



San Diego Community
Choice Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Matthew Vasilakis

760-805-6608

info@sdcommunitychoice.org

**STATEMENT REGARDING
MAYOR'S SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY**

SAN DIEGO, October 25, 2018 -- The [San Diego Community Choice Alliance](#) (SDCCA) applauds Mayor Kevin Faulconer's leadership in supporting Community Choice Energy. This is a historic opportunity to transform our energy system to ensure we reach 100 percent clean energy by 2035 and take control of our energy future.

Community Choice will allow our communities the freedom to stabilize their energy rates, choose their electricity provider, and transition dollars away from a for-profit monopoly to a not-for-profit that can retain revenue to reinvest back into the community and help build the local economy.

"Today, families in San Diego can breathe a little easier because we are finally on a path to enjoying energy choice and giving our families relief in their electricity bills. Today we ask our coalition and supporters to be ready to promote a Community Choice program that serves all San Diegans, prioritizes local control, local clean energy with high quality jobs, helps clean our air, and offers affordable rates and a path 100 percent renewable energy," said Nicole Capretz, Executive Director of [Climate Action Campaign](#)

As we move into the next stage of designing, building and implementing a successful Community Choice program, we must ensure we follow these principles to achieve a program that benefits all San Diego families:

- Deliver energy democracy through community participation and local accountability over energy decisions;
- Ensure community engagement in the governance of the program and full transparency in the decision-making process with an emphasis on integrating community members on the front lines of the climate crisis into the design and development of clean energy solutions and decisions;

- Meet the city’s stated goal of 100 percent renewable power by 2035, as required by the City of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan;
- Exclude Renewable Energy Credits (specifically Category 3 unbundled REC’s) to achieve our 100 percent renewables goal;
- Create a local, decentralized, clean energy model with San Diego/Imperial County-wide buildout of infrastructure to maximize local potential;
- Prioritize local power generation, local jobs and local career opportunities in the procurement process of energy generation;
- Prioritize local renewable projects in San Diego and Imperial Counties;
- Create partnerships with local labor, including community benefit agreements, sustainable workforce agreements, job training and apprenticeship programs;
- Develop energy programs that prioritize benefits to environmental justice communities (using CalEnviroScreen’s rankings for the San Diego region);
- Create mechanisms that stabilize energy costs by prioritizing local economic investment in small businesses and reinvesting revenues back into our neighborhoods;
- Involve and work with the community and CCE stakeholders to determine the best way forward to quickly establish and meet our goals.

San Diego’s small business community stands to benefit greatly from an alternative to SDGE, according to Karim Bouris, Executive Director for [Business for Good San Diego](#). “When small businesses thrive, everyone in San Diego wins,” Bouris said. “Business for Good has been working side-by-side with the San Diego Community Choice Alliance to bring us an electricity option that will provide cleaner energy to help us reach our city’s 100 percent renewable goal, lower bills for families, entrepreneurs and businesses, and give us local control of our energy future. Today’s announcement by Mayor Faulconer is a great milestone on our path to powering San Diego in a way that benefits all.”

Capretz said that SDCCA stands ready to help the Mayor and city council realize every opportunity to create a better future for all.

Here are what some other members of our coalition and supporters have to say about today’s historic announcement:

“Residents and businesses will have the opportunity to buy cleaner energy while simultaneously saving on their energy bills. Community Choice Aggregation is not anti-SDG&E. It is intended to be a public-private partnership where the city will procure clean energy from renewable sources and SDG&E will be in charge of distribution and billing.”

Barbara Bry, Council President Pro Tem
City of San Diego

“A Community Choice program, designed correctly, will provide San Diegans the options they deserve and provide our communities with local, clean renewable energy. I look forward to

working with Mayor Faulconer, my council colleagues, and all San Diegans on finalizing a Community Choice Energy program that invests back into our neighborhoods, provides high quality local jobs, and moves us to 100% renewable energy.”

Chris Ward, Councilmember
City of San Diego

“Moving forward with Community Choice Energy is a watershed moment for San Diego, and it should be a moment of pride for the City’s leadership. If done right, Community Choice has incredible potential to benefit not just our environment, but also our communities of concern. Greenpower applauds everyone who worked so hard and made the right call to give the people of San Diego a better energy choice.”

Benjamin Eichert, Director
[Greenpower](#)

“With a Community Choice Energy program we can do much more than meet the greenhouse gas emission reductions required by the Climate Action Plan. It can serve as a platform for democratizing energy in those communities hardest hit by the economic and environmental impacts of climate change. It can strengthen community resilience. We can have economic development, good clean energy jobs, rate stability, social equity, local ownership, control of energy and many other community benefits.”

Joyce Lane, Public Policy Co-Chair
[SanDiego350](#)

“I am truly excited for Communities of Concern and look forward to equitable conversations surrounding Community Choice Energy and how it gives opportunities to Communities of Concern in the Spirit of Title VI Legislation as construed in the Environmental Justice Laws of the Civil Rights Movement. I applaud the Mayor and City staff for moving forward!”

Eddie Price, Coordinator
[GRID Alternatives San Diego](#)

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The San Diego Community Choice Alliance (SDCCA) is comprised of business leaders, activists and community members calling on the City of San Diego to enact Community Choice Energy in 2018, accelerating the transition to a local clean energy economy that drives innovation, creates jobs and benefits businesses and families. For a comprehensive list of members and supporters, visit www.SDCommunityChoice.org.