



POWER UP *with VCE!*

Valley Clean Energy Newsletter, Winter 2021-2022

Here's what's happening:

Happy New Year

More Renewables Close to Home

VCE Welcomes Sierra Huffman on Staff

Comfortable Homes Rebate Offers

Check out VCE's Strategic Plan Outlook

Renewable vs. Carbon-free: What's the Diff?

Who's in the UltraGreen Spotlight?

VCE Quarterly Mascot

Happy New Year

All of us at Valley Clean Energy are sending warm wishes to you—the very people who inspire us to do what we do every day. Thanks for your support of our shared vision of a clean energy future, and of the work we do to get us closer each day to our collective goals.

Accomplishments



More Renewables Close to Home

Leeward Renewable Energy (Leeward) and **Valley Clean Energy** have entered into a 15-year solar-plus-storage Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) involving Leeward's 72-megawatt (MW) solar and 36 MW (144 megawatt-hour) battery storage **Willow Springs 3 facility** (Willow Springs 3) in Kern County, California.

Willow Springs 3 will generate significant economic benefits for Kern County and create about 300 high-quality local jobs during construction. This announcement builds on Leeward's momentum in the Antelope Valley, marking its fourth PPA serving the renewable energy needs of leading Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) from its solar projects in Kern County.

Accomplishments



VCE Welcomes Sierra Huffman as Program & Community Engagement Analyst

We're excited to welcome Sierra Huffman to the team! She joined VCE in November 2021 to develop and implement programs, maintain stakeholder relations, open avenues for community engagement, and utilize analytical methodologies to inform and educate.

Prior to joining VCE, Sierra spent nearly two years working in Community Choice agencies, where she assisted in the development of two CCA pilot programs, a local government solar program and a virtual power plant program. Her analytical experience stems from her work creating greenhouse gas reduction measures for Humboldt County's Climate Action Plan and establishing long term planning goals for Redwood Coast Energy Authority's Repower+. Much of Sierra's work has focused on energy prices/rates, electric vehicle adoption, rooftop solar installations, and gas appliance retrofits. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from Humboldt State University and is certified as a LEED Green Associate.

Accomplishments

Comfortable Home Rebate Offer

Do you have solar panels on your home? If so, you could save serious cash on your energy bill by relying on a heat pump instead of your traditional gas-powered space conditioning system. Take advantage of the Comfortable Home and TECH Clean California rebate programs to install efficient and clean technology that utilizes your solar energy to heat and cool your home.

Comfortable Homes and TECH Clean California are providing substantial rebates for heat pumps installed between now and December 2022. This program is being offered through the partnership of Valley Clean Energy, PG&E, and TECH Clean California. Programs have been combined to provide customers with robust financial support, encouraging the widespread adoption of clean and efficient home technologies.

Learn more about this program [here](#).

Rebates: Heat Pump Space Conditioning				
Cooling Efficiency Factor (SEER)	Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF)	Comfortable Homes Rebate	Tech Rebate	Total Rebate
15	9	\$750.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,000.00
16	9	\$850.00	\$3,050.00	\$3,900.00
18	9.7	\$850.00	\$3,950.00	\$4,800.00

