recommended FD Response to Battery Energy Storage Systems

- Defensive Firefighting, Water spray is the preferred agent for response to lithium-ion battery fires (Lithium-ion is not water reactive).
  - If a fire has not developed and only smoke is visible, take a defensive stance toward the system and be prepared to apply water spray
  - If a fire develops, take a defensive stance toward the burning unit and apply water spray to neighboring battery enclosures and exposures
- Maintaining a safe distance from the unit involved (large commercial systems, at least 300').
- Response crews should allow the battery to burn out. Water should be applied to adjacent battery enclosures and exposures (building).

Recommended Fire Department Response to Energy Storage Systems (ESS) Part 1

PAST INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT FIRES ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE FACILITY AND AIR QUALITY IN NEIGHBORING AREAS REMAINS AT SAFE LEVELS.

- Laboratory testing of emissions from Li-ion cells in thermal runaway shows that emissions are similar to those found in typical structure fires and plastics fires.
- During an ESS battery fire, only trace amounts of chemicals are detected in sampling around the event, and overall air quality remains at safe levels.
- During several different battery failures including a fire at a Tesla Megapack at Moss Landing in California, Gateway facility in San Deigo and the events in NY, air-quality testing showed no hazards to human health.
- There has not been a real-world battery event that showed hazardous levels of emissions. All fires create emissions that should not be breathed, including house fires and commercial buildings.

PAST INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT FIRES ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE FACILITY AND THAT WATER QUALITY IN NEIGHBORING AREAS REMAINS AT SAFE LEVELS.

- While fires at energy storage facilities are extremely rare, environmental data collected by government agencies, firefighters, and hazardous substance experts post incident, consistently shows no harmful contaminants in runoff water and no emissions exceeding nationally recognized safety thresholds, even within 50 feet of active incidents.
- The County of Monterey Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau examined water samples from fives areas around Moss Landing post incident in January 2025 and found that, "Tests for manganese, cooper, aluminum, and nickel showed levels below regulatory maximum contaminant levels and Public Health Goals, aligning with historical data for each location."

PAST INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATE THAT FIRES ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE FACILITY AND THAT WATER QUALITY IN NEIGHBORING AREAS REMAINS AT SAFE LEVELS.

- Reported findings from the recent Escondido fire in Southern California are as follows:
- 1) The presence of trace amounts of zinc, copper, and barium is typical in urban environments, however, the levels detected in the samples do not indicate a significant environmental or health hazard.
- 2) The absence of toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury further support that this water is unlikely to contribute to significant contamination of the environment.
- 3) Laboratory personnel at the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility laboratory were consulted regarding the results of the runoff water analysis and confirmed that there were no concerns with this water entering the environment, especially when considering public health standards for drinking water.

PROJECT COMMITMENTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES: DESIGN, EMERGENCY RESPONSE, AND TRAINING

- Designed to applicable codes and standards and operating procedures to prevent fire or explosion
- Emergency Response Plan developed prior to construction
- Sites monitored 24/7 thru a Remote Operation Center
- Provide training to staff and Fire Departments. Commissioning, Operation and annual review/updates by trained personnel.
- Provide access to subject matter experts and code consultants
- NFPA 72 compliant system with First Responders for ERP communication

QUESTIONS

Item 5: CEO Operational and Administrative Report

CEA Enrollment Stats

Member City	Eligible Accounts	Clean Impact – 50% Renewable	Clean Impact Plus - 75% Carbon Free	Green Impact – 100% Renewable	Participation Rate
Carlsbad	55342	181	49400	658	91%
Del Mar	3030	9	2758	71	94%
Escondido	57346	166	53458	70	94%
Oceanside	74802	229	69355	103	93%
San Marcos	38120	126	35284	74	93%
Solana Beach	7843	16	7001	149	91%
Vista	39615	92	36995	336	94%
TOTAL	**276098**	**819**	**254251**	**1461**	**93%**

CEA serves a total of 256,531 customer accounts across its seven member agencies

Metrics as of March. 16, 2026.

