



**GO GREEN TEAM  
MINUTES  
YOUNTVILLE TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 6550 YOUNT STREET  
January 26, 2016 – 4:30 P.M.**

1. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Sherry Breitigam, Janet Gotch, Billie Hewitt, Davio Santos, Allyssa Wickstrom, Town Council Member Marita Dorenbecher  
Absent: Vice Mayor Richard Hall joined the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Davio Santos left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF MNUTES:** The minutes of December 22, 2015 were approved. M/S: Hewitt/Santos. Ayes: All. Abstain: Wickstrom.
4. **SCHEDULED MATTERS**
  - A. Discussion with PG&E representative on PG&E electricity rates, power mix, emission factors, and use of renewable energy credits. Amy Dao, PG&E Community Energy Manager, gave a presentation on the Renewable Portfolio Standard, the GHG emissions factor, PG&E's rate process, and PG&E's Solar Choice Program.

Amy explained that the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires all investor-owned utilities to procure 33% of retail sales with eligible renewable by 2020 and 50% by 2030. Eligible renewables include solar, wind, small hydro less than 30 kW, landfill gas, biomass, and geothermal sources. Solar PV makes up the largest portion of PG&E's renewables, representing almost half of its renewable sources. This is because the cost of solar is dropping. Most of PG&E's RPS contracts are located in California. Renewables have grown from 11% of PG&E electricity mix in 2002 to 27% in 2014. By 2020, they expect 37% of the portfolio will come from eligible renewable sources.

PG&E's power mix contains sources that are not eligible renewable but are greenhouse gas-free nonetheless. These include large hydