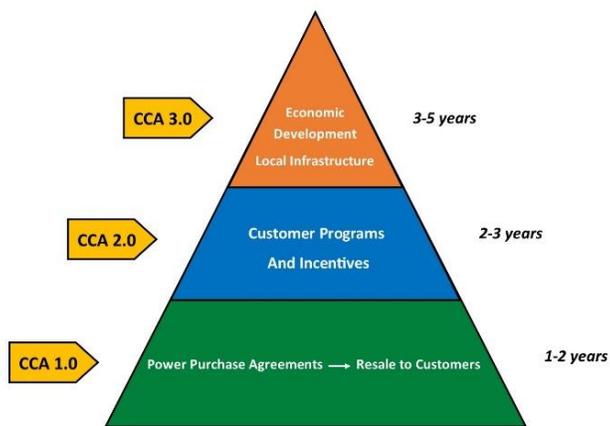




## CCAs and the Path to Local Economic Development and Energy Innovation California Case Studies

At its most basic, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is about aggregating the electric load of a community for the purpose of contracting for power that is greener and cheaper than the incumbent utility (CCA 1.0). But CCAs can do far more than facilitate power contracts on behalf of a group of customers.



As California’s Community Choice programs mature, they are focusing on providing benefits to their customers that go beyond the delivery of cheaper, greener power. These benefits take the form of energy programs and incentives for homeowners, multi-family housing units and small businesses (CCA 2.0), and local power development and energy resilience projects in participating communities (CCA 3.0).

Local economic development and consumer benefits are two of several reasons to consider CCA. Here are a few examples shared by California CCAs in operation today:

### Local Power Development/Distributed Energy Resources (DER)

Many CCAs want more of the power they source to be built in or near their service territories. While it can take several years to develop the credit capacity required to sponsor local power investments, CCAs have facilitated several innovative public/private partnerships to enable clean power projects in their communities. Examples include:



[MCE Solar One](https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/local-projects/) – MCE Clean Energy, California’s first CCA program, built a 10.5 MW solar farm on a refinery brownfield site in the City of Richmond. The project included a 50% local hire requirement and the power generated supports the energy needs of over 3,500 MCE customers. MCE also offers a generous Feed-in-Tariff program to incentivize local renewable developments up to 5MW in size. <https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/local-projects/>



[RCEA Off-Shore Wind](https://redwoodenergy.org/offshore-wind-energy/) – With plenty of wind capacity off the Humboldt County coast, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) has partnered with the Schatz Energy Center at Humboldt State University and a consortium of companies to begin the process of developing up to 150MW of off-shore wind on floating barges 30 miles from shore. <https://redwoodenergy.org/offshore-wind-energy/>



[Lancaster Solar Homes and Net Zero Energy City](#) – Prior to launching its CCA program, the City of Lancaster passed ground-breaking local legislation requiring all new homes to be built with solar rooftops and has set a goal of being a Net Zero Energy city by the end of 2020. The city’s CCA, Lancaster Choice Energy, has incentivized further solar development through a consumer-friendly net metering program and by contracting for solar power developed in and around the City.

<http://www.lancasterchoicenergy.com/2017/11/03/city-lancaster-zero-net-energy-home-ordinance-effective-january-1-2018/>



[The East Bay Community Energy Local Development Business Plan](#) lays out a multi-year plan for new power development facilitated by EBCE and their clean power partners in Alameda County.

<https://ebce.org/local-development-business-plan/>

## Advanced Transportation

With 41% of California’s greenhouse gas emissions attributed to the transportation sector, local Community Choice programs have proven effective in helping their customers transition to electric vehicles. Sonoma Clean Power (SCP), MCE Clean Energy (MCE), and Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) are offering various incentives and rebates to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. Some EV programs provide further assistance to low-income customers who have been less likely to purchase or lease EVs.



[Sonoma Clean Power’s Drive Evergreen](#) – SCP partnered with several local dealerships to provide discounts and incentives of up to \$7,000 on new and used EVs. Sonoma’s *GridSavvy* program provides free EV charging equipment for participating customers.

<https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/drive-ev>

<https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/gridsavvy>

Information about EV programs offered by MCE Clean Energy and Peninsula Clean Energy can be found:

<https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/ev-charging/#HomeCharging>

<https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/ev/>



[Electric Bus Fleet Conversion](#) – The Antelope Valley Transit Authority partnered with Lancaster Choice Energy to convert all of the agency’s aging diesel buses to a 100% battery electric bus fleet with up to 85 new all-electric buses by the end of 2018. <http://www.avta.com/index.aspx?page=482>

## Grid Resiliency

While the responsibility to maintain the grid remains with municipal and investor-owned utilities, some communities more prone to prolonged power outages are looking for ways to protect energy resiliency for essential services when the power goes out. The Redwood Coast Energy Authority’s (RCEA) airport microgrid will be the first multi-customer microgrid in PG&E’s service territory. In good weather, the power generated



from the 2.3MW solar + 8MW storage microgrid will serve all RCEA customers. In the event of an outage, the microgrid will “island” to provide power to the Eureka airport, the US Coast Guard, local hospitals, fire stations and other essential services to keep things running until power is restored by the utility <http://now.humboldt.edu/news/schatz-center-receives-5m-grant-for-airport-microgrid/>

## Customer Programs/Community Benefits

Community Choice programs do more than offer cleaner power at competitive rates. Many CCAs have moved beyond “CCA 1.0” and are offering community-based programs that help their customers reduce their energy consumption, benefit from preferred pricing and/or rebates, and lower their reliance on fossil fuels. Here are just a few examples:



Incentivizing Solar Schools Through Preferred Net Metering Programs  
[www.sonomacleanpower.org](http://www.sonomacleanpower.org)



<https://www.mbcommunitypower.org/communitypowerfestival/>



Community Pilot Grants – up to \$75,000 for energy projects that provide tangible benefits to low-income communities, develop the local workforce, and/or serve customers within PCE’s service area.  
<https://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com/>



**REDWOOD COAST Energy Authority**

Energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial customers including rebates up to \$5,500 for whole house energy efficiency projects.  
<https://redwoodenergy.org/>



Year-end-rebate program (~3% in 2018) that returns surplus revenues to all MBCP customers.  
<https://www.mbcommunitypower.org/>



Advanced Energy Rebuild: helps homeowners affected by the October 2017 wildfires to rebuild energy efficient, sustainable homes; up to \$17,500 per home.  
<https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/advanced-energy-rebuild>