

COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY

Our Power, Our Choice

The Sierra Club My Generation Campaign is working to equitably power California with 100% clean energy and electrify the economy. We organize communities to demand local clean energy solutions so that all people can breathe healthy air and benefit from a fair economy and sustainable environment.

One essential step to realizing this vision is democratizing our energy system. That's why cities across California are creating a choice for electricity customers that delivers local control, local benefits, and more clean energy at affordable rates. San Diego and other cities in our region are thinking about doing the same. But SDG&E is doing all that it can to prevent this.

MONOPOLY

Right now we don't have a choice. And no one can say that living with a monopoly has been good for us. For starters, SDG&E just can't get enough fossil fuels. When they received numerous bids to replace power from San Onofre with clean energy they ignored them. Instead, they sought approval of a new gas plant in Carlsbad that would cost electricity customers over \$2 billion, ramp up global warming pollution, and dirty our air.¹ Moreover, SDG&E attempted to gut the state's rooftop solar program, a move that would have slashed the number of residents, schools, and businesses that could afford solar and triggered local solar industry layoffs.

SDG&E also has the highest electricity rates in California and among the worst in the country—and this isn't only for residential customers. Rate hikes got so bad that nearly all of our local school districts formed a coalition and had to hire a law firm to fight SDG&E.² That's money that should have been spent in the classroom.

Lastly, much more needs to be done to ensure that low-income communities and communities impacted most by fossil fuel pollution can fully participate in San Diego's clean energy economy. SDG&E, however, has stood as a barrier to opportunity for all. The most recent example of this is when the company restructured rates to charge low-income families more.

CHOICE

There is a way to break free of SDG&E's monopoly. It's called Community Choice Energy, a non-profit electricity provider that California cities can form to give us local control over rates and the type of energy we consume. With choice we also gain the power to reinvest electricity customer dollars in local clean energy projects that create local jobs, save customers money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions so our cities can meet their climate action goals.

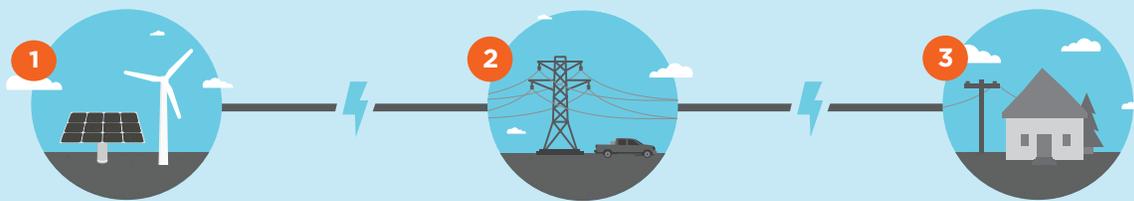
By democratizing our energy system and giving communities choice, we can build an energy system that reflects our values. Whether it be supporting career pipelines into the clean energy economy or increasing access to clean energy options for environmental justice communities, Community Choice can be a tool for making our economy more equitable and just.

"For my generation a fossil fuel monopoly is a thing of the past. Today is about clean energy and choices."

—Alejandro Montes, college student
and San Diego Sierra Club leader



Community Choice Energy buys and builds clean energy and provides local control over rates



1
Community Choice Energy buys and builds clean energy

2
SDG&E still delivers the electricity to your home or business and manages the local grid

3
We benefit by having cleaner, cost-effective electricity and more control over our energy supply

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Community Choice Energy? Also known as aggregation, state law allows cities to establish non-profit electricity providers in order to purchase power on behalf of their residents and businesses and take command of electricity rates. SDG&E would continue to operate and maintain the electrical grid, respond to outages, and send you a monthly bill. A portion of the payment you make to SDG&E would be transferred to the new choice provider to pay for the actual power you consume. It's a seamless process.

Is this Really a Choice? Yes. If you don't like the community choice provider you can stick with SDG&E.

Do Other Cities have Successful Choice Providers?

Yes. Twenty-five cities have choice with many more on their way. Explore lancasterchoiceenergy.com and sonomacleanpower.org to see why they are so successful.

Choice provider Marin Clean Energy (MCE) partnered with San Rafael Airport to cover their buildings with solar and supply local clean energy to MCE customers. Local jobs were created, a local bank did the project financing, and the airport is saving money.

Will it be Monopoly or Choice for the San Diego Region? It's up to us. Local elected officials are under heavy pressure from SDG&E to maintain the status quo. They need encouragement, support and, at times, pressure from the people they represent to do the right thing. That's why Sierra Club is building volunteer teams and networks of supporters that are doing just that. We are in it to win and invite you to join us.

1 Wesoff, Eric, "California PUC Approves 500MW of Gas for SDG&E, Rejects Alternatives", Greentech Media, n.p., May 22, 2015, website, date of access: May 24, 2016.
2 Maio, Pat, "Power costs for San Diego public schools under investigation", San Diego Union Tribune, Jeff Light, July 11, 2016, website, date of access: May 24, 2016.
3 Lancaster Choice Energy, "SmartChoice: Our 100% Clean Energy Plan," website, date of access: May 24, 2016.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

More Clean Energy at Affordable Rates. Community choice providers deliver more clean energy than the monopolies. For instance, Sonoma Clean Power's standard plan is 36% clean energy (well above PG&E), and costs less or nearly the same depending upon the customer category. Moreover, all the choice providers offer a 100% clean energy plan for as little as \$10 more per month.³

Local Reinvestment. A choice provider reinvests electricity customer dollars in local clean energy projects. For example, choice providers run their own net metering programs and are offering current and future rooftop solar customers, including public schools, better terms than the state's program. This leads to more solar jobs, fewer greenhouse gases, and customer savings—all at the local level.

Local Control and Accountability. Unlike SDG&E's electricity rate and energy decisions, which are approved by the state utilities commission in San Francisco, a choice provider's decisions would be made right here in public meetings by local elected officials that we can hold accountable.

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