

# Energy Projects at a Glance

## RECENTLY COMPLETED

### [The Role of Community Choice Aggregators in Advancing Clean Energy](#)

*Funder: Rockefeller Brothers Fund*

At the local level, community choice aggregators (CCAs) — which offer communities public control over their electricity purchasing decisions — are accelerating the transition to carbon-free energy. The report found that CCAs purchased twice as much renewable energy as required by the state from 2011 to 2019. As other states look to use CCAs to advance environmental goals, we examined California as a case study by exploring the customer features, design, and policy attributes that have enabled this success.

### [Identifying Effective Demand Response Program Designs](#)

*Funder: California Energy Commission*

With a grant of more than \$2 million, we tested how to best implement demand response programs so households can reduce their energy use and costs during peak times, such as heat waves. The study found that supporting the adoption of automation devices like smart thermostats, offering financial incentives, and emphasizing economic benefits of participation led to larger and more consistent energy use reductions.

### [Grassroots Outreach to Connect Low-income Households with Clean Energy Programs](#)

*Funder: Liberty Hill Foundation*

We assessed the process and outcomes of emPOWER, a project connecting low-income households with energy efficiency, solar energy, electric transportation, and financial assistance programs through local community-based organizations. Our evaluation found that the campaign has been successful in reaching areas of L.A. County impacted by poverty and pollution, and offers potential as a replicable model.

### [State and City Progress Toward 100% Clean Energy in the U.S.](#)

*Funder: Southern California Edison and the Luskin Center for Innovation's Foundation*

In 2019, we hosted a landmark summit that brought together 300 national, state, and local leaders from across the country to share lessons learned about the renewable energy transition. At this event, we released the first ever national progress report on 100% clean energy policies. Findings include that one in three Americans lives in a city or state that has committed to, or already achieved, 100% clean electricity.

### [Employment Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs in Los Angeles](#)

*Funder: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)*

Two reports we published in 2019 and 2014 assessed the job-creation benefits, as well as electricity and economic savings, for customers of energy efficiency programs offered by LADWP. The research helped inform the city's leading energy efficiency commitment and LADWP investments.

## **The Impact of Community Choice Aggregation on Renewable Energy Markets**

*Partner: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)*

We collaborated with NREL on a first-of-its-kind nationwide study of community choice aggregators (CCAs) and their impact on renewable energy. The research found that more than 750 CCAs in eight states procure electricity for several millions of customers in the U.S., and that many of these CCAs chose to reflect their customers' preferences for clean energy and offer renewable energy in excess of state requirements.

## **The Growth of Community Choice Aggregation: Impacts to California's Grid**

*Funder: Next 10*

A growing list of counties and city governments across California administer CCAs as local alternatives to investor-owned utilities. This study found that if current growth trends continue, CCAs may serve a majority of California's power consumers within the next 10 years. We also found that the rise of CCAs is advancing the amount of renewable energy consumed in California, however, CCAs' effects on the electrical grid were negligible.

## **CURRENTLY ACTIVE**

### **Southern California Regional Energy Needs Assessment**

*Funder: Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator*

We are supporting the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator's Regional Energy Needs Assessment by analyzing geographic differences in per capita energy consumption, clean energy, greenhouse gas emissions intensity, and energy program adoption (e.g., solar and electric vehicles) for Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Orange Counties, with a focus on assessing energy needs in disadvantaged communities.

### **Assessing the Resiliency, Equity, and Grid Service Benefits of Microgrids**

*Funder: Southern California Edison*

Microgrids — localized, self-sufficient electricity networks — have emerged as a potential solution to some of the challenges in California's electricity sector. In this report, we seek to inform microgrid development decisions by analyzing how existing microgrids have performed with regard to providing key benefits to ratepayers and the state. This report also proposes a performance evaluation framework to help inform microgrid siting decisions that maximize benefits.

### **The Transition to a Clean Grid in Los Angeles: Employment Impacts**

*Funder: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)*

In collaboration with the LADWP, we are quantifying the workforce impacts of retiring once through cooling (OTC) practices at LADWP's coastal power facilities, as well as associated investments to modernizing the utility's electrical grid and the city's transition to 60% renewable energy by 2030. The study compares different scenarios achieving these goals, ranging in their aggressiveness towards decarbonization by 2030.

## **CONTACT**

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