



POWER UP *with* VCE!

## Valley Clean Energy Newsletter, Winter 2019

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# Accomplishments

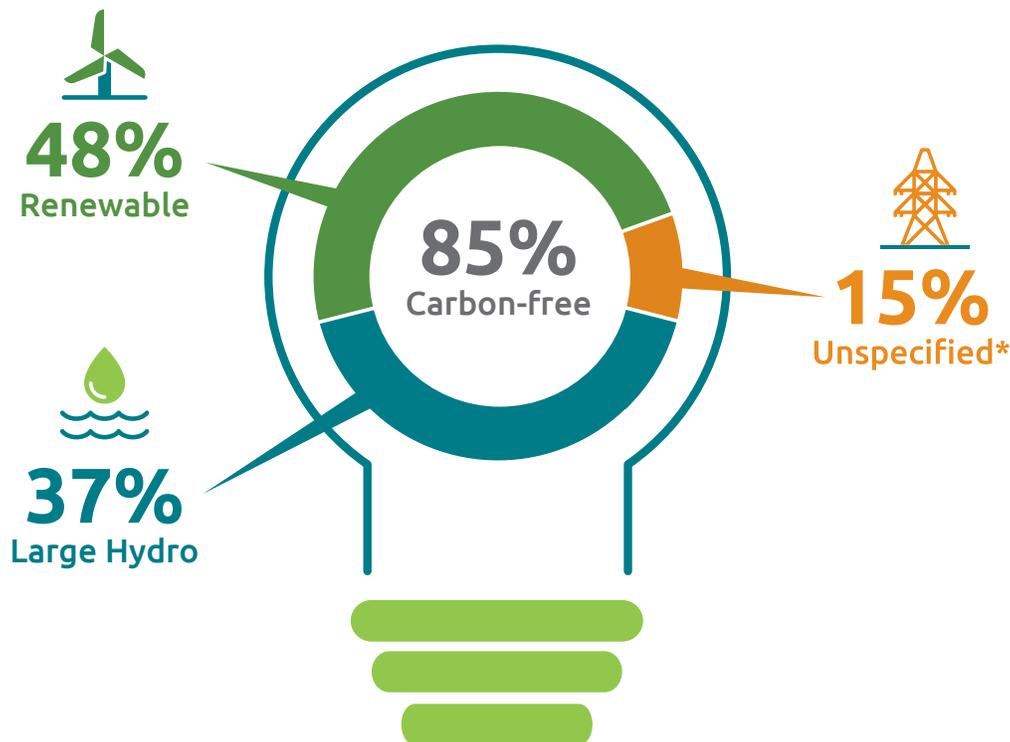
## Even Cleaner & Greener than We Promised!

When we launched Valley Clean Energy in June 2018, our goal was to buy the cleanest, greenest electricity we could afford for our customers. We promised a minimum of 42% renewable energy in the mix—higher than the 32% PG&E was providing, but at the same price.

Now that our first year's purchases have been tallied, we found that the overall energy portfolio we purchased actually contained 48% renewable energy (PG&E achieved 39%). That has exceeded our promises, and even our own expectations!

How can our renewable content have exceeded our own expectations? When electricity contracts are negotiated, they specify minimum quantities of renewables of different types that must be delivered. There's also a category called "unspecified" power that can't be fully identified in advance. So while our contracts must meet stated minimums for renewables, that doesn't mean they can't sometimes be higher. In this case, our negotiated contracts met and then exceeded those minimum standards. It's good news for everyone.

## Here's a look at our 2018 Power Supply Content:



# Accomplishments

## Early Loan Payback

Gaining approval for our start-up loans was quite a victory for VCE, allowing us to launch in June 2018—each of our founding members (Yolo County, Woodland and Davis) loaned us \$500,000 to get off the ground. The only thing better than landing those critical loans has been our ability to pay them back early—that's exactly what VCE accomplished this past October. It is with tremendous pride that Tom Stallard, member of Woodland's City Council and Chair of VCE's Board of Directors, announced that VCE has repaid its start-up loans of \$1.5 million far ahead of schedule.

It hasn't been smooth sailing every step of the way, which makes our accomplishment that much more impressive. VCE's Board of Directors continued to make wise decisions that represented the best interest of our customers, while helping us to meet our environmental sustainability goals even sooner.

