



DATE: June 12, 2017

AGENDA ITEM # 3

**TO:** Environmental Commission

**FROM:** J. Logan, Staff Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Receive report on Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **State and Local Mandates**

State Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, was signed into law in 2006 and directed public agencies in California to support the state-wide target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In addition, California adopted ambitious energy and environmental policies to reduce state-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030 and, to provide 33% of electricity demands in 2020 from renewable resources utilizing clean energy technologies and environmental benefits.

To address the reduction of GHG emissions at the local level, the City Council adopted a Los Altos Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 10, 2013. The CAP is a comprehensive strategy with goals and measurements to reduce GHG emissions within five focus areas: Transportation, Energy, Resource Conservation, Green Community and Municipal Operations. The CAP was adopted with a target of reducing the community's GHG emissions by at least 15% by 2020 and with an overarching plan for how the City can achieve up to a stretch-goal of 17% reduction in the GHG emissions by 2020.

### **Community Choice Energy**

One method that has the potential to reduce the GHG emission associated with energy consumption is the establishment of Community Choice Energy (CCE), a system that allows cities, counties and Joint Power Authorities (JPA) to aggregate the purchasing power of an identified customer base within a defined area to secure alternative energy supply contracts with the goal of increasing the percentage of energy from renewable sources. The purchase of alternative energy supplies includes renewable sources such as hydroelectric, wind and geothermal as opposed to non-renewable fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas. The consequences inherent in the use of fossil fuels to generate energy are particularly high carbon dioxide equivalents or GHG emissions which contribute to global warming. The ability to form CCEs has been adopted into law in California and a few other states.

### **Council Actions**

City Council convened a study session on Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) on March 10, 2015. The full staff report and video of the Council CCE study session is posted on the City Website at [http://los-altos.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=4&clip\\_id=911](http://los-altos.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=911)

On April 3, 2015, the City of Sunnyvale sent invitations to Santa Clara County cities to participate in the South Bay Technical Feasibility Study currently composed of and partnered by the Cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Cupertino and Unincorporated Santa Clara County. This partnership is investigating the feasibility of a Community Choice Energy program for the South Bay.

On January 26, 2016, the Environmental Commission presented its Final CCE Report to Council. Council expressed appreciation to the Commission and directed staff to move forward with the necessary steps for membership in Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority (SVCEA) and the establishment of a CCA program for Los Altos at its February 9, 2016 meeting. At its February 9 and February 23, 2016 meetings, Council finalized the steps for membership in SVCEA and establishment of a CCA for the City. Mayor Bruins was appointed as the SVCEA regular member of the Board of Directors and Councilmember Mordo as the alternate member.

SVCEA held its initial Board of Directors' meeting at the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors chambers on April 13, 2016. The agenda packet and video of the monthly proceedings are available at [http://www.svcleanenergy.org/app\\_pages/view/297](http://www.svcleanenergy.org/app_pages/view/297).

## **DISCUSSION**

The Environmental Commission will review SVCEA monthly agendas, materials and meeting summary notes for purposes of discussion at its Environmental Commission meetings. The results of Commission discussions and recommendations will be provided to Director Bruins. This is in accordance with the Work Plan project to provide resources to Director Bruins on policy and programs guidance. In the event the subcommittee needs to convene for items pertaining to SVCEA, the meeting will be agendaized to the public and will comply with requirements of the Brown Act.

At its November 2016 meeting, Commissioners discussed the GreenPrime opt-up electricity choice for municipal operations and the default GreenStart mix. The Commission requested estimated cost information for both energy choices. This information was provided and discussed. By consensus, the Commission recommends the Council consider the opt-up GreenPrime choice for municipal operations.

At its January 10, 2017 meeting, Council approved a Subordination Agreement required by SVCEA for purposes of banking and finance procedures. In addition, Council approved to opt up to the purchase of GreenPrime electricity service for municipal operations. Staff reports on these topics are posted on the Council agenda webpage.

Delivery of GreenPrime electricity service in Los Altos will commence in April followed by a second phase-in of remaining customers in July 2017. Discussion at the June 2017 Commission meeting will focus on community outreach and education efforts to customers in coordination with SVCEA staff for education and outreach programs to the community in the July phase in letters and energy from SVCEA.

### Attachments:

- A. SVCE Community Meeting Outreach Strategy
- B. June 14, 2017 SVCEA Board of Directors Meeting agenda and relevant materials when available

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## Silicon Valley Clean Energy Community Meeting Outreach Strategy

Outreach Method	Responsibility	
	City Staff	Commissioners
Website posting	x	
E-mail notification	x	x
Community Board Posting	x	x
Social media	x	x
Community Calendar	x	
Signage	x	
Informational materials	x	
Press release	x	

City staff will take the lead on outreach, however, further outreach support from Environmental Commissioners will assist in reaching a wider audience.

### Action Items for Commissioners

- Share the City's email notification with your network
- Keep copies of flyers handy and post them on community boards at coffee shops, restaurants and stores you visit in town. Be sure to ask permission first.
- Share the event with your social media networks:
  - Visit the City's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CityofLosAltos](http://www.facebook.com/CityofLosAltos)) and share the event with your network. Be sure to RSVP to the event also so your friends see that you're going – they may ask you about it or join you.
  - Retweet event information from [www.twitter.com/CityofLosAltos](http://www.twitter.com/CityofLosAltos)
- Post information about the event in your Nextdoor neighborhood ([www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com))



Wednesday  
June 21, 2017  
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Hillview Community  
Center, Social Hall  
97 Hillview Avenue  
Los Altos, CA 94022

*Los Altos residents and  
businesses are invited  
to learn more about  
our new Community  
Energy provider.*

# SILICON VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY

## Community Meeting

Starting in July, the remaining residents of Los Altos will begin receiving **100% carbon-free electricity** from Silicon Valley Clean Energy, your new community choice energy provider.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) is a community-owned agency, formed in spring 2016 by twelve South Bay communities. The City of Los Altos is proud to be a founding member of SVCE, which brings choice and competition to the power marketplace. Resident and business participation in SVCE will help the City reach its carbon reduction goals, leading to a healthier community for all.

City staff and representatives from SVCE will provide brief presentations and be on hand to answer questions.

For more information  
about Silicon Valley  
Clean Energy:

- [SVCleanEnergy.org](http://SVCleanEnergy.org)  
- (844) 474-7823