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Completed Community Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CITY
March 9, 2026	CA League of Cities Presentation	San Diego
March 10, 2026	Chamber of Commerce Green Business Committee	Carlsbad
March 10, 2026	San Diego North Economic Development Chamber	San Marcos
March 21, 2026	North County Climate Change Alliance Presentation	Carlsbad
March 25, 2026	Vista Unified STEM 2 Career Expo	Vista

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Upcoming Community Events

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CITY
March 26, 2026	Meet the City	Oceanside
March 27, 2026	CEA Sponsorship Night at Frontwave Arena	Oceanside
April 4, 2026	Earth Day Event	Escondido
April 15, 2026	Green Business Expo	Carlsbad
April 21, 2026	Del Mar City Council Presentation	Del Mar
April 23, 2026	Palomar College Earth Week	San Marcos
April 24, 2026	Dr. Bronners Earth Week Extravaganza	Carlsbad
April 25, 2026	Earth Day/ Dia del Niño	Oceanside
April 30, 2026	Graze at the Fields	Carlsbad

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Solar Plus and Battery Bonus Update

Member City	Solar Plus		Solar Plus Connect		Battery Bonus		Battery Bonus Connect	
Status	Active	Complete	Active	Complete	Active	Complete	Active	Complete
Carlsbad	7	1	3	0	0	0	9	3
Del Mar	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Escondido	9	4	13	0	0	0	11	3
Oceanside	6	2	6	0	0	0	12	4
San Marcos	7	1	3	0	0	0	8	0
Solana Beach	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Vista	6	1	7	0	0	0	12	3
TOTAL	**35**	**10**	**34**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**54**	**13**

Metrics as of March 6, 2026.

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Connect Programs SGIP Funding

Member City	Solar Plus Connect	Battery Bonus Connect
Carlsbad	$85,120	$198,000
Del Mar	$26,032	$19,800
Escondido	$398,748	$257,400
Oceanside	$180,315	$379,788
San Marcos	$89,877	$198,000
Solana Beach	$25,426	$39,600
Vista	$164,972	$271,596
TOTAL	**$970,490**	**$1,112,196**

Metrics as of March 6, 2026.

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PeakSmart Savers Participants

Member City	PeakSmart Savers Participants
Carlsbad	11
Del Mar	1
Escondido	6
Oceanside	16
San Marcos	2
Solana Beach	0
Vista	14
TOTAL	**50**

Metrics as of March 6, 2026.

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Recruitment Update

- Account Services & Data Specialist/Analyst
  - Conditional Offer Accepted – Start Date May 19, 2026
- Energy Contracts & Compliance Specialist/Analyst
  - Conditional Offer Accepted – Start Date June 1, 2026
- Programs Specialist/Analyst
  - Conditional Offer Accepted – Start Date May 19, 2026
- Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Analyst
  - Final Offer Letter Sent – Start Date May 19, 2026
- Senior Financial Analyst/Finance Manager
  - Final Offer Letter Sent – Start Date May 19, 2026

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Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

- CalCCA organized a tour of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant on March 6th
- The Plant is the single largest power station in California
- Supplies approximately 9% of the State's total electricity and 17% of zero-carbon electricity
- Was scheduled to discontinue operations in 2025, now extended into 2030.

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CEA 5-Year Anniversary

- Impact Report
  - Preparing a high-level report filled with key statistics, achievements, and results over the past 5-years
  - Presentation tentatively planned for the May Board meeting
- In-Person Celebration
  - Tentatively planned for Thursday, May 28, 2026, immediately following the Board Meeting
  - To be held at Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Campus in Carlsbad
  - With a short program, networking, and Green Impact Champion recognition

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Questions/Discussion – Item 5

Item 6: Consider Approving the FY 2025/26 – 2030/31 Clean Energy Alliance Energy Programs Plan

Introduction & Purpose of the Plan

Core Guiding Principles and Goals

- CEA Strategic Plan third guiding principle:
  - Provide Beneficial Customer Programs – Offer a variety of programs that serve the needs of our customers, promote affordability and further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develop a general framework for implementation of programs that support CEA's mission and align with the organization's strategic goals.

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Community Engagement Overview

- Plan incorporates community input gathered through:
  - Results from community needs survey
  - Input from community workshops
  - Perspectives from member cities

