

2023 IMPACT REPORT



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Last year we saw a continued increase in our board composition from 12 members to 15. Whether it is a testament to the impact of LGSEC's work, or the ambition to accelerate decarbonization despite shared challenges that require LGSEC's advocacy - we have grown our presence on multiple fronts. We have welcomed 11 new members, launched an industry partner program, diversified our revenue, and dove head first into regulatory topics far beyond energy efficiency.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, we are enthusiastic that our collective experience and willpower to create radical change will quickly materialize. With rapidly escalating energy rates, barriers to expanding local renewable energy, and serious energy affordability issues, LGSEC's work has never been more important.

Supporting bold ideas from Regional Energy Networks (RENs), educating our members on distributed energy and grid modernization challenges, and building coalitions of stakeholders to advance cross-sector climate action are all on our agenda for this year.

With an ever larger board in 2024, and new members being added every month, we look forward to the leadership of Demian Hardman-Saldana and Cory Downs, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to lead LGSEC on a new trajectory of equitable and affordable decarbonization for the state.

Written by LGSEC Board Member:

Marc Costa

2023 Co-Chair

The Energy Coalition



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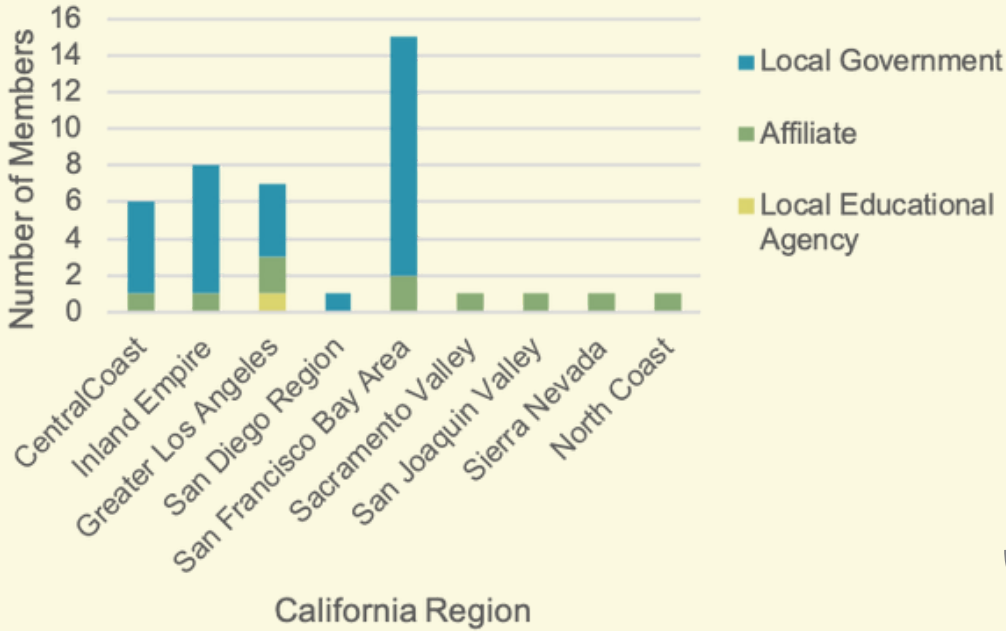
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LGSEC's network of leaders



2023 Impact



47 
LGSEC Members

5 
Industry Partners

31% 
growth in membership

265 
webinar participants

493 
LinkedIn Followers

Regulatory Consultant Hours


Other LGSEC Activities
25%

Working Groups
6%

CPUC Proceeding Engagement
69%

7 
proceedings engaged in

10 
comments submitted

166 
hours spent monitoring and engaging in CPUC proceedings



2023 Hard Year for Rooftop Solar, Electric Rates Increase, Regional Energy Networks Rises

[Steven Moss,](#)
[LGSEC Regulatory Consultant](#)
[M. Cubed](#)

In 2023, LGSEC engaged in multiple California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings, championing the ability of local governments to cost-effectively develop their own resilient energy resources, the need to have access to the necessary data to develop and field distributed energy resources (DER), and planning a decarbonized grid of the future in a manner that is least-cost, diverse, and community friendly.

LGSEC joined with other stakeholders to call on the CPUC and the State Legislature to modify the Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 ruling, which was adopted in December 2022. This effort failed. The policy took effect in April 2023, triggering an upwards of 85 percent decline in rooftop photovoltaic sales in California. LGSEC continued to advocate for communities' ability to develop solar plus storage networks as part of the microgrid proceeding, which remains ongoing.

LGSEC monitored utility rate changes to inform its members of changes in affordability and educate policymakers on the importance of decarbonization efforts and households' well-being in maintaining reasonable rates. As a result of Commission decisions, Pacific Gas and Electric's residential non-discounted monthly combined gas and electric bills will increase by about \$32.50 in 2024, though there is hope that rates will decline in 2026.

