



POWER UP *with* VCE!

Valley Clean Energy Newsletter, Summer 2020

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Alerts

Caring for Customers During this Pandemic

The impacts of the COVID-19 virus on communities everywhere have been staggering. One thing you can still count on is reliable electricity service from VCE. And here's a reminder: if you've recently lost your job—even if you're receiving unemployment benefits—you may qualify for discounted service through the statewide CARE or FERA discount programs. You'll find information about how to apply [here](#).



Did you know that having medical devices in your home—such as a CPAP machine—can reduce the cost of your electricity? Now you can apply and self-certify, without a doctor's signature. An application can be found [here](#).

Accomplishments



VCE is Two Years Strong!

June marked the 2nd anniversary of VCE's launch—and we couldn't have done it without you!

We've accomplished quite a lot together. Here are some highlights:

- **Cleaner, less polluting electricity** – we've exceeded our goals for renewable, carbon-free power
- **Choice for more communities** – we welcomed the City of Winters, where service will begin in 2021
- **Fiscal responsibility** – we repaid \$1.5M in start-up loans months ahead of time
- Emissions-free driving – we're developing an extensive public EV charging network in Yolo County through a joint grant with the cities of Davis, Woodland, Winters and Yolo County.
- **Re-investment in our communities** – we signed new renewable energy contracts with sources close to home
- **Not-for-profit, of and for the people** – we're keeping benefits focused on YOU by removing PG&E shareholders from our equation

We've done all this without costing you a penny more than you had been paying to PG&E.

Now that's worth celebrating.

Accomplishments

Meet Our New Marketing Director

We're thrilled to roll out the welcome mat for our new Director of Customer Care & Marketing, **Rebecca Boyles**.

Rebecca joined VCE in late June, after 4 years with MCE in Marin County. Her professional and personal focus on environmental issues has also led her to leadership positions with the Women's Environmental Network and the non-profit Future 500, which advises Fortune 500 companies on the development of more environmentally friendly policies and practices.

While Jim Parks will be missed for his personable, capable handling of our marketing department, we know Rebecca will lead the program to great heights in the months and years ahead.



Accomplishments



Welcome to Winters Board and Community Advisory Committee Members

What The City of Winters has now joined VCE, and enrollment will begin in 2021. That's good news all around—and it means that Winters now has representation on the VCE Board of Directors and on our Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Wade Cowan and **Jesse Loren** took their seats on our board, as of December 2019. Our most recent (June) board meeting approved new CAC members from Winters: **Jennifer Rindahl** and **Peter Meyer**.

Ms. Rindahl brings extensive experience in public sector advisory positions, including work as Director of Advocacy at the UC Davis Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Mr. Meyer has experience working in the power industry, and is focused on bringing cleaner energy to Yolo County communities.