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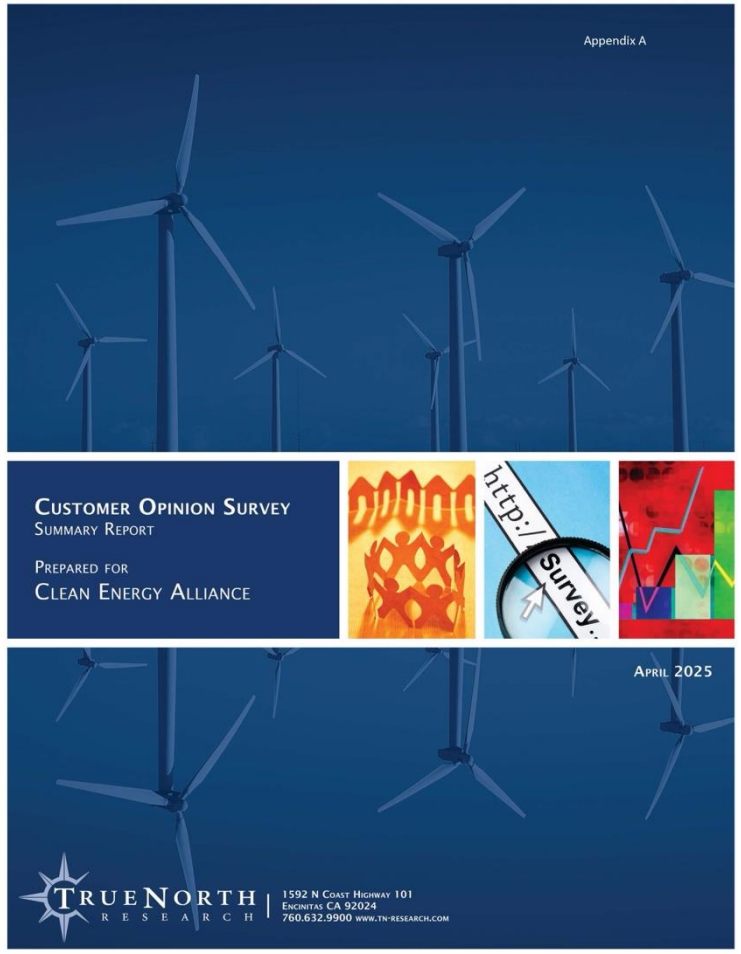
Community Needs Survey



- Partnership with True North Research on a scientific survey conducted in April 2025.
- Targeted a random sample of residential and commercial customers.
- Surveyed participants on customer awareness, opinions, priorities and behaviors related to energy issues, initiatives and programs.
- An overview of key findings was presented to the Board on April 24, 2025

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Community Workshops

- Community engagement partnership with Universidad Popular, a trusted grassroots organization in North County San Diego.
- Hosted seven workshops across CEA's service area, engaging participants in English and Spanish in open discussions focused on energy topics.

Universidad Popular

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Community Workshops Cont.

	Date	Location	Language	Attendees
Workshop #1	Sept. 8, 2025	Escondido	English, Spanish	36
Workshop #2	Sept. 16, 2025	San Marcos	English, Spanish	88
Workshop #3	Sept. 17, 2025	Carlsbad	English, Spanish	19
Workshop #4	Sept. 24, 2025	Zoom	English, Spanish	14
Workshop #5	Oct. 20, 2025	Vista	English, Spanish	22
Workshop #6	Nov. 5, 2025	Oceanside	English, Spanish	19
Workshop #7	Nov. 6, 2025	Solana Beach/Del Mar	English	13

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Community Workshops Cont.

- Guided Discussion Topics
  - Understanding customer priorities
  - Identifying energy-related issues and barriers
  - Understanding energy usage and decision-making
  - Exploring past and future energy improvements
  - Gauging awareness of CEA programs

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Community Workshops Cont.

- Key Insights
  - Affordability emerged as the leading priority among participants across all cities.
  - Participants identified several barriers to energy improvements, including tenancy status, high energy costs, outdated appliances, insufficient financial resources, unfamiliarity with available programs and technologies, and limited knowledge about innovation.
  - Few individuals are familiar with the details of their energy bills, and even fewer actively monitor their energy consumption.
  - Workshop participants consistently prioritized energy-focused initiatives, including upgrading to LED lighting, installing solar panels, and improving insulation.
  - Workshop participants reported limited or no awareness of CEA prior to attending the presentation.

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Member City Insights

- Review of each member city's Climate Action Plan.
- Survey of staff contacts at member cities to further understand city-specific priorities.
- CAC feedback throughout the process.

City of Carlsbad
City of Del Mar
Escondido City of Choice
City of Oceanside
San Marcos Discover Life's Possibilities
Solana Beach California
City of Vista California

