

Peninsula Clean Energy – San Mateo County, CA

What is Peninsula Clean Energy?

Peninsula Clean Energy was created in February 2016 when all 20 cities in San Mateo County, in California plus the County of San Mateo, voted unanimously to form a Joint Powers Authority to administer the program, following years of careful study and development.

Peninsula Clean Energy is a public, locally-controlled electricity provider that gives all PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric) electric customers (residential, commercial, and municipal) in San Mateo County the choice of having 50% to 100% of their electricity supplied from clean, renewable sources at competitive rates. We provide the electricity, and PG&E delivers it over their lines and wires. PG&E will continue to do the billing for all of these services and provide the customer service. Peninsula Clean Energy began serving its initial group of customers on October 1, 2016.

PCE serves almost 300,000 business and residential accounts, including San Mateo County's 750,000 residents.

Peninsula Clean Energy is now the largest CCA in California, serving almost 300,000 electric accounts across San Mateo County with power that is both lower priced, and with more clean, renewable energy, than PG&E's supply. We make it easy for County residents, businesses, and institutions to reduce their impact on the environment while saving money.

How do Peninsula Clean Energy rates compare to PG&E?

PCE offers a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable energy product with rate schedules that are competitive or better than PG&E. We're proud to offer you **rates that are stable and affordable**, and we're committed to keeping costs as low as possible for all of our customers. PCE negotiates short and long-term contracts with a variety of power suppliers to meet the energy needs of our customers.

How is Peninsula Clean Energy governed?

Peninsula Clean Energy is governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives from each of the member cities and the County itself. PCE's local government structure ensures public transparency. The Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss matters pertaining to the operation of Peninsula Clean Energy. All meetings are open to the public and comments are encouraged.

We work with energy service providers. Contracts with individual projects. People with deep experience purchasing power. They come from utility companies.

Peninsula Clean Energy purchases power from renewable energy resources, which directly reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

What are the ratepayer plans for PCE?

ECOplus is Peninsula Clean Energy's default electricity service offering and is priced below PG&E's rates. All customers automatically start with ECOplus. ECOplus is at least 50% renewable, which is more than twice the renewable energy that is otherwise available to customers from PG&E. ECOplus is also 85% carbon-free.

The other plan, ECO100 means 100% of the power you are paying for comes from clean, renewable sources. Customers can choose to opt up to this option and buy 100% renewable and 100% carbon-free electricity at a slight premium. It enables our customers to take a bigger step towards reducing their carbon footprint. ECO100 costs \$0.01 per kWh more than our ECOplus option. The average PCE residential customer uses 423 kWh per month, so ECO100 will cost the average residential customer \$4.23 per month above ECOplus. Compared to PG&E's rates, ECO100 is expected to cost about \$2.50 per month extra for a typical residential customer. If you want to enroll in ECO100, click the "Opt Up" button at the top of the screen.

Is there an exit fee required for PG&E customers?

PG&E charges Peninsula Clean Energy customers a Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) and a Franchise Fee Surcharge. Both are calculated based on the number of kilowatt hours used each month.

The PCIA is intended to ensure that customers who switch to Peninsula Clean Energy pay for energy that was acquired by PG&E to serve them prior to their switch. The PCIA is currently between two to three cents per kilowatt-hour for most PCE customers, depending on when the customer switched to Peninsula Clean Energy and whether they are a residential or a commercial customer. The savings that PCE's ECOplus provides are such that, even with the fee, customers will still save money compared to PG&E's rates.

Why is PCE enrollment automatic?

California's CCA law requires Peninsula Clean Energy to become the default provider of electric generation for customers within San Mateo County. If a customer wishes to stay with PG&E, they can opt out of PCE. Customer choice is very important to us, so we provide four written notices to our customers so that you can choose where your electricity comes from and how your dollars are spent.

Historically, PG&E has been the default power provider to customers in San Mateo County and customers were automatically enrolled in PG&E because there was no alternative service to choose from. Now there is a choice.

Because of the benefits offered by Community Choice programs such as Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE), including lower cost and cleaner electricity, our state legislators passed California's Community Choice Aggregation law in 2002, making Community Choice programs the default service, resulting in competition and better options for customers. As we roll out our service to residents and businesses in San Mateo county, you are automatically enrolled in Peninsula Clean Energy.

What are the different rate plans?

Peninsula Clean Energy's default offering, ECOplus, which is 50% renewable energy, 85% greenhouse gas free energy, and less expensive than PG&E.

PG&E's standard offering, which is 33% renewable energy, 79% greenhouse gas free energy, and more expensive than ECOplus

Peninsula Clean Energy's 100% renewable energy product, ECO100, which is slightly more expensive than PG&E.

Can I opt out of PCE?

Yes, you get to decide. Any customer may opt out of Peninsula Clean Energy. However, you can only opt out when you become eligible for service during one of the enrollment phases, because that is when PG&E provides your account information to allow us to make the switch. If you have received an enrollment notice, you can choose to opt out now.

What about residents with solar rooftops? How will PCE affect their accounts?

Residents with solar panels can sell their excess energy back to Peninsula Clean Energy. PCE can offer property owners fair market rates for their excess energy production. It's likely that PCE's buy-back rates may be slightly more advantageous to the solar panel owner than PG&E's rates have been in the past. Existing CCEs have thus far been able to offer better Net Metering rates for customers who generate surplus electricity. Such customers within San Mateo County will be automatically enrolled into Peninsula Clean Energy's Net Metering Program.

Does the PCE board of Directors receive a salary or other payments of benefits?

No. Directors serve on the Board as part of their duties as elected officials and do not receive any additional salaries or other payments of benefits.

Are any tax dollars used to finance or operate Peninsula Clean Energy?

During the startup period, the County provided a portion of the startup funding, which PCE paid back to the County. Now that PCE has been operational since October 2016, it is 100% ratepayer funded.

How is Peninsula Clean Energy financed?

PCE will be financed by revenues received from our rate payers based on the electricity they consume. We're self-funded and don't use any tax dollars. As a community agency, any revenues that exceed our costs will be used to benefit the communities we serve.

What are some potential projects that could be funded by program profits?

Efficiency projects such as retrofits, home area networks, battery storage and electric vehicle charging stations are just a few options, with other innovations probable. In Marin County, for example, CCE profits have been used to build several local solar projects and create hundreds of jobs. Lancaster reinvested its profits into building its local economy and businesses.

PCE is also building 300 MW of new solar projects in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Roughly 750 jobs created through new PCE project developments.
A 200 MW Wright Solar Park, Merced Co. created 350 jobs in 2018 & 2019
PCE is developing county-wide programs that address decarbonizing transportation and buildings.