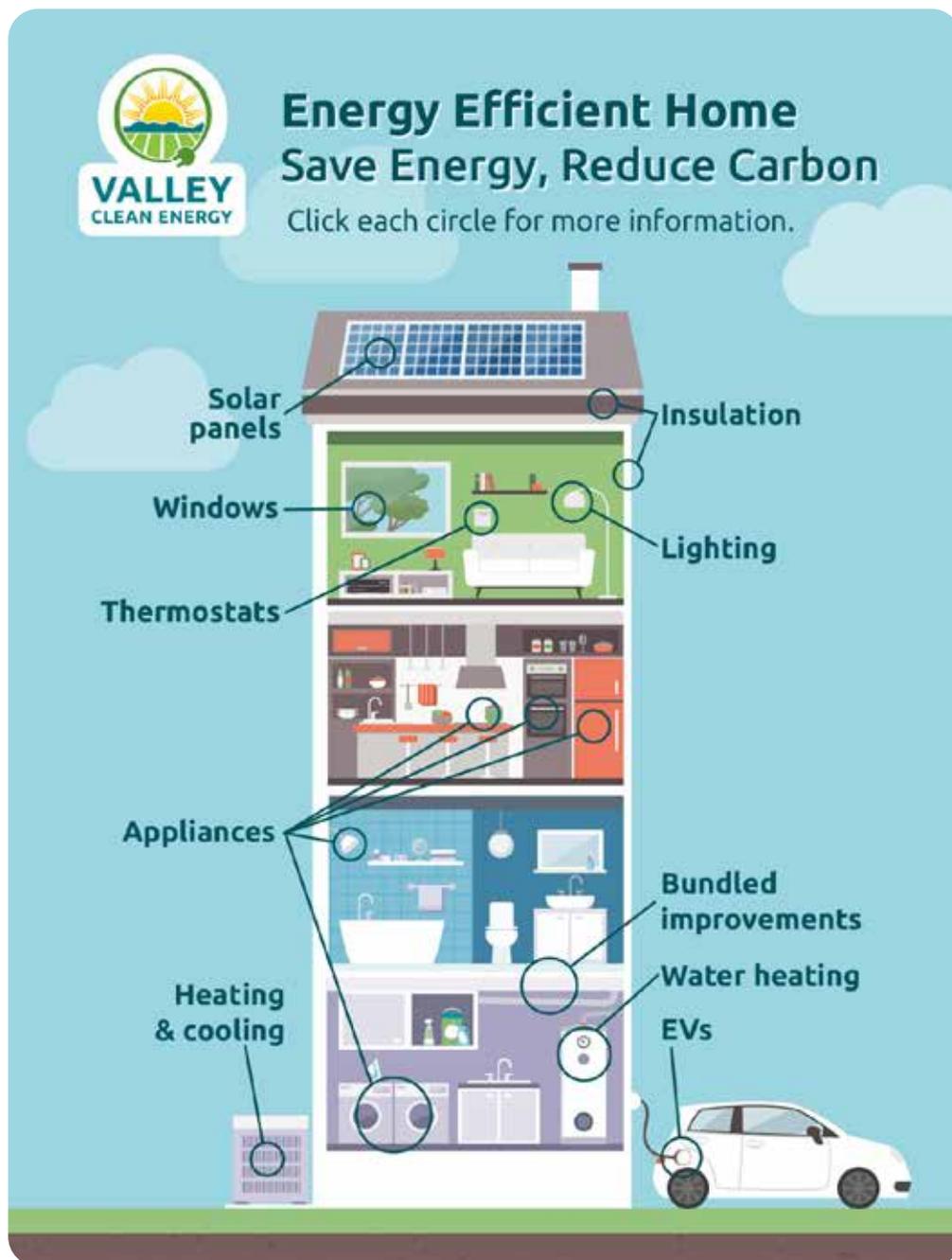
We're happy to have them all on board!

Programs

Energy Efficiency Upgrades Can Save You Money

Summer temperatures are rising, which could mean that your electricity bill is also on the rise. Are you ready to make some upgrades that could save you money in the long run?

We've created a handy, interactive graphic that can help you see where the most cost-effective energy upgrades are in your home, each of which can save you money. From managing the sunlight that comes in at different times of the day to adding insulation, you'll find some affordable options for managing summer heat and other issues here.



Programs



Net Energy Metering (NEM) Donation Pilot Program

Back in January of 2020, VCE began enrolling customers who had installed solar panels prior to our launch. NEM enrollment continues throughout the year, as we bring customers in during their normal true-up months, to ensure that they get full credit for generating more than they produced. As VCE customers, you'll always get paid a higher price for excess generation than you did from PG&E.

If you're one of our solar customers who typically accrues more than \$100/year through excess generation, you might want to participate in VCE's new Donation Pilot Program.

The NEM Donation Program would allow customers to donate their accrued balances to a charity or a non-profit, thereby qualifying for a tax deduction. During this pilot period, organizations that are mission-aligned with VCE will be identified as options. Qualifying organizations will be those that provide services to our communities, such as food, low-income housing, family services, bill payment, or counseling.

Eligible NEM customers will be able to donate their credits in late 2020.
Stay tuned for updates on this exciting new program!

ultra green spotlight



Look Who's in the Spotlight!

Welcome to VCE's UltraGreen Spotlight, where we invite one of our esteemed UltraGreen customer to shine! This quarter's star is **Mele Echiburu**, Davis homeowner and Spanish teacher at Emerson Junior High.

"We know that climate change is an issue, so we're doing the right thing for our environment by upgrading to 100% renewable UltraGreen. If more people in our community upgraded, it would have a huge impact," says Mele.

Thanks for your support, Mele. We couldn't agree more!

VCE Quarterly Mascot



Say Hi to Emmie

VCE is thrilled to announce our new Clean Energy Mascot—Emmie!

Emmie gave up her vagabond existence in the great outdoors (a.k.a. feral colony) after experiencing a serious leg injury some time ago. What a lucky accident that was! It led to her adoption by a loving human, and now Emmie gets 3 squares a day in a safe and cozy Woodland home.

A faithful VCE customer, Emmie maximizes efficient use of energy by sleeping directly below heating vents whenever possible. She also spends copious amounts of time relaxing in her custom “catio” in order to optimize solar energy. She feels that sunbathing is largely underrated by humans.