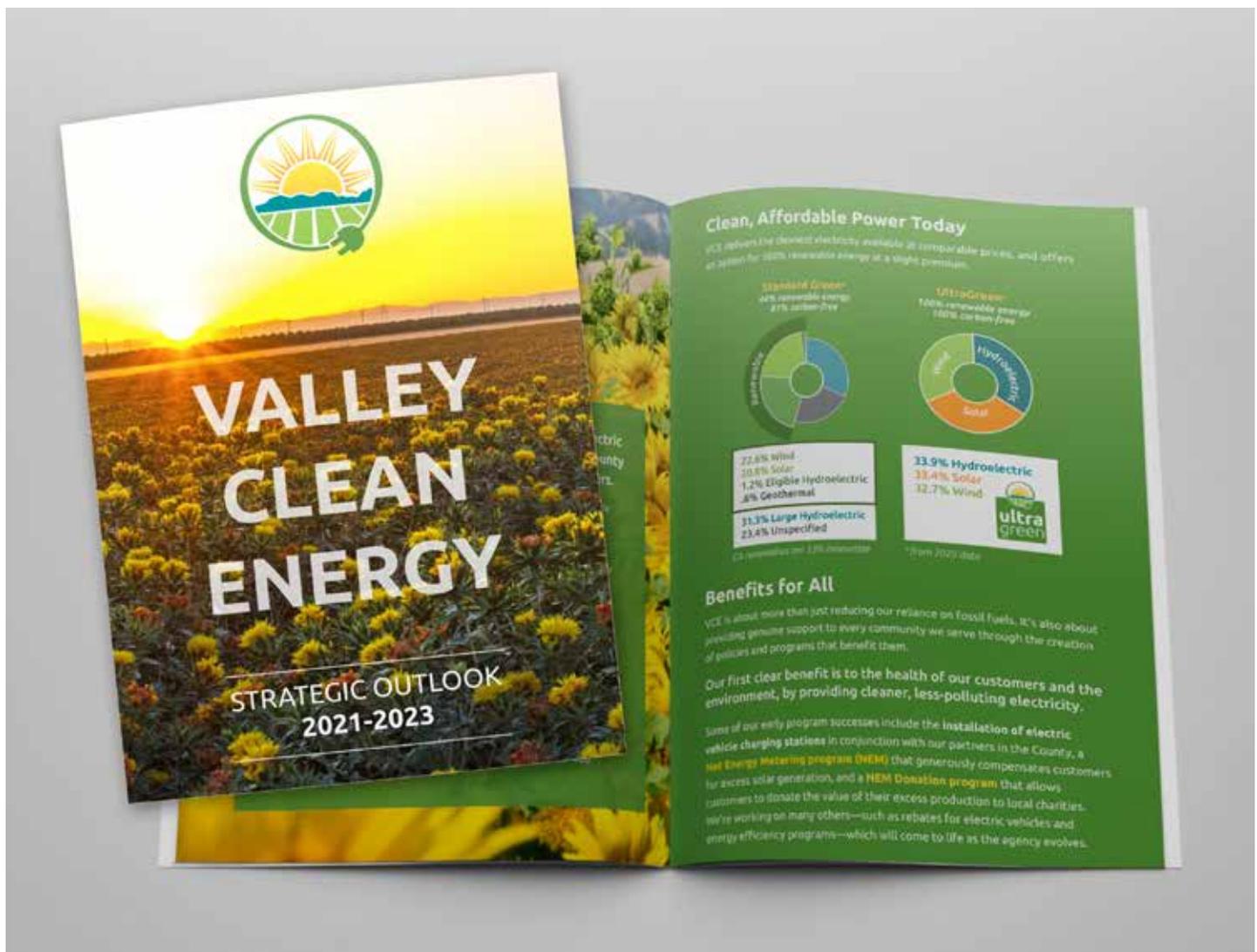
Accomplishments

Strategic Outlook Brochure— Coming Soon

VCE's [Strategic Plan](#) is a 3-year plan, with goals ranging from increasing customer satisfaction to planning a route to decarbonization. The Plan covers goals from 2021 through 2023, and includes feedback from the various stakeholders who participated in the process.

Our Strategic Outlook brochure recaps the key areas of focus for the agency, allowing VCE to best serve our communities as we pursue our common goals of good health for our customers and the environment—through the provision of cleaner, less polluting electricity.

See the brochure [here](#).



Useful info

Renewable vs. Carbon-free: What's the Diff?

People sometimes think energy that's carbon-free is also renewable. Though these terms are often used interchangeably, they're not the same thing. In response to customer questions, we've updated the information on our website to help clarify the difference.

