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San José Clean Energy Celebrates five years of Serving Customers with Renewable Energy at Affordable Rates

SAN JOSE, Calif. (March 27, 2024) – San José Clean Energy (SJCE), the City of San José’s clean energy provider is celebrating five years of service to the city’s nearly one million residents and businesses. Since launching in 2019, SJCE has contracted for over one gigawatt of renewable energy including solar, wind, battery storage, and geothermal power, and kept nearly five million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions out of the air. The City’s power supply is currently 60% renewable and is on track to meet the City’s goal to be 100% renewable by 2030.

“San José is leading the nation’s clean energy transition,” said San José Mayor Matt Mahan. “We were the first major city to pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030 and SJCE is keeping us on track with innovative partnerships that ensure clean and reliable power, generate economic growth, and ensure our low-income neighbors are not left behind.”

San José Clean Energy is committed to keeping costs as low as possible for its community. The average residential customer is currently saving about 8% on electricity, compared to PG&E. The electricity-provider has expanded eligibility for its SJ Cares program, which offers an additional 10% discount for low-income customers for a total discount of 18%. The city department is also piloting an Emergency Bill Relief program that offers up to \$1,600 in aid to customers behind on their bills and at risk of disconnection.

“Like every City department, the Energy Department is deeply committed to the community and equity, working with neighbors to ensure everyone has access to solar energy at affordable rates,” said City Manager Jennifer Maguire. “Clean Energy’s Solar Access program has been so successful, that the department won several notable awards, and I am confident there will be more future success.”

In partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission, community-focused programs have saved customers \$29 million and 18 million kilowatts-hours of energy and avoided 2,300 metric tons of carbon emissions. Programs include:

- Solar Access, offering discounted solar power to residents without access to solar panels.

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- Energy Efficient Business and Residential programs, offering up to 90% off energy-saving upgrades.
- California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project (CALeVIP), offering incentives to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers in San José. More than 150 EV chargers have been installed, 40% of which are in low-income communities.
- EV education through community dinners and no-sales Ride and Drives.
- Peak Rewards, paying customers to save energy during high demand events.

“What we’ve accomplished with our power supply in just five short years is remarkable,” said SJCE Director Lori Mitchell. “We had many regulatory changes and energy market disruptions, despite this, our power supply is on track to be 100% renewable by 2030; while also keeping rates affordable and offering innovative programs to help our community.”

San José Clean Energy is the largest single-jurisdiction Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program with a 97% participation rate, one of the highest of any community energy program. CCAs are not-for-profit agencies in California that allow communities to buy power on behalf of their own residents and businesses. There are 25 CCAs in California serving more than 14 million customers.

To learn more about SJCE and its accomplishments for the last five years, read the Impact Report at SanJoseCleanEnergy.org/Impact-Report.

About the City of San José

With almost one million residents, San José is one of the most diverse large cities in the United States and is Northern California’s largest city and the 12th largest city in the nation. San José’s transformation into a global innovation center has resulted in one of the largest concentrations of technology companies and expertise in the world. In 2011, the City adopted Envision San José 2040, a long-term growth plan that sets forth a vision and a comprehensive road map to guide the City’s anticipated growth through the year 2040.

About San José Clean Energy

San José Clean Energy (SJCE) is the local, not-for-profit electricity generation provider for homes and businesses in the City of San José. SJCE is operated by the City’s Energy Department and governed by the City Council. SJCE provides 350,000 customer accounts with clean energy at competitive rates plus the additional benefits of customer choice, community programs, local control, transparency, and accountability. For more information, please visit www.SanJoseCleanEnergy.org.

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