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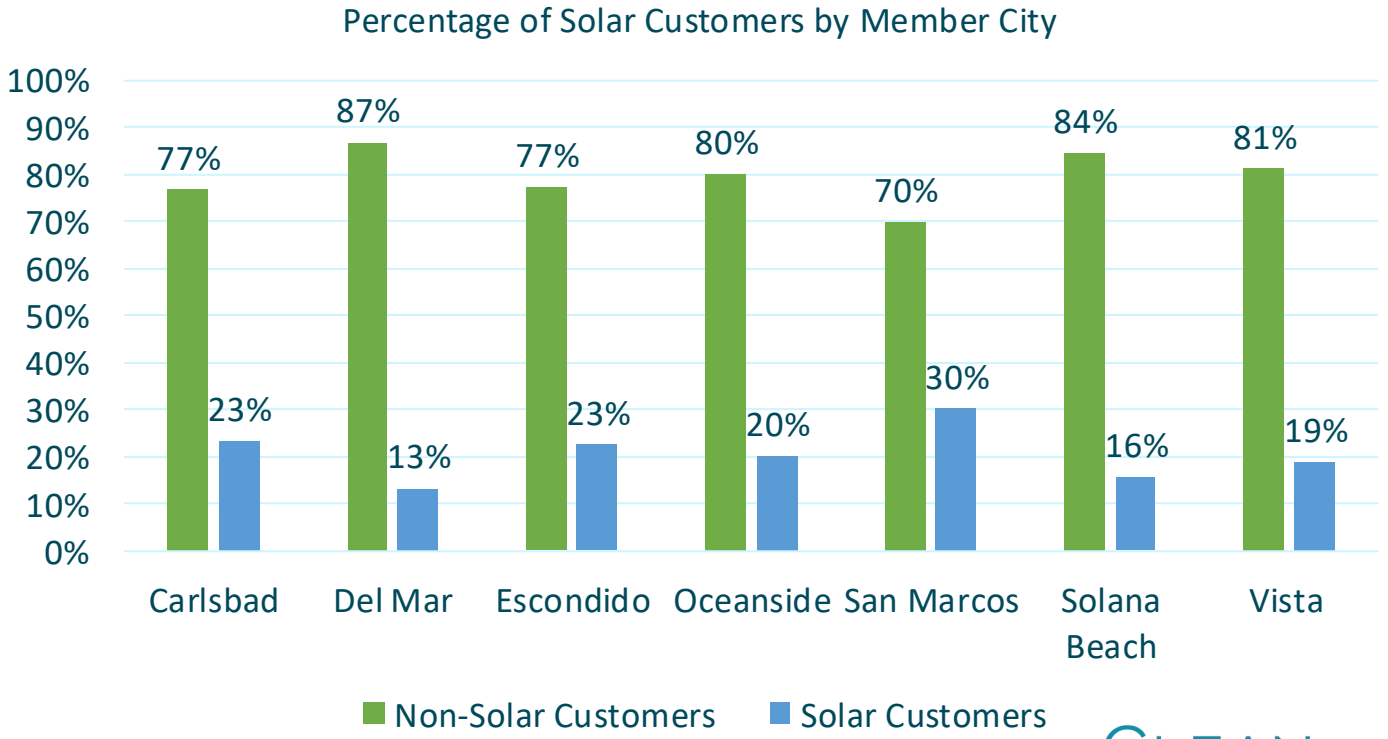
Service Area Analysis

- Gathered insights on customer demographics using U.S. Census Bureau data.
- Analyzed internal customer data to understand customer profile and energy use patterns.



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Recommended Program Portfolio

Program Pillars

- Clean Energy Supply & Grid Resilience
- Building Electrification & Energy Efficiency
- Transportation Electrification
- Local Workforce and Community Education

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Business Case Analysis

Impact Types	Description	Why It Matters	Example: Solar and Battery Storage Programs
Peak Value Reduction	How a program affects electricity use during the busiest hours of the day.	Reducing peak use helps CEA lower overall power costs and makes the electric grid more reliable when it's under the most stress.	Energy stored in batteries can be used during busy, high-demand times, reducing peak demand.
Renewable Content Value	How a program affects CEA's ability to provide 100% renewable energy.	Staying aligned with renewable energy goals supports CEA's mission.	Solar energy aligns with CEA's renewable energy goals, but extra midday renewable isn't always needed[5]. Storage allows customers to use solar energy later in the day, leading to a moderate positive benefit.
Anticipated Revenue Impact	How a program may affect the amount of money CEA receives from customers using electricity.	Understanding revenue changes helps CEA maintain financial stability.	Customers with solar and battery storage will buy less electricity from CEA, but the overall revenue impacts are anticipated to be low.
Anticipated Administrative Costs	How many resources and expenses it might take for CEA to run a program.	Programs requiring fewer resources cost less to operate.	Existing solar and battery storage programs require limited staff time and funding to run.

