

Happy Fall! It's that time of year again when temperatures drop, and the sun sets earlier. Before winter arrives, make sure you're taking the right steps to cut down on your home electric bill and reduce your carbon footprint. Prepare your home by replacing weather-stripping around windows and doors, switching to a smart thermostat, and unplugging unused electronics. Now bundle up and get cozy to read the latest news from Central Coast Community Energy!

In this newsletter, you'll find:

- **3CE Launches Clean Energy Project Bonds, Saving Customers $4.7M Annually**
- **3CE Approves Long-Term Agreement with New Large-Scale Wind Project**
- **Board Members, 3CE Staff Attend Yellow Pine Solar I Commissioning**
- **3CE Rebates Help Anatum Winery Reduce its Carbon Footprint**
- **New EPA Video Contest Challenges the Public to Showcase EVs in Daily Life**
- **Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards**
- **Invite 3CE's Outreach Team to Present to Your Group**
- **Upcoming Meetings**

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3CE Launches Clean Energy Project Bonds, Saving Customers $4.7M Annually

On Oct. 31, Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) secured its first prepay bond issuance to finance its clean energy supplies, resulting in significant cost savings for the agency and local customers. The $647.8 million bond issuance is projected to save 3CE customers nearly 11.4% in energy costs, which translates to $32.9 million in the cost of energy over the initial seven-year period of the bonds. The bonds received an invest-grade Aa3 rating from Moody's and a "Green Bonds" designation from Kestrel.

Prepay bond issuance can reduce the cost of power with minimal risk. Tax-exempt bonds finance long-term energy supply purchasing, helping utilities and Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) save money. This practice of using prepayment to buy natural gas has been used by municipal utilities for many years.

In June 2021, four CCAs, including 3CE, formed the California Community Choice Financing Authority (CCCFA), a Joint Powers Agency to reduce the cost of power purchases through a pre-payment structure. These prepayments allow CCAs to reduce customer costs and increase funding available for local community programs.



3CE Approves Long-Term Agreement with New Large-Scale Wind Project

On Nov. 8, the Operations Board of Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) approved a 15-year power purchase agreement with SunZia Wind that will serve about 11% of 3CE's demand. Pattern Energy Group, the project developer, said the wind farm and its associated SunZia Transmission infrastructure constitute the largest clean-energy project in U.S. history, generating and transmitting more than 3,500 MW of renewable electricity from New Mexico into Arizona, Nevada, and California, accelerating the nation's clean-energy goals.

The purchase agreement with SunZia will increase the diversity of 3CE's renewable energy portfolio, generating power even when the sun is down; provide critical resource adequacy benefits; and put 3CE closer to its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030. Deliveries are expected to begin in 2026, with 3CE and its customers receiving 200 MW of clean energy from the project.

At the groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 1, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland said, "The SunZia Transmission Project will accelerate our nation's transition to a clean energy economy by unlocking renewable resources, creating jobs, lowering costs, and boosting local economies."



Board Members, 3CE Staff Attend Yellow Pine Solar I Commissioning

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) on Nov. 1 celebrated the ribbon cutting of Yellow Pine Solar I, a large-scale solar and battery-storage project in Clark County, Nevada. Policy Board Directors Bruce McPherson and Steve McShane attended the event along with 3CE leadership and staff. Yellow Pine Solar I, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, will generate up to 125 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable electricity and has a 65 MW storage capacity, enough to power more than 37,500 homes annually.

The energy storage component of the project provides solar energy even when the sun isn't shining, improving the reliability and efficiency of the grid and making clean energy more accessible. 3CE and Silicon Valley Clean Energy will provide electricity from Yellow Pine Solar I to their combined service area of more than 722,000 customers.



3CE Rebates Help Anatum Winery Reduce its Carbon Footprint

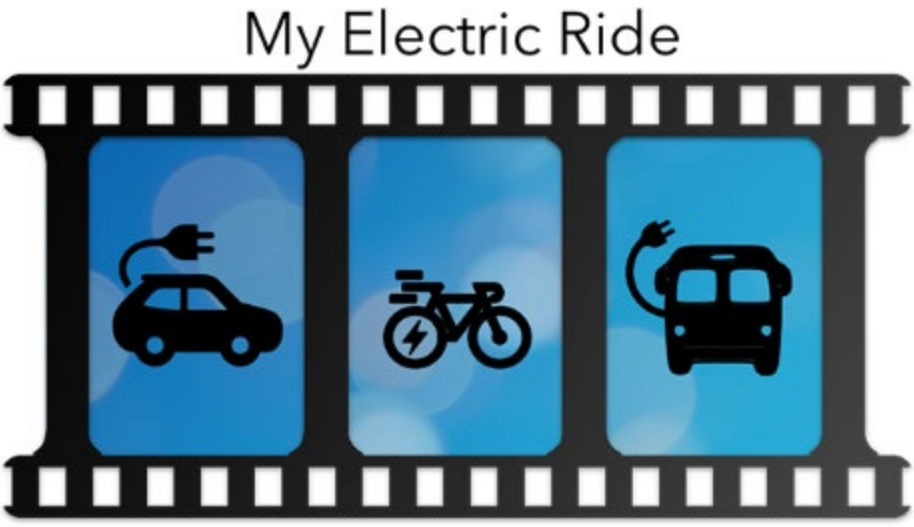
Anatum Winery sits quietly in rolling hills along Falcon View Terrace in Watsonville. Contributing to the peacefulness, owner Chris Broaddus operates all-electric equipment throughout the property.

