

4C Membership Meeting
Feb 2, 2021
Agenda and Notes

I. Welcome and Announcements

- Rachel Couch reelected as Co-Chair for 2021 and Heather Allen elected as Co-Chair for 2021 by vote of Steering Committee.
- Ella McDougall helping with admin until Mid-march, then on volunteer basis
- New Steering Committee members: Nancy Faulstich (Regeneracion Pajaro Valley Climate Action), Teresa Romero (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians), Kirsten Liske (Ecology Action), Kristin Cushman (Monterey Bay Regional Climate Action Compact)

II. Feature Presentation: 3CE Overview - J.R. Killigrew ([view slides here](#))

- JR Killigrew - Director of Communications and Outreach for the Central Coast Community Energy: jkilligrew@3ce.org
- Jurisdiction: Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz Counties including San Benito
- 3CE utilizes the community choice aggregation model - a way to provide clean and renewable energy beyond the traditional Gas and Electric companies in California
 - Not a voluntary program. City/community must submit documentation and Integrated Resource Plan to demonstrate how energy will be sourced for constituents
 - 3CE began as Monterey Bay Community Power, serving Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties
- CCAs have proliferated across the state - 24 currently, serving 35% of population
 - CCAs take over how and where energy/electricity is sourced, which is dispatched onto the grid, balanced, and distributed through utilities' infrastructure
 - 3CE does not handle billing or infrastructure
- 3CE is represented in 4 counties and 29 cities - rapid growth despite socio-economic and political difference
- 5 value propositions:
 - Customer's choice
 - Support local businesses through local contracting
 - Economic vitality of reinvesting through energy programs
 - Competitive rates
 - Supporting the public sector with resiliency efforts
- Clean energy - reducing grid related emissions through clean and renewable energy
- Financial stability through rate management and political challenges
- 3CE received the first A rating from S&P - ability to bond and contract at better rates
- Response to Covid-19: Board elected to reduce customer charges by 50% in May and June of 2020, creating \$20M of customer savings
- Initial auspice of "Carbon-free" energy. Contracting for existing resources - nothing new in terms of energy sourcing

- New pathway to 100% clean and renewable energy from all newly sourced resources by 2023
 - By 2023, all energy procured for the central coast will come from new projects and clean or renewable sources. Could include projects in neighboring states
- Carbon Neutral by 2030
- RFPs recently issued for: 500MW of utility scale energy storage, and a localized storage option
- Energy Programs - a place to collect input from Community Advisory Council, discuss electrification and resiliency
- Partnering with Santa Barbara, SLO, and Monterey Bay Air Districts
- Long term goal is to generate rate stability/certainty for 3 years

Questions:

- How is the participation rate, specifically of large users?
 - Enrollment is still strong from a consumption standpoint. 93-94% of eligible load are participating - very strong
- Chat questions: I've just learned about the "largest battery storage in America" replacing the NG plant in Watsonville - how does that relate to the 3CE? Why is energy efficiency mainly in the space of Utilities? It seems like it's the most affordable way to gain supply for the huge grid demand increase that is ahead with transportation electrification? Natural gas is the elephant in the room and could potentially double the electrical use in the region if there is a transition from gas to electric.

III. Chair Updates:

- ARCCA Update: Rachel was nominated to be chair of ARCCA for 2021. Election underway.
 - Kirsten inquires about ARCCA's work in climate and resilience leg tracking from Biden administration
- Federal Partnership County sessions: An effort to bring several federal partner agency staff together with county staff to talk about resilience efforts, needs, and gaps to find potential areas to work together. Two completed in 2020 (Ventura and Santa Barbara counties). Monterey on deck, followed by Santa Cruz county and SLO county.
- News: Merger with MBRCAC and Kristin Cushman. Member dues, outreach efforts, and goals will be combined into one collaborative/ Working out agreement details and organizational logistics.
- If your agency has any staff support that 4C could use, please let Rachel know!

IV. Committee Updates

- Equity (Juliano) - 4C is working with a collective of equity/justice trainers to design a survey and training on climate equity. Will integrated with with strategic planning effort
- Strategic Planning (Heather) - kick-off meeting Feb 9th at 1:00PM to figure out first steps, surveys, priorities, etc. Hoping to engage a facilitator (Michael Armstrong) to help guide goals and objectives for the next year or two

- Governance (Heather) - kick-off meeting Feb 5th at 9:30AM to discuss by-laws, meeting schedule, etc. Let Heather know if you are interested in joining/helping! heather.allen@ventura.org
- Future committee will be formed around the pending communications platform. If you would like to form other subcommittees, reach out to Rachel and Heather

V. Member Share-outs:

- Nancy Faulstich (Regeneracion Pajaro Valley) - Women, Girls, and Climate Justice Forum will occur on March 3rd, 2021. [Link here](#). Survey about Women, Children, and Sustainability (about family planning and sustainable impact). [English version](#) and [Spanish version](#) Nancy was selected to be a part of the Partners Advanced in Climate Equity (PACE). Congrats!
- Kirsten Liske (Ecology Action) - EA is partnering with Greenpower, CEC, and Regeneracion on an EV equity project for the central coast to bring rebates and grants to lower income families. Recruiting and training volunteers to provide information about EV grants/rebates. If you or someone in your agency is interested in being a volunteer, please let Kirsten know.
- Heather Allen (Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance) - VCEA is being awarded funds for EV Blueprint implementation and hiring an EV coach. EV buses, solar charging stations, and other components are included
- Joanna Nelson (LandSeaScience) - event on Saturday, Feb 27th about land restoration and care - heavy emphasis on climate resilience and justice: [“Listening to the Land Together: Weaving together Indigenous wisdom keepers and ecosystem-restoration allies”](#) (Indigenous-led or collaborative land stewardship and climate action and climate justice)
- Alex Yasbek (City of Watsonville) - big push for public banking, which would ensure profits stay in Central Coast region - linked to climate. Viability study is the first step. There is also a regional group working on building decarbonization
- Andy Mutziger (Air District in SLO) - Released interim [CEQA GHG guidance](#) document for developers and jurisdictions to understand CEQA GHG requirements. Working with AMBAG and SLOCOG on GHG standards. Potential committee with 4C about GHG mitigation efforts. Also working with 3CE on electric school buses
- Ashley Watkins (County of Santa Barbara’s Sustainability Division) - utility funding for energy efficiency. [3C-REN](#) have great resources and events, check out the upcoming schedule, especially Passive Haus and Green Economy Recovery. Also developing a program called Energy Assurance Assessment Services to develop framework for Santa Barbara critical facilities, including survey and audit
- Kamran Tehranchi (3CE) - 3CE recently launched an [Ag electrification program](#) and construction [electrification program for developers](#) in wildfire impact areas
- Sharyn Main (CEC) - Wrapping up Climate Resilience Roundtables with final event on Friday March 12th, public forum to apply learned knowledge to future

community projects and in line with state and federal programs. Santa Barbara
idea expo on CAP community input - March 3rd and 7th.;

VI. Membership:

- Meeting Schedule 2021: Every other month (starting in February). Meetings include a speaker and be extended to 1.5 hours
- Dues Renewal will occur in the spring!