



POWER UP *with* VCE!

Valley Clean Energy Newsletter, Spring 2020

Here's what's happening:

[Caring for Customers during this Pandemic](#)

[Buying Solar Power Close to Home](#)

[Honoring our Community Advisors](#)

[The VCE Family is Growing](#)

[PG&E Solar Customers are Joining Us](#)

[Learn about Electric Vehicles on our Website](#)

[Spring 2020's UltraGreen Spotlight](#)

[VCE's newest Clean Energy Mascot](#)

Alerts

Caring for Customers During this Pandemic

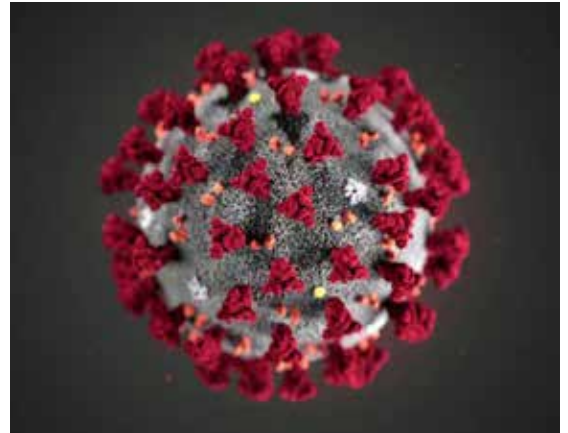
At Valley Clean Energy, we're concerned for the health and well-being of all our communities. We're following the recommendations of health officials and Governor Newsom with respect to COVID-19, the coronavirus.

We know the virus is impacting our community and the world, but we'll do our best to protect you and your electricity needs during these unsettling times. As you know, VCE sources the cleaner energy you use, and feeds it into the grid. We will continue to provide our customers with the same clean energy through this pandemic—nothing concerning that service will change. While we're asking our staff to self-isolate and work from home for the time being, you can always contact us by phone or email if you have questions.

We work in partnership with PG&E, to deliver the cleaner power we source for you. PG&E has announced a moratorium on customer shutoffs for nonpayment. That means your electric service should remain uninterrupted during this time, even if your financial situation prevents you from paying your bill on time.

Please contact PG&E with any questions on the moratorium at 1-800-743-5000 or visit PG&E's [Pandemic Response Includes Precautionary Health and Safety Actions; Moratorium on Customer Shutoffs for Nonpayment](#).

**If you have questions related to VCE,
please call our customer service department at 855-699-8232.**



Accomplishments



Cleaner Power, Closer to Home

When One of Valley Clean Energy's promises is to buy clean electricity from sources closer to home. That's just what we're working on.

The VCE Board voted in early January to purchase 50 megawatts of renewable power from a newly constructed solar park near Fresno. The Westlands Solar Park (built by Aquamarine Westside LLC) will cover 21,000 acres at full build-out, and will generate as much as 2,700 MW of clean solar energy. Our 15-year contract will begin as soon as the facility enters commercial operation—scheduled by mid-2021.

Don Saylor, a Yolo County supervisor and VCE board chair. *"This solar project is a win-win enterprise, generating cost effective renewable power on brownfield land that is unusable for agriculture due to excess salt accumulation in the soil."*

In addition to this first 50 MW, Saylor said the VCE board looks forward to contracting for additional energy in the near future. He added that VCE is actively taking steps with multiple renewable power producers to procure 75 percent renewable energy by 2022.

Stay tuned!

Accomplishments

Giving Credit Where it's Due

At its February meeting, the VCE board of directors passed a formal resolution to honor the service and dedication of VCE's first Community Advisory Committee Chair, Gerry Braun, and its Vice Chair, Christine Shewmaker.

Gerry Braun, representing the City of Davis, was appointed as a member of the original Community Advisory Committee. His deep experience in energy planning and regulatory matters, and his commitment to greener, more renewable sources of locally controlled energy for communities has been instrumental in moving VCE forward with confidence.

Christine Shewmaker, representing the City of Woodland, has also served since the Community Advisory Committee's inception. Her experience as an activist on climate change issues, her professional experience in plant biology and plant molecular biology, and her dedication to securing more renewable sources of locally managed energy have been invaluable to the agency.

Valley Clean Energy is endlessly grateful to both Gerry and Christine, for their energetic contributions to the cause of community-managed clean energy.



Accomplishments



The VCE Family is Growing

What happens when a community-focused, not-for-profit agency does continuously good work and begins to really thrive? That's right—it typically needs a few more hands on deck to guide its growth and success.

VCE is happy to announce the recent hiring of a new assistant general manager and power services director, Gordon Samuel.