Perhaps most hopeful, the CPUC approved \$4.3 billion in energy efficiency investments from 2024 through 2027 and a forecasted budget of \$4.6 billion for 2028 through 2031. In large part, these funds will be managed by Marin Clean Energy and five regional energy networks (RENs). The CPUC also endorsed a new 'Rural REN' to provide energy efficiency services to underserved communities in Central and Northern California.

Key Regulatory Engagement

Key proceedings in which LGSEC engaged included the following:

1 R.22-11-013: Data Access

Access to quality data at the appropriate detail level is essential for local governments to effectively undertake an expanding array of climate-related responsibilities. LGSEC strongly supports these priorities and believes that proper access to energy and grid data is essential to determine evolving implications and opportunities related to grid reliability and energy affordability.

- [Comments filed 8/23/2023](#)
- [Comments filed 10/3/2023](#)
- [Comments filed 12/22/2023](#)

2 R.21-06-17: Modernize the Grid for a High DER Future

This proceeding is examining how best to integrate DERs into the electricity system in a way that advances affordability, equity, and sustainability. LGSEC is championing local governments' role as potentially key institutions to mediate delivery of DERs in a way that maximizes societal and environmental benefits.

- [Comments filed 9/29/2023](#)
- [Comments filed 10/30/2023](#)

3 R.19-09-009: Microgrids

In this proceeding, the CPUC is examining how to encourage microgrid deployment while maintaining grid integrity. LGSEC has engaged in the microgrid proceeding principally to educate the CPUC on the role of local governments in safeguarding energy resilience for vulnerable populations, as well as the critical role that microgrids can play in that effort. In particular, LGSEC has advocated for the CPUC to allow increased stakeholder participation and to consider a range of microgrid tariff proposals beyond those proposed by the utilities.

- [Joint Parties Motion filed 10/31/2023](#)
- [Joint Parties Motion filed 12/22/2023](#)

NEV Chargers Lead to Community Shuttle Early Roll Out

Cory Downs, City of Chula Vista

The Chula Vista Community Shuttle launched in June of 2022 and since then has provided over 28,000 rides and provided approximately 55,000 miles of zero emission transportation in the disadvantaged communities in the northwestern portion of the city. The shuttle is operated by Circuit and supported by state and local funding. Service was able to be quickly deployed because of existing EV chargers installed for City employees through SDG&E's Power Your Drive Program. The fleet of shuttles provides no cost rides to seniors 55 or older, Monday – Friday, 7 am to 7 pm, and has reduced 31 metric tons of CO2.



For more information please visit: www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/clean/residents/communityshuttle.

Local Governments Leading Electrification

Alero Moju, County of San Mateo

COST SUMMARY

ELECTRIFICATION COSTS

Subtotal of Upgrade by Trade	Regional Building (per)	DIY	DIY With Incentives	Low Bid	Low Bid With Incentives	Mid Bid	Mid Bid With Incentives	High Bid	High Bid With Incentives
Electric	\$1,300	\$6,873	\$3,823	\$6,873	\$0,823	\$11,191	\$8,341	\$18,798	\$12,318
Plumbing	\$3,530	\$4,900	\$390	\$6,813	\$4,059	\$6,813	\$4,269	\$10,471	\$4,727
HVAC	\$11,824	\$8,815	\$3,496	\$18,382	\$11,842	\$36,423	\$18,873	\$27,055	\$20,278
Insulation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$16,770	\$20,788	\$8,079	\$36,878	\$21,534	\$47,427	\$30,282	\$56,294	\$37,323

OPTIONAL SOLAR & BATTERY INVESTMENT*

Existing Condition	Proposed Electrification	Regional Building (per)	DIY	DIY With Incentives	Low Bid	Low Bid With Incentives	Mid Bid	Mid Bid With Incentives	High Bid	High Bid With Incentives
Roof-top solar PV - none	Roof-top solar PV - 5.8 kW	\$0	\$16,000	\$11,200	\$18,000	\$11,200	\$24,717	\$17,382	\$26,284	\$18,489
Home battery - none	Home battery - 10 kWh	\$0	\$12,000	\$8,400	\$12,000	\$4,400	\$19,200	\$13,382	\$19,284	\$13,382
Total		\$0	\$28,000	\$19,600	\$30,000	\$15,600	\$43,917	\$30,862	\$45,472	\$31,871

For more information about incentives, please visit www.smcsustainability.org/energy-water/decarbonizing-homes/incentives

*Solar and batteries are not required for home and vehicle electrification. Peninsula Clean Energy already provides carbon-free electricity for its customers. Solar and batteries are an investment opportunity for any home to ease on the electric bill and to increase electricity resilience.