Broaddus is a 3CE customer and decided to remove diesel-powered equipment from the vineyard to reduce noise and greenhouse gas emissions. His equipment includes an all-electric standard size tractor, utility vehicle, forklift, and steam box. Together, the clean-energy equipment spares about 982 gallons of diesel throughout the year, eliminating nearly 10 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually — equivalent to taking two fossil-fueled cars off the road.

“3CE’s ag electrification rebates for our vineyard and winery equipment, paired with the ability to charge off solar and batteries, have been a game-changer,” said Broaddus. “We’re not only reducing business costs but also reducing our environmental footprint. Embracing these incentives has helped our family business to grow in a way that aligns with our values of protecting the land we rely on.”

Every year since the 3CE Ag Electrification Program began in 2019, Broaddus has applied for and received a rebate for this all-electric equipment. 3CE’s Ag Electrification Program provides rebates to 3CE customers who replace fossil fuel powered agricultural equipment with new, all-electric equipment. Electrification improves air quality and healthier working conditions for Central Coast communities.

Apply for 3CE Ag Electrification Program Rebates



New EPA Video Contest Challenges the Public to Showcase EVs in Daily Life

This month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new competition, “My Electric Ride: An EV Transportation Video Challenge.” The contest offers a top prize of up to $3,000 for a 1- to 2-minute video sharing contestants’ personal experiences with electric transportation, with the goal of educating the public about the benefits of EVs.

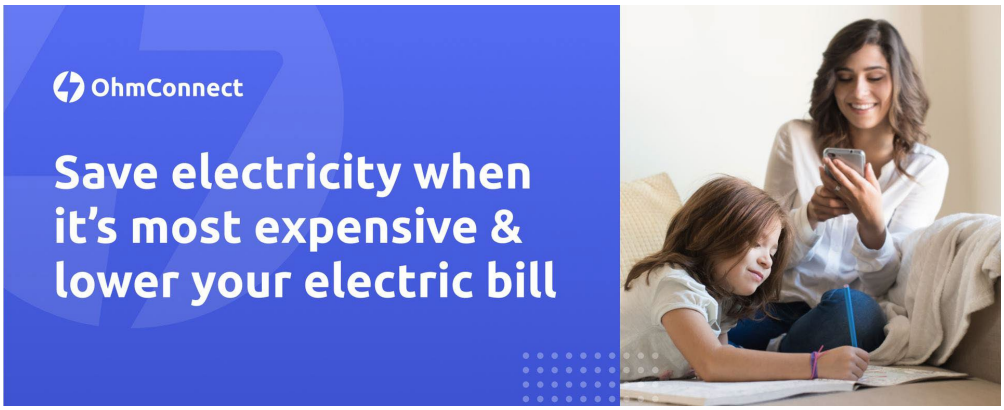
Videos about one of three vehicle categories are eligible:

- Electric 2- and 3-wheel **personal mobility devices** such as e-bikes, e-trikes, e-scooters, or e-cargo bikes;
- Electric **vehicles** such as cars, trucks, or SUVs; and
- Electric school, shuttle, or transit **buses.**

The judges will consider the videos’ originality, creativity, and effectiveness in communicating how electric transportation has enhanced their contestants’ lives. Each vehicle category will have a first, second, and third place winner, for a total of up to nine winning videos, which may be featured on the EPA's website and social media channels. Submissions are due by January 23, 2024.

For more information and instructions on how to submit a video, visit the EPA’s EV Transportation Video Challenge webpage.

Automatically Lower Your Bill & Get Rewards



Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) has partnered with OhmConnect – a free service that will alert you when electricity prices spike in your area due to high demand so you can conserve energy, ultimately lowering your electric bill while you earn rewards. It takes just 2 minutes to join, and if you sign up with this link before December 31, you can receive $50!

SIGN ME UP!

Invite 3CE's Outreach Team to Present to Your Group

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) offers outreach presentations to local groups, focused on providing information about the agency's commitments to clean and renewable energy, competitive rates, and community investment.

If you are interested in having 3CE present to your group, please contact Sophia Schwirzke at sschwirzke@3ce.org

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Upcoming Meetings

Central Coast Community Energy encourages public participation in agency meetings, held in person and on ZOOM with available dial-in options. Attendees may provide live public comments remotely through ZOOM or submit them in advance via email at publiccomments@3ce.org. Sign up to receive public board notices that include meeting details.

DATES AND LIVESTREAM INFO

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