**Congratulations to all our loyal VCE customers for helping us over this hurdle!**



# Programs



## Solar NEM Customers— Welcome to the VCE Family

Those who get their electricity through solar panels, whether homeowners or business owners, are often one step ahead of the environmental curve, with similar sustainability goals to VCE. Thousands of solar panel owners throughout Yolo County have been waiting patiently to join VCE—their enrollment was initially delayed, due to unforeseen budgetary constraints. We so appreciate your patience and loyalty, and are happy to announce that starting in January 2020, all residential and commercial customers who installed solar prior to VCE's launch (in June 2018) will now be welcomed to the family. If you own solar panels, you'll be automatically enrolled in our Net Energy Metering (NEM) program during your true-up month.

VCE's NEM program works very much like PG&E's program, with one exciting difference that works in your favor: VCE will pay you more than PG&E for extra energy you generate each month. So if your panels produce more than you need in any given month, that energy will be worth one cent more per kWh than it was with PG&E.

We held two workshops in September and October to help explain the ins and outs of our NEM program to our new customers and solar contractors. If you missed those but need some information, please give us a call or send us a note at: [info@ValleyCleanEnergy.com](mailto:info@ValleyCleanEnergy.com).

If you're a solar panel owner, here's what to expect with the enrollment process. You'll get two notices by US mail to remind you that during your regular true-up month, VCE will enroll you into our NEM program—unless you choose not to participate. We think the higher buy-back rate is one good reason, though supporting our community electricity program has additional benefits to offer. If you're not convinced that VCE is right for you, contact us by email or on the website to ask questions, or to opt out.

# Looking Ahead



## VCE has Bid on the Purchase of PG&E's Assets. What's That all About?

PG&E's recent bankruptcy filing has created a unique opportunity for Valley Clean Energy, as it has for other Community Choice Energy programs in PG&E territory. We may now have an opportunity to take over physical assets of PG&E towards rebuilding a more stable and reliable electricity utility in our service area.

After months of research and review with expert consultants, Valley Clean Energy's Board of Directors voted to act on this opportunity. On October 18, 2019, VCE made a non-binding offer of \$300 million to PG&E for its physical assets in Yolo County. Those include the poles and lines and other electricity assets—but not the high voltage transmission system. VCE's offer is subject to approval by the federal court handling the PG&E bankruptcy case.

Taking over physical assets would allow VCE to become a Yolo-based public utility similar to those existing in Lodi, Roseville, Sacramento (SMUD) and other communities across the state. It would allow VCE to remove shareholder profits while reinvesting in upgraded safety protocols, pursuing its mission to build a safe, efficient and affordable clean energy future.

We have completed the preliminary phase and think this offer makes financial and environmental sense. Next steps are in the hands of the bankruptcy court, and will be reported here. Check the VCE website for updates as they become available, at [ValleyCleanEnergy.org](http://ValleyCleanEnergy.org).

# Fun Stuff

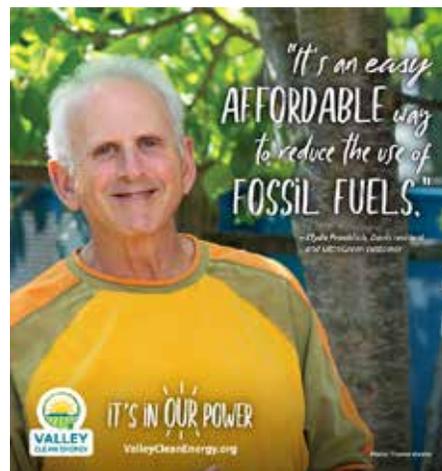
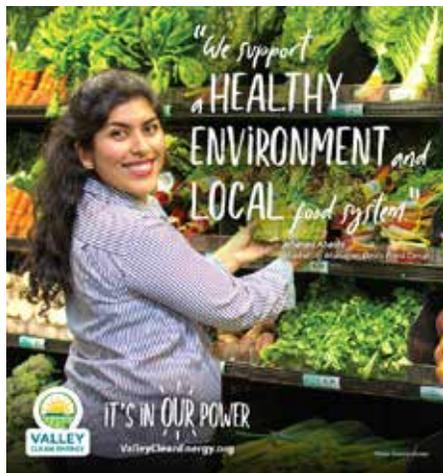
## Have You Seen our New Ads?

