

Energy Projects at a Glance

RECENTLY COMPLETED

Quantifying the Employment Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs in Los Angeles

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

Two reports from the Luskin Center for Innovation (LCI), published in 2019 and 2014, assessed the job-creation benefits, as well as electricity and economic savings for customers, of the 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 in the U.S.

Partner: National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

LCI 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. The LCI study found that if current growth trends continue, CCAs may serve a majority of California's power consumers within the next 10 years. LCI researchers also found that the rise of CCAs is advancing the amount of renewable energy consumed in California, however, CCAs' effects on the electrical grid are negligible thus far.

Comparative Analysis of Community Choice Aggregation Options

Funder: City of Santa Monica

LCI analyzed energy choice options for the City of Santa Monica (and other cities in similar situations) and ultimately informed their decision to join the Clean Power Alliance CCA, a new locally-operated electricity provider for communities across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Our analysis builds upon a previous, groundbreaking LCI [study](#) that assessed the promises and challenges of CCAs in California.

Golden Opportunity: Affordable Housing in the Solar Metropolis

Funder: The 11th Hour Project, a program of The Schmidt Family Foundation

In collaboration with GRID Alternatives, LCI assessed the considerable benefits and main barriers in Los Angeles County that could be addressed to extend solar energy benefits to low-income renters through the development of solar energy at affordable multifamily housing locations.

CURRENTLY ACTIVE

Identifying Effective Demand Response Program Designs for Electricity Customers

Funder: California Energy Commission

A grant of more than \$2 million is supporting LCI to test how to best implement demand response programs so households can reduce their energy use and costs during high-energy use times. Researchers are evaluating the effectiveness of alternative demand response program designs and financial incentive levels using data from 20,000 electricity customers.

Realized Benefits, Policy and Design Recommendations for the Nation's Largest Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff Program

Funder: Los Angeles Business Council

Building on a series of LCI reports that influenced the design and implementation of LADWP's Feed-in Tariff (FiT) pilot program, LCI is analyzing the progress to date and providing recommendations for a potential expansion of this program. This includes quantifying the realized benefits of the FiT program and interviewing solar developers and other stakeholders to identify lessons learned, the program's strengths and weaknesses, and innovative approaches to overcome existing barriers. Finally, researchers will identify policy recommendations to improve future FiT programs.

Evaluation of emPOWER: Grassroots Outreach to Connect Low-income Households with Clean Energy Programs

Funder: Liberty Hill Foundation

LCI is assessing the process and outcomes of emPOWER, a project connecting low-income households with energy efficiency, solar energy, electric transportation, and financial assistance programs. The pilot involves activating community-based organizations to conduct outreach, information sharing, and technical assistance to help residents sign up for free programs that can help them save energy and money.

UPCOMING AND PROPOSED

Analyzing the Behavior of Community Choice Energy Customers

LCI will study the behavior of residential and commercial customers during the enrollment phases of a new CCA. Researchers will identify factors associated with customer decisions to select more or less renewable energy, or to return to the incumbent utility. The Clean Power Alliance (Los Angeles/Ventura County wide CCA) is an ideal partner for this study because it is composed of members extraordinarily diversified in population size, ethnicity, political affiliation, climate zone, environmental goals, and choice of default electricity product.

The Future of California's Energy Industry

California is entering a decade of disruption with the introduction of competition through CCAs, Direct Access, and the bankruptcy of its largest investor-owned utility. This study would assess how current and potential future state policies could affect the energy industry and the regulatory framework.

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