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Pillar 1: Clean Energy Supply & Grid Resilience

Program Initiative	Timing	Description	Target
Residential Behind-the-Meter Solar & Battery Storage/Battery Storage Only	Ongoing	Provide access to rooftop solar and storage or battery-only systems.	Residential single family
Commercial Behind-the-Meter Solar & Battery Storage/Battery Storage Only	Near-Term	Provide access to rooftop solar and storage or battery-only systems.	Commercial businesses and critical facilities
Community Resilience Hubs	Long-Term	Collaborate with member cities and school districts to equip municipal facilities with behind-the-meter solar and storage to support resiliency.	Public agencies
Demand Response	Near-Term	Expand PeakSmart Savers program to commercial customers and support compliance with Load Management Standards.	Commercial customers
Load Flexibility + Virtual Power Plant	Mid-Term	Incentives for customers to shift load and aggregate distributed energy resources (DERs) into a Virtual Power Plant for grid support.	Residential and commercial customers
Discounted Green Impact Rate for Income-Qualified Customers	Long-Term	Design a discounted rate for income-eligible customers to participate in 100% renewable energy.	Low-income customers

Pillar 2: Building Electrification & Energy Efficiency

Program Initiative	Timing	Description	Target
Electrification Incentives	Mid-Term	Incentives for switching from gas to high-efficiency electric heat pumps, water heaters, induction cooktops, etc.	Residential income-qualified customers
Energy Efficiency Kits	Near-Term	Free or low-cost kits filled with simple equipment for self-service energy efficiency upgrades.	Income-qualified and/or residential
Refrigeration Efficiency	Near-Term	Support energy-efficient refrigeration upgrades to reduce energy costs.	Small commercial
Building Electrification Navigator	Mid-Term	Technical assistance for medium-sized businesses and public agencies, including energy assessments.	Medium commercial

Pillar 3: Transportation Electrification

Program Initiative	Timing	Description	Target
EV Charger Rebate	Mid-Term	Rebates for smart Level 2 chargers integrated with time-of-use optimization.	Residential customers
Multi-Unit Dwelling (MUD) Charging	Long-Term	Support turnkey solutions for multi-family buildings lacking EV infrastructure.	Renters
EV Managed Charging and Virtual Power Plant	Mid-Term	Leverage advanced technology to integrate EV's into CEA's VPP and incentive charging to maximize savings and renewable energy.	EV owners
Municipal & Fleet Electrification Partnerships	Long-Term	Vehicle fleet advisory services and/or incentives for member cities, school districts and public agencies.	Public agencies

Pillar 4: Local Workforce & Community Education

Program Initiative	Timing	Description	Target
Clean Energy Equity Fund	Long-term	Establish dedicated funding for grants supporting income-qualified programs, financing pilots and community-led clean energy projects.	Low-income customers, non-profits, community partners
Workforce Training & Pre-Apprenticeship Programs	Long-Term	Support workforce training programs, including efforts by the California Energy Commission's Equitable Building Decarbonization grant and the San Diego Regional Energy Network.	Educational institutions and community partners
Community Innovation Grants	Long-Term	Annual competitive grants to pilot new climate solutions and education programs.	Non-profits and member agencies
Energy Literacy and Education Campaign	Ongoing	Multilingual, digital outreach and workshops to engage hard-to-reach communities.	Non-profits and community partners

Recommendation

- That the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) Board of Directors (Board) adopt Resolution No. 2026-017 approving the FY 2025/26 – 2030/31 Clean Energy Alliance Energy Programs Plan.

Questions/Discussion – Item 6

Item 7: Public Hearing to Consider Adoption Expanding the Super Off-Peak Time-of-Use Period, Establishing a Medium Commercial Class and Large Commercial & Industrial Class and Rate Schedules

2024 General Rate Case (GRC) Phase 2

- March 2nd 2026, SDG&E filed Advice Letter 4791-E which goes into effect April 1st, 2026.
  - Super off-peak expansion
    - Super off-peak hours extending from 10AM-2PM **year-round** instead of only March/April
    - Estimated Fiscal Impact: ~$6.4 million in decreased revenue.
  - Split of Medium/Large Commercial class
    - Medium Commercial class will include customers with demand between 20kW and 200kW
    - Includes new rate schedules and tariffs
    - Fiscal Impact: None.
  - Proposed changes in PCIA rates from the January 1, 2026 PCIA update
    - Including a ~33% decrease for small commercial customers