The County of San Mateo unveiled its groundbreaking study that explores the costs to decarbonize 10 different types of single-family homes on the climatically diverse peninsula. The results of this study added to collective knowledge and can help inform strategies for decarbonizing single-family homes at scale. After a competitive procurement process, in spring 2021 the County selected consultants Josie Gaillard and Tom Kabat to lead the study to answer the following questions:

What does it cost to decarbonize 10 different types of homes in San Mateo County? More than 70 homes were nominated by their owners via an online survey. The 10 homes selected vary by their location throughout the county, vintage, size, panel size, and household income. To determine the costs, the research included soliciting quotes for each of the decarbonization measures from three different contractors. Tom and Josie conducted introductory calls with each homeowner, and then conducted a two-hour site visit at each home. Instead of having each of the contractors go to each home, Josie and Tom developed contractor quote request packets for the contractors to respond to. The packets included drawings and detailed home electrification plans with equipment types, sizing, locations, and controls, heat loss calculations per Manual J, and panel load calculations per NEC 220.83. Tom, Josie, and the project team recruited and screened 50+ contractors to provide quotes from five different trades. They selected 11 contractors to solicit bids from. They proceeded to review the bids, asked questions, and requested changes. With all the bids in hand, Josie and Tom analyzed the data and ran financial projections (Figure 4). Then they met with each homeowner to present their home's cost plan and available incentives which were based on the specific features of the home. A recording of the findings is posted here:

<https://www.smcsustainability.org/energy-water/decarbonizing-homes/>

LGSEC Member Benefits

Regulatory Engagement

Monthly Regulatory Engagement Calls

LGSEC members have the benefit of joining a Regulatory Committee that receives regulatory updates via monthly regulatory engagement calls. Calls are one hour and cover status updates on the various proceedings LGSEC follows and comments filed. At times, regulatory engagement calls host guest speakers to speak on topics relevant to local governments and other agencies. During the call, committee members are given the opportunity to ask questions about CPUC activities, express interest on other proceedings, join working groups, and learn from one another on local government priorities across the state.

2023 Comments Filed

In 2023, LGSEC filed ten sets of comments across nine CPUC proceedings. Comments were informed by LGSEC's members during monthly regulatory and working group calls.

Working Groups

Regulatory Committee members may also join working groups that meet regularly to draft and influence comments prepared by LGSEC for relevant proceedings. In 2023 LGSEC held four working groups for:

- ***R.19-09-009: Microgrids Resiliency Strategies***
- ***R.22-11-013: Utility Data Access***
- ***R.21-06-017: High DER Future***
- ***Service Capacity Issues***
- ***Fund Development Plan***

For more information on proceedings and to access filed comments, visit lgsec.org/regulatory-proceedings

Other Benefits

Sustainable Energy Scoop (SES)

LGSEC Members have access to a monthly members-only newsletter. Each newsletter contains about ten articles on various climate and energy topics, funding opportunities, surveys, technical assistance opportunities, reports, resources, and virtual events.

Member Portal

The LGSEC Member's portal is a unique benefit of membership. Access is granted to LGSEC member representatives and serves as both a forum for discussion & information-sharing and a resource for energy and climate related opportunities and events.



Webinars

In 2023, LGSEC hosted two webinars. Over 250 local government representatives and other agencies registered. Webinar topics and partners were:

- **February 2023 | SolarAPP and CalAPP – Understanding Solar Permitting Solutions and California's Program to Assist Local Government Adoptions** with speakers from the CEC, NREL, and the California Solar & Storage Association.
- **November 2023 | Grid Modernization: Global Insights & Local Solutions** with speakers from the City of San Francisco, the U.S. Army, Electriq Power, and Energy Catalyst.

Find all webinar recordings at lgsec.org/events/webinars

OUR WORK



Catalyzing Innovation

Since 2007, LGSEC has played a central role in developing local government programs including Community Choice Aggregation, Local Government Partnerships, and Regional Energy Networks. LGSEC continues to foster innovation by creating opportunities for local governments to broaden their knowledge and impact on statewide energy programs.



Connecting Local Energy Leaders

LGSEC empowers agency staff and officials to network and share best practices with one another to strengthen local policy and collaboration throughout the state.



Shaping the Regulatory Agenda

LGSEC is the only organization who represents local governments' energy and climate regulatory interests at the CPUC, CEC, CAISO, FERC, and CARB. We amplify the voice of local governments in regulatory proceedings and demonstrate the essential role that local agencies play in program implementation and administration.



Developing Long-Term Strategies

Recognizing the complexity of California's energy landscape, LGSEC facilitates membership collaboration on localized energy and climate strategies. Strategies developed consist of regional energy efficiency measures, localizing renewable energy production, and developing innovative finance mechanisms for local governments.

VISION

Local governments are a leading and innovative force in achieving energy and climate goals to create resilient and environmentally responsible communities across California.

BECOME A MEMBER

Available to Local Governments (cities, counties), Council of Governments, Non-profits, NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

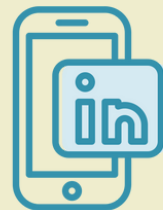
<http://www.lgsec.org/about/join-us>

BECOME AN INDUSTRY PARTNER

Available to for-profit companies looking to engage with California local governments and LGSEC members.

<http://www.lgsec.org/industry-partners>

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY COALITION



CIVICWELL

The Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) is a coalition program of CivicWell.