

**CITY OF ALBANY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 19th, 2017

TO: Sustainability Committee

FROM: Claire Griffing, Sustainability Coordinator

SUBJECT: East Bay Community Energy Update and 100% Renewable Study

BACKGROUND

Albany's Climate Action Plan identifies Community Choice Energy, or CCE, as a priority for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CCE allows public agencies to procure a greater percentage of electrical power from renewable sources on behalf of electricity customers. The Sustainability Committee has been evaluating joining a CCE program since 2012.

The City Council approved a JPA agreement to join East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) on November 21, 2016. The East Bay Community Energy program aims to reduce rates and greenhouse gas emissions, increase local renewable energy buildout, and create local green jobs.

DISCUSSION

EBCE hired CEO Nick Chaset in June and submitted their Implementation Plan to the CPUC in August. EBCE is also completing a local renewable development business plan (LDBP), which will provide a high-level roadmap for local renewable generation, demand reduction, storage, and other distributed energy resource programs in Alameda County. The LDBP will provide a timeline for developing local projects and programs, offer policy guidance, and identify potential implementation challenges.

Tom Kelly of KyotoUSA/Sequoia Foundation, contracted by the County for CCE outreach during the program's development, has received a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to fund a study to evaluate the potential for CCEs to allow individual cities to launch with a 100% renewable energy default product.

The study will explore economic and social factors that could enable a CCE program to successfully provide all electricity customers in self-selected jurisdictions a 100% renewable power default product with an option to "opt down" to the lower renewable power mix product offered to all other jurisdictions within the program. The small San Mateo County city of Portola Valley has exercised this option for its electricity customers with success. Other jurisdictions have experienced difficulty getting customers to "opt up" to cleaner power mixes.

Ben Foster of Fosterra and Tom Kelly are conducting the study, which should be completed early this fall. The cities of Albany and Berkeley have expressed an interest in exploring this further and have submitted energy use data to participate in this study. Other Alameda County jurisdictions have also expressed interest in this approach.