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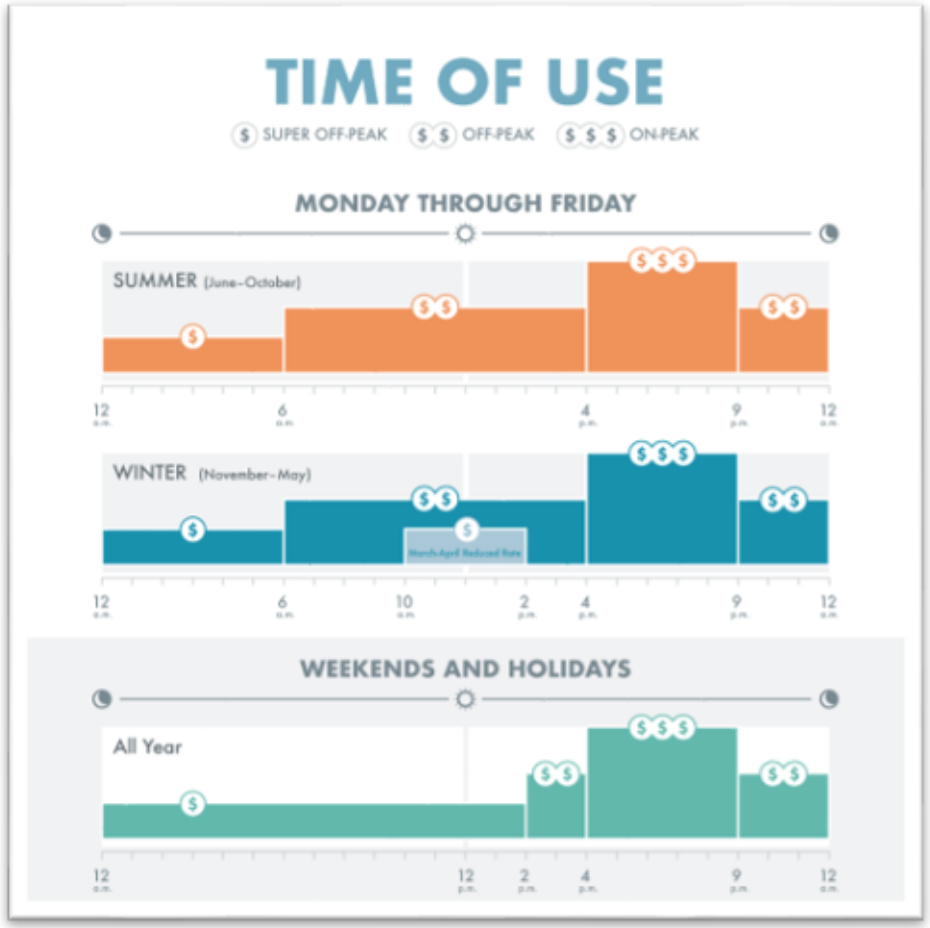
Current Time-of-Use Schedule

- On-peak hours (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) are typically the most expensive for electricity use
- Super off-peak from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. only offered in March/April
- Time-of-use encourages customers to shift energy load to off-peak and super off-peak hours (price signaling)



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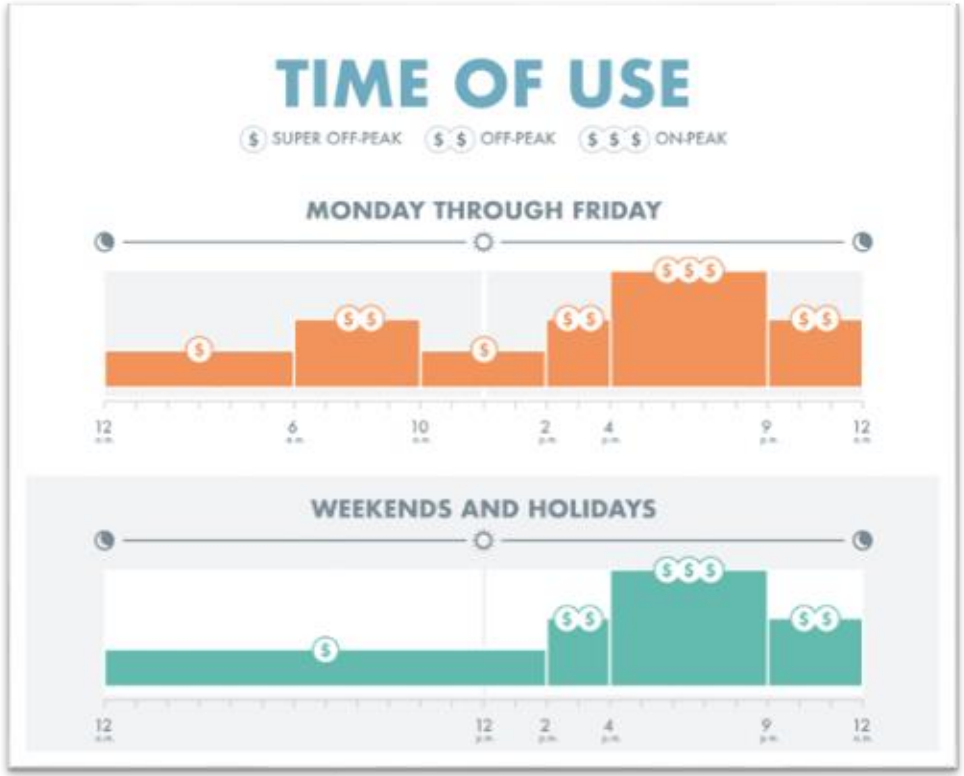
Super Off-Peak Expansion