Gordon has been working in the trenches of electric utilities for over 27 years. His personal portfolio includes work in leading resource planning and acquisition, marketing and trading, and regulatory compliance. He has experience in battery storage, has key relationships

with investor-owned utilities and public utilities, independent power producers, and electric cooperatives. His expertise in the specifics of CCA comes from having worked at MCE.

Mitch Sears, interim general manager for VCE said, *"Gordon has adjusted quickly to the ever-changing regulatory landscape in California. He'll be a huge asset for VCE going forward."*

We're thrilled to have you on board, Gordon.

Programs



VCE Welcomes Legacy Solar Customers to the Family

If you're one of the residential or commercial customers who had solar panels installed before VCE's launch in June 2018, you may be among those who've been waiting patiently for a chance to join VCE. The wait is over—we're enrolling all those "legacy" solar customers this year, during each customer's true-up month. We want to be sure you know that there are definite advantages to VCE's Net Energy Metering program.

Let's start with the biggest advantage: when your panels generate more energy than you use, VCE will buy it back from you for a higher price than PG&E pays. We'll pay you one cent more per kWh... who doesn't like that?

Secondly, as a VCE customer, you'll have the chance to [opt up](#) to our 100% UltraGreen level of service for just 1.5 cents more per kWh. That means if you DO need to buy electricity, you'll be able to buy completely renewable, carbon-free electricity, just like the solar you're producing yourself. If you decide to stay with our basic Standard Green service instead, you won't pay a penny more than you've been paying PG&E, though the energy you get from us will be cleaner.

Last but not least, our decision to enroll solar customers during each one's true-up month ensures that they won't lose any of their excess generation credits in the process.

All of us at VCE are happy to welcome these customers to the family!

Programs



Maybe it's Time to Drive Electric

If you're thinking about buying a new car this year, maybe it's time to "Think Electric!"

Our goals at VCE include developing programs that can really make a difference in the lives and businesses of our customers. One of the programs we've been working hard on lately is all about Electric Vehicles. Our website has some new pages that offer a great collection of information for you about EVs.

- **Wondering how much they cost?** You'll find the answers [here](#).
- **What models are available?** That's [here](#), too.
- **How about tax credits and rebates?** Are they still available? Take a look at our [pages](#) to find out.
- **Where can you charge up if you don't install your own charger?** You guessed it. There's an [interactive map](#) for you on the site.

EVs are plenty of fun, with quick acceleration and a smooth, quiet drive. They cost less to maintain than combustion engines, and you never need a tune-up. What's more, the variety of brands and models keeps growing month by month. From hot to humble, there's a style and range for every customer these days.

Check out our EV pages at ValleyCleanEnergy.org/electric-vehicles

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 **Matt Biers**, a Davis local and an English teacher at Winters High School.

For Matt, the decision to opt up to 100% renewable, carbon-free UltraGreen electricity was an easy one. *"I believe in science and climate change, and want to do my part,"* Matt tells us. *"What other reason is there?"*

Matt's commitment to reducing his carbon footprint is evident in his preferred "wheels"—his Giant Cadex bicycle has over 80,000 miles on it. Rain or shine, Matt has been commuting by bike from his home in Davis

to Winters High School. Earlier this year, Matt upgraded to an e-bike. *"Now I get to charge my e-bike with 100% carbon-free electricity! It makes it all worthwhile,"* he says.

An enthusiastic teach-by-example kind of guy, Matt would like everyone to find ways to do their part in the fight against climate change. You can learn about his philosophy on life, bikes, and more by reading the book he's written called *The Bar Mitzvah and the Beast: One Family's Cross-Country Ride of Passage by Bike*.

Think about taking a page from Matt's book and opt up to UltraGreen right here. Now get out there and start peddling!

VCE Quarterly Mascot



VCE is thrilled to announce our first Clean Energy Mascot—Ollie!

Ollie is a 12-year old Welsh Pembroke Corgi who is dedicated to three things: clean energy, doing good deeds in the community, and taking care of his mom (Yvonne Hunter, VCE's volunteer photographer).

Involved in Valley Clean Energy since its beginnings, Ollie's cheerful can-do disposition provides constant inspiration for some of our hardworking staff at VCE. He also volunteers as a therapy dog when he visits sick and dying patients through Dignity Health's hospice program.

Although he is terrified of cats and water, Ollie has a distinctly different response to food of most any kind. He has a particularly soft spot for lettuce that falls on the kitchen floor. We see this as a clear indication of his personal food waste reduction mission. He also sets a great example for lowering the winter thermostat, as he insists on wearing a lush fur coat and colorful muffler through the chilliest months.