Lots of people know that VCE—the official, not-for-profit electric agency serving Davis, Woodland and unincorporated Yolo County—has been up and running for well over a year. But many others still don't know us, even if they're our customers! That means those folks don't realize that they're getting much cleaner electricity along with lots of other benefits—but not paying a penny more than they used to with PG&E.

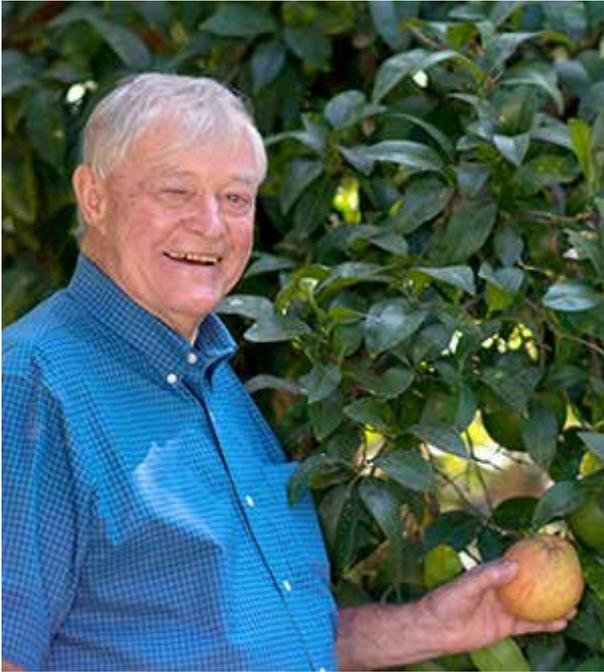
With that in mind, we thought it was time to make a little noise, and show the public just a few of the many faces of Valley Clean Energy.

We're running ads that you've probably been seeing in local newspapers (print and online), and on buses traveling throughout Yolo County for the past couple of months. The faces in our ads are real VCE customers, expressing all the terrific reasons they appreciate the cleaner, affordable, locally controlled electricity service that VCE works so hard to bring you. Some have opted up to Ultra-Green; others are Standard Green customers. We appreciate them all.

**Keep your eyes open. You might see someone you know!**



# ultra green spotlight



## Look Who's in the Spotlight!

Welcome to VCE's quarterly UltraGreen Spotlight, where we invite one of our esteemed UltraGreen customers to shine! This quarter's star is Gil Walker, retired educator and Woodland homeowner.

Gil's love of nature and the environment really show in the extensive gardens he's created, with lush greenery surrounding his home. Fruit trees, perennials, and songbird attractors of many types form a shady, relaxing haven—and all of these are irrigated only by the water Gil captures from his rooftop. Toting his repurposed water jugs out to the gardens keeps him close to nature and the creatures with whom he shares it.

"I'm trying to make a dent in the climate change crisis," Gil told us. "I care about the environment, and

decided to give all my support to renewable energy. Opting up to VCE's UltraGreen is one way I can do that."

Gil explored putting solar panels on his roof, but discovered that he doesn't use enough electricity to make the investment worthwhile. He's focused on many other ways to conserve energy naturally and reduce his carbon footprint, including composting, recycling, drying clothes the old-fashioned way, using the air conditioner only when the temps are really sweltering, driving a fuel-efficient car when needed, and replacing his water-guzzling front lawn with perennial plants in 2014.

"I went back and looked at my past year's utility bills and decided that an additional \$3/month for UltraGreen is money well spent. I think people need to bite the bullet, especially those of us who can afford it."

What's Gil's next big idea for combating climate change? He's hoping you'll follow his lead and opt up to UltraGreen. Just [click here](#) to sign up.

Thanks, Gil—we appreciate all you do!

# VCE Quarterly Mascot



## **VCE is thrilled to announce our first Clean Energy Mascot—Henry!**

Henry is a Portuguese Waterdog, 1 year old. He's a deep thinker, clearly focused on two things: reducing the use of fossil fuels, and when his next meal is scheduled. Henry completely abstains from driving, lives in a home powered by solar panels, and tries to be energy efficient by sleeping more when the weather is hot, and running around a bit more to warm up when the temps are low. That's using your head, Henry!

Henry lives in Davis with Tessa Tobar, Senior Intern working on Project Management at Valley Clean Energy. You might also catch a glimpse of this handsome hound in our current ads. We couldn't resist!