

Community Energy Department

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San José Clean Energy Service to Small Businesses Begins in June

Small businesses will now benefit from cleaner, cheaper electricity service

San José, CA (April 18, 2019) – On Tuesday, April 16, The San José City Council voted to expand [San José Clean Energy \(SJCE\)](#) electricity service for nearly 20,000 small businesses in June 2019. SJCE already launched service to most residents and all large and medium businesses in February 2019, providing cleaner electricity at lower rates than PG&E.

Operated by the Community Energy Department, SJCE is the City's Community Choice Energy program. Through Community Choice, local governments like the City of San José buy electricity from cleaner sources, while the investor-owned utility (PG&E, for San José) continues to distribute the electricity, maintain the powerlines, respond to power outages, and provide billing.

"As San José Clean Energy customers, small businesses will collectively save more than \$300,000 each year on reduced electricity costs – all while helping our city meet its aggressive greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets," said San José Mayor Sam Liccardo. "Today's launch helps build on this and other Climate Smart San José goals, ensuring we help leave our grandchildren a planet we can be proud of."

Per California law, SJCE is the new default energy generation provider for San José. Customers have three choices:

- do nothing and receive SJCE's default power service, GreenSource, which is cleaner and 1% cheaper than PG&E standard service;
- upgrade to TotalGreen, SJCE's 100% renewable energy service; or
- opt out of the program to remain entirely with PG&E.

"The community's response has been very positive – 98.8% of customers are sticking with San José Clean Energy and nearly 800 have chosen to upgrade to TotalGreen to receive 100% renewable energy," said Lori Mitchell, Community Energy Department Director. "In the 75 community events

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we've hosted and attended, we've heard that residents and businesses are really happy to now have a choice for their power service and to receive more clean energy."

GreenSource includes 45% renewable energy from solar, wind and geothermal and is 80% carbon-free overall.

"It's a win-win for our business to save money while supporting green energy development," said Thien-Vu Dinh, owner of Banh Mi Oven, which has three locations in San José. "We think our customers will find value in the fact that we're doing something to reduce air pollution and climate change."

To meet San José customers' increased demand for renewable energy, totaling 1,840 GWh annually, SJCE currently buys power from existing power plants. SJCE is currently working on negotiating its first long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) to build new renewable energy resources dedicated for SJCE customers. On top of that, SJCE expects to advertise additional opportunities for long-term PPAs to construct new renewable resources from solar and wind over the coming year.

Small businesses will receive two postcards in the mail in April and May notifying them of their enrollment into San José Clean Energy in June. They can also expect to receive two additional post-enrollment notices in June and July after service begins. SJCE staff are attending neighborhood business district meetings to spread the word and answer questions.

The San José City Council voted unanimously to establish SJCE in May 2017. SJCE is governed by the City Council and has a Community Advisory Council.

About the City of San José

With more than 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 10th 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 the Community Energy Department

San José Clean Energy is the new nonprofit, locally controlled electricity generation service provider for residents and businesses in the City of San José. It provides over 300,000 residential and commercial electricity customers with clean, carbon-free power options at competitive prices, from sources like solar, wind and hydropower. San José Clean Energy is governed by the City Council and operated by the City of San José Community Energy Department. For more information, please visit www.SanJoseCleanEnergy.org.

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