Expands Super Off-Peak period from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. year-round.

Customer Benefits:

- Low cost, high-renewable-energy hours midday
- Ease of customer billing between CEA and SDG&E
- Customers can shift energy consumption habits year-round

Proposed Schedule



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Medium/Large Commercial Customer Class Split

Previously combined into one customer class, Medium/Large Commercial & Industrial will be split based on the following qualifications:

- Medium Commercial: 20kW to less than 200kW demand
- Large Commercial & Industrial: 200kW or higher demand

Customer Benefits:

- Ease of billing between CEA and SDG&E for commercial customers
- No impact to tariff, rate per kWh is remaining.

Example rate name changes:

Previous CEA Rate	New CEA Medium Com. Rate	New CEA Large C&I Rate
AL-TOU-S	AL-TOU-M-S	AL-TOU-L-S
DG-R-S	DG-R-M-S	DG-R-L-S

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PCIA Rate Impact 4/1/2026

Customer Class	Carlsbad, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Oceanside, Vista & SDGE	Escondido, San Marcos
Residential	0%	-16%
Small Commercial	-33%	-46%
Medium/Large Commercial	11%	-17%
Agriculture	-8%	-21%
Lighting	0%	-20%

Proposed percent change in PCIA Vintage compared to rates effective January 1, 2025.

- Staff is reviewing the proposed PCIA rates and will return to the Board with the overall impact on the adopted Rate Relief Credit.

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Recommendation

- That the Clean Energy Alliance (CEA) Board of Directors (Board) adopt Resolution No. 2026-018 approving the Expansion of the Super Off-Peak Time-of Use Period; and Establish a Medium Commercial and Large Commercial & Industrial Customer Class and Rate Schedules

Questions/Discussion – Item 7

Item 8: Regulatory Update

Clean Energy Alliance: Regulatory Update

Tim Lindl – Keyes & Fox LLP

March 26, 2026

KEYES&FOX LLP

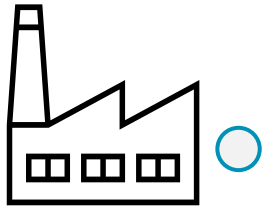
Overview

- Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) Rulemaking (R.25-02-005)
- Commission Staff Report on Resource Adequacy (RA) Transactability (R.25-10-003)
- Commission Pausing the California Climate Credit (D.26-03-013)

PCIA Rulemaking

Track	Scope	Event	Date
One	RA MPB Methodology Change	Complete – D.25-06-049	June 27, 2025
Two	Pre-2019 Banked REC Valuation	Scoping Memo	February 3, 2026
		Opening/Reply Testimony	March 2/23
		Potential Staff Proposal	By March 27
		Evidentiary Hearing	April 28
		Briefing	May-June
		Decision (PD by July 31)	September 3
Three	Broad review of PCIA methodology	Comments on Pre-Scoping Ruling	March 27

Unique Feature of Renewable Energy Credits: They Can be "Banked" for Later Use



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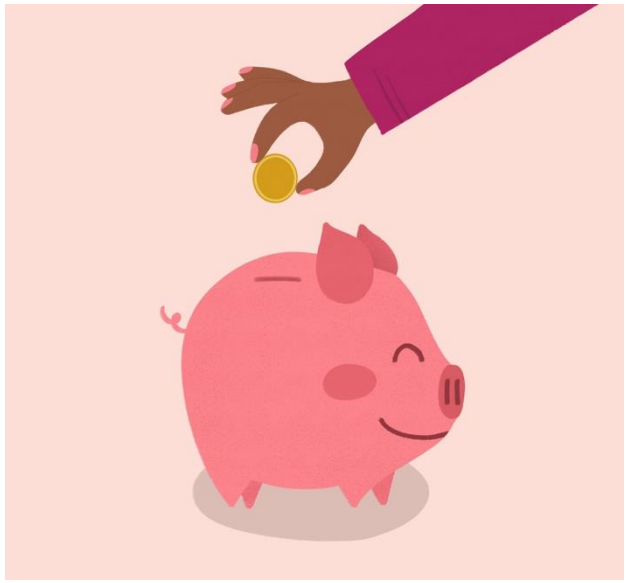
2015

