

**VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Staff Report – Item 11

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Alisa Lembke, Board Clerk/Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Discussion on formation of CAC Local Energy Task Group

DATE: October 23, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss forming a CAC Local Energy Task Group.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Each year, Staff around the beginning of the year, asks the CAC to consider forming task groups to assist VCE Staff and the Board with tasks and projects and to vet important issues/policy areas. And, throughout the year, Staff may revisit with the CAC on forming additional task group(s) as needed to assist with tasks and projects as they become defined.

At the CAC's July 24, 2025 ([Item 7](#)) and August 28, 2025 ([Item 7](#)) meetings, Staff and CAC members had a robust discussion on the draft Major Update to the Strategic Plan (SP). At the CAC's August 28, 2025, the CAC recommended that the Board adopt the Major Update to the SP. Thereafter, the Board held a Strategic Plan Workshop at their September 11, 2025 meeting and at the Board's October 14, 2025 Special meeting the Major Update to the Strategic Plan was adopted.

At the CAC's September 25, 2025 meeting, CAC Member Lorenzo Kristov suggested that the CAC and Staff discuss forming a Local Energy Task Group to assist in developing strategies in line with the Major Update to the SP. Attached is Mr. Kristov's submittal of information to start the discussion.

Attachment: Local Energy Task Group Proposal 2025-26 from CAC Member Lorenzo Kristov

Local Energy Task Group Proposal 2025-26

Draft for VCE CAC Discussion

The Context

Definition: Local electricity resources (local energy resources or “LER”) include: scalable renewable generation facilities (solar PV, wind, small hydro & geothermal); batteries & other types of energy storage; control systems to manage electricity supply and load in individual buildings and groups of electrically contiguous buildings; microgrid controls to provide continuous “islanded” service during utility grid outages (e.g., community resilience centers or CRCs); energy efficiency (e.g., weatherization of buildings); and back-up emergency generators.

LER have been rapidly improving in performance and cost-effectiveness. They are scalable and customizable to meet practically any customer’s electricity needs (residential, business, farm, municipal, public facility, industry). They can also be connected directly to the utility’s distribution system to provide energy to multiple customers in a local area.

The needs for and benefits of LER are now becoming increasingly urgent for several reasons:

- (1) affordability — LER can substitute for more costly grid-supplied power;
- (2) climate resilience — LER can provide uninterrupted service during utility grid outages;
- (3) support for local clean energy & climate action priorities — LER can be custom-designed to support local initiatives (e.g., electrifying transportation fleets);
- (4) local control over the choice of energy sources — LER can support local Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) goals for clean energy & decarbonization;
- (5) ability to produce energy close to where it will be consumed — LER can reduce reliance on the costly bulk transmission system, lowering infrastructure costs, reducing energy losses and avoiding barriers to deployment;
- (6) ability to deploy on existing infrastructure — deploying on roofs of warehouses, schools, shopping malls, parking lots & irrigation canals avoids impacts to open space & habitats & other land-use conflicts;
- (7) local ownership — locally owned & operated LER retain community wealth, strengthen the local economy, provide local jobs & technical training (e.g., LER systems on school campuses), & reduce reliance on distant investors & monopoly corporations.

VCE’s original vision statement includes a provision to advance LER, and the latest revision of its strategic plan includes explicit objectives to increase reliance on LER in VCE territory and to promote LER among other CCAs.

The author composed this work on the ancestral lands of the Wintun tribes. Three federally recognized Wintun tribes reside in and consider their homelands to be Yolo, Solano, Colusa, Lake and Napa [California] counties: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The Need for a VCE Local Energy Task Group

Although many of the above factors are well known to people engaged in the electricity industry, there is a need for (1) accurate education & de-mystification about LER applications, benefits & technologies, both for decision makers & for the general public (e.g., VCE customers & member jurisdictions); (2) exploration of potential LER projects in VCE's territory in which VCE could participate or play an enabling or supportive role; & (3) development of a vision and strategy for increasing LERs in VCE's energy planning & procurement & in member communities' energy systems.

Proposed Local Energy Task Group (LE-TG) Charge

1. The LE-TG will meet monthly, outside of regular CAC meetings.
2. The LE-TG will compile & organize educational materials, including examples of LER projects deployed elsewhere, to inform VCE member jurisdictions, customers & CAC members about LER terms & concepts, LER technologies & practical applications, LER economics, & policies & regulations related to DER.
3. The LE-TG will identify potential beneficial LER projects in VCE's territory & develop brief initial descriptions.
4. The LE-TG will provide short (5-10 minute) TG reports at each CAC meeting to inform the CAC about the above topics. When a CAC schedule is light, the TG can lead a longer discussion on an LER topic.
5. The LE-TG will support development of a vision, strategy & plans for increasing LERs in VCE's energy planning & procurement & in member communities' energy systems.