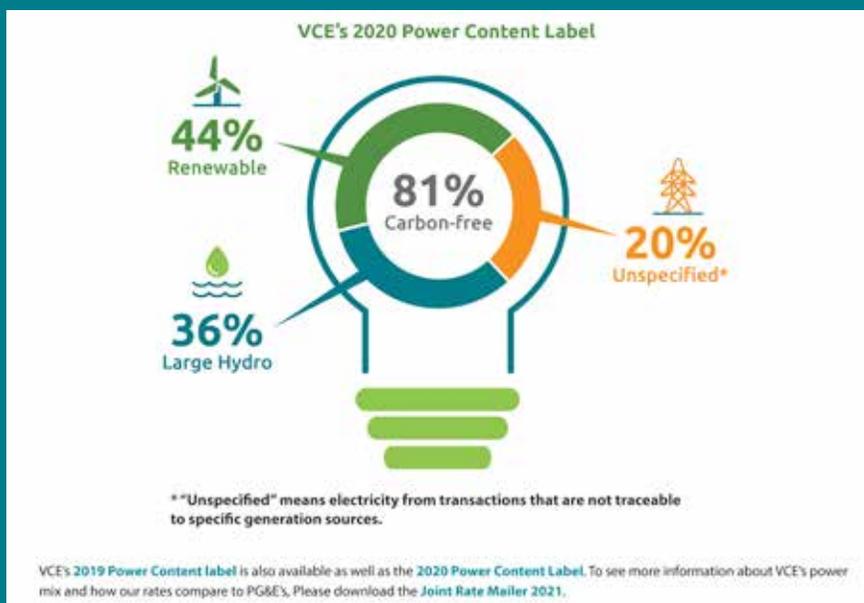
Renewable energy comes from sources that are constantly replenished naturally. Using renewable sources for electricity produces no additional carbon emissions. Some sources even provide environmental advantages—such as solar farms that are constructed with pollinator-friendly habitats, and economic advantages—creating new local jobs for their construction and operation.

The renewable sources in VCE's current electricity mix include solar, wind, biomass, bio-waste, geothermal, and small hydroelectric. Large-scale hydroelectric is not considered to be renewable by the California Energy Commission due to its lasting impacts on ecosystems.

In contrast to fossil fuels, carbon-free energy creates no carbon emissions when generating electricity. All of VCE's renewable energy sources are carbon-free. But not all carbon-free energy is considered renewable.

For example, nuclear energy contains virtually no carbon but is not considered renewable—the disposal of hazardous nuclear waste often disproportionately affects

indigenous lands, waters, and communities. So while both renewable and carbon-free sources help us to curb the greenhouse gas emissions associated with climate change, renewables have fewer environmental impacts.



ultra green spotlight



We're so pleased to welcome Marrone Bio Innovations, located in Davis, to the VCE UltraGreen family!

In 2019, **Marrone Bio Innovations**, in conjunction with the UC-Davis Graduate School of Management, began assessing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions footprint to establish a baseline from which to target their 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. They determined the most immediate and impactful means to achieve this target was switching to the **VCE UltraGreen program**. In 2021, Marrone Bio Innovations made the switch to all renewable, carbon-free electricity at both their Davis, CA R&D campus and their Bangor, MI manufacturing plant.

"VCE has been a supportive and reliable partner throughout the process, and we greatly appreciate the reliable, cost-effective green energy options they presented to us. VCE definitely has made it easier for us to make significant progress in meeting our target to significantly reduce our GHG emissions footprint as we partner with others in addressing the challenges of climate change," said **Keith Pitts**, Chief Sustainability Officer at Marrone Bio Innovations.

VCE Quarterly Mascot



Clean Energy is in the Bag With VCE

Chase, a chihuahua mix recently adopted by Mary and Mark Aulman, may be only nine months old, but he already knows Valley Clean Energy offers some tasty clean energy options. He especially likes UltraGreen, 100% renewable and carbon-free electricity.