"I don't need these RECs to serve my bundled customers now, so I will put them in the bank. "

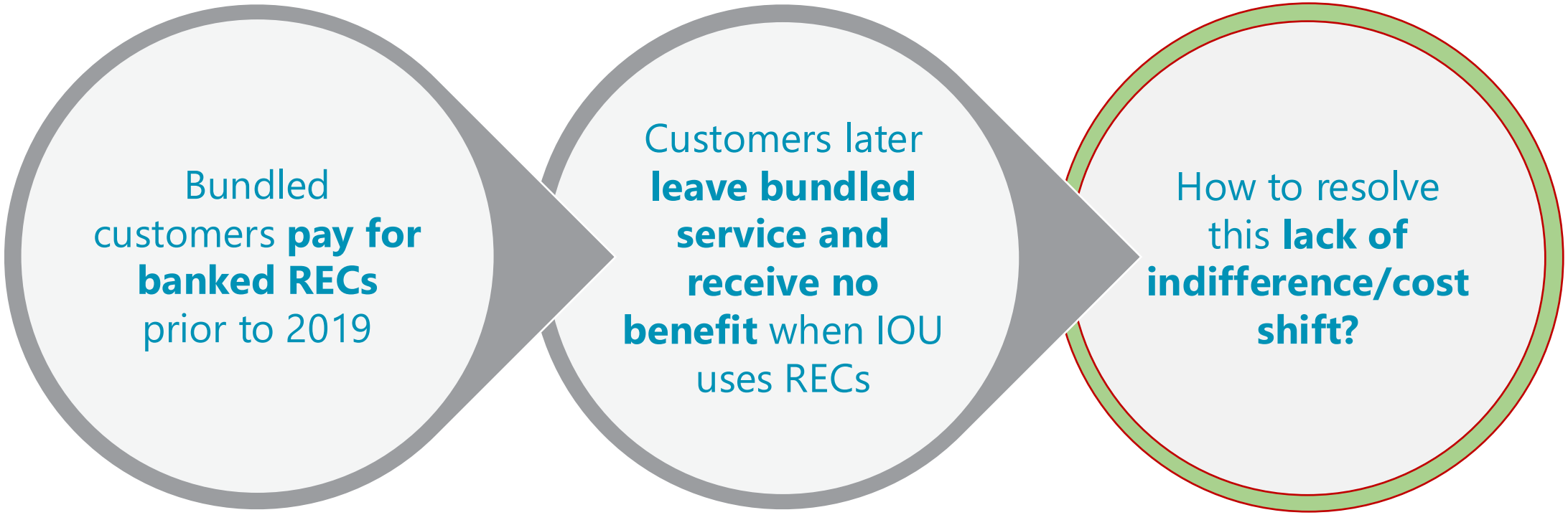


2026

"Now I need some RECs to serve my current bundled customers, so I will use those RECs I put into the bank in 2015."

KEYES&FOX LLP

Track 2 Problem Statement



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CalCCA Proposals to Remedy Cost Shifts

When the RECs are used for bundled customer compliance:

- **VALUE** them at the current renewable portfolio standard market price benchmark (credit to the CEA's PCIA obligations)

OR

- **ALLOCATE** the RECs to the customers that paid for them by reducing the amount of renewable energy CEA (or another LSE) would need to procure

Resource Adequacy Transactability Report

- Allows CCAs and other LSEs to trade hourly RA obligations to improve affordability.
- Staff analysis acknowledges these potential benefits but concludes the benefits did not outweigh costs and risks.
- CalCCA and others pushed back in comments
- Next Step: Proposed Decision

California Climate Credit (R.25-07-013)

- The California Climate Credit is the result of utility revenues from California's cap-and-trade program.
- The 2026 credit in SDG&E's service territory is $49.36 per customer billing month.
- D.26-03-013 paused the April distribution of the credit while the Commission considers changes; a new credit for 2026 will still be distributed via a future Commission decision

QUESTIONS?

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Questions/Discussion – Item 8

Item 9 – Closed Session

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-INITIATION OF LITIGATION

Whether to initiate litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) Number of Cases: 1