



POWER UP *with* VCE!

Valley Clean Energy Newsletter, Winter 2022-2023

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Holiday Greetings

The holidays can sometimes add complexity to an already busy time. Just remember that the things we all do to make this world a better place, no matter how trivial they might seem, go a long way to collectively "pay it forward." Remember, too, that when it comes to cleaning up on climate, Valley Clean Energy has got your back.



EV Rebate Update

Have you found yourself tempted by the additional savings that the VCE EV Rebate offers, when stacked up with all the other state and federal rebates? We hope so!

The applications have started coming in for VCE's exclusive Electric Vehicle Rebate, and we're thrilled to help our customers affordably trade up to exhaust-free driving.

If you're still on the fence about driving electric, now is the time to cash in on maximum rebate savings. **Don't wait too long—the rebate is in effect only until our fund is depleted.**

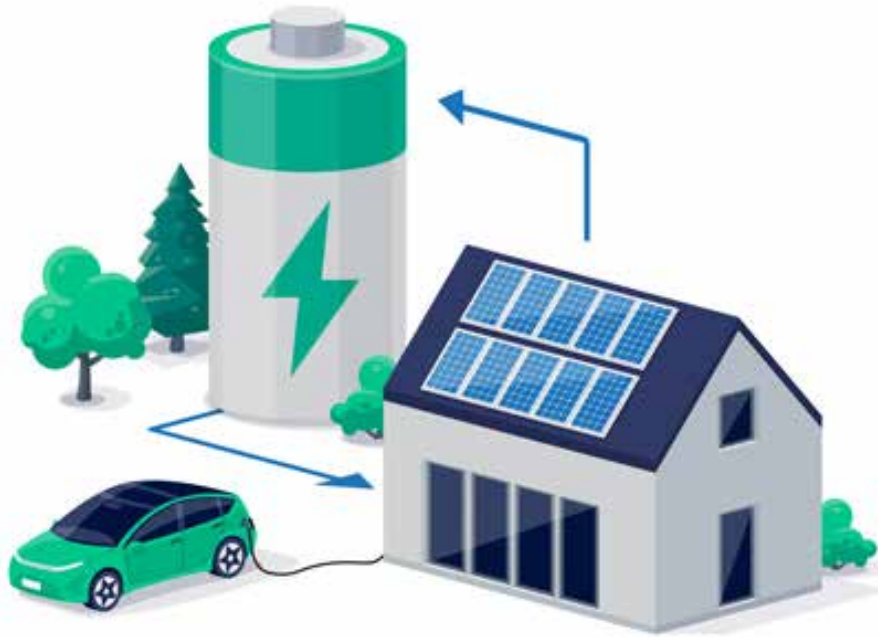


What's the Stylish Shoulder Bag Say?

All the cool companies have SWAG, right? "Stuff we all get" is easy to come by, but not always very useful. We thought we could do a little better.

Ever true to our mission and goals, VCE has a new tote bag giveaway that is 100% organic cotton and features a cheery and colorful message that reminds us all of the reason we do what we do.

Stop by our booth when you see us at an upcoming Farmer's Market, or at the Almond or Carnitas Festivals next season. You might snag one of these cool tote bags!



Spotlight on Vehicle-to-Grid

Vehicle-to-grid integration, or VGI, is the next exciting step forward in fossil-free living. Have you heard about it yet? VGI focuses on the installation of EV charging equipment that allows owners to charge their electric vehicles directly from the electricity grid, and to use their car batteries for storage or to power their homes. It's known as bi-directional charging—why all the buzz?

Intended to enhance electrical grid reliability while boosting electric car ownership, VGI would enable EV owners to power their homes directly from their car batteries when grid renewables are most costly, or when they're unavailable (like during an outage). This could minimize peak load demand and ultimately reduce wholesale prices that could lead to customer bill savings. It could also allow customers to feed power back to the grid when demand is at its highest, reducing the danger of outages.

Stay tuned for more news about VGI—we're working with SMUD to apply for grant funding under the Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment (ATTIMD), and may be able to offer a VGI program in the coming year.



The Heat Pump is Installed; What's the Verdict?

We've been encouraging you to consider replacing your old furnace with an electric heat pump for quite a while. Now it's time to tell you about one of our customers who did just that. We contacted **Kristin Heinemeier** to ask how it was going, and whether she was happy she'd made the change.

Kristin lives in a condo in Davis, and replaced an older gas furnace with a heat pump last spring. She's a VCE UltraGreen customer, and was eager to use only 100% renewable electric to heat and cool her home.

"I'm very, very happy with it," she reported. "The heat pump I had installed here worked great for cooling through the hot summer months—the only difference I noticed from my old air conditioner is that it was much quieter, both indoors and out. I'm also very happy with the heating function, though it's just a little bit slower to warm the place up than my old furnace was."

What's the trade-off for that slight delay? At a time when energy prices are on the rise, "...my energy bills have gone down by about 10%. And my energy use has gone down by 40%," Kristin said. "My use of natural gas has been reduced by 55%. So now I'm burning very few fossil fuels."

Kristin took advantage of the heat pump rebates available at the time, securing about \$4,500 to offset the heat pump installation. She worked with a local contractor whose Comfort Advisor (yes, that's a real job title!) helped her to understand the options of different brands and sizes, eliminating uncertainty in the decision.

"This heat pump system is SO much more efficient than my old one," Kristin said. "Every time I look at my gas bill, the only thought I have now is that I need to make a plan to get rid of my gas water heater, too, when it's near the end of its life."

Starting in 2023, federal rebates for heat pump installation will be increased—you could realize savings between \$2000–\$8000. Read more about energy efficiency rebates [here](#).



Induction Cooking—Here's the True Scoop

The holidays are here, which means there's lots of cooking going on. It's a great time to start thinking about weaning yourself from your gas or electric cooktop in favor of induction cooking. While the "magic" of induction cooking has been relied on in Europe for quite some time, Americans have been slower to catch on to all the advantages it brings.

Not sure how it works? An induction cooktop passes electric current through a copper coil beneath the cooking surface, which moves electrons within the pot on the cooktop, rubbing atoms inside against one another to create heat. The cooktop remains cool, because the cookware is heated directly rather than indirectly. But the greatest aspect of induction cooking is that it delivers 80-90% of its electromagnetic energy to the food inside the pot without wasting it. By contrast, gas cooking is only 38% efficient, and electric cooking is also less, at about 70% efficient.

Induction cooktops heat food faster, and offer far more precision—an instant reaction—in heat control than other types of cooking. You can bring a pot to boil far more quickly than with gas or electric, and you'll never have to worry about kids burning their hands on a hot surface with induction, since the cooking surface stays cool. Quicker heating, less energy used, and no fossil fuels expended if you're a 100% renewable UltraGreen customer.

Check out more info about how induction compares to other cooking surfaces [here](#).



A Season of Giving and Gratitude

During this season of hope and gratitude, we'd like to remind you about VCE's **Net Energy Metering Donation Program**. Donating the value of excess energy your solar panels generate is a wonderful way to give to those less fortunate.

VCE is partnering with the Yolo County Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, to share with those who may need a hand. **100% of the donations go directly to the organizations, and customers choose which organization they'd like to donate to.**

Read more about our NEM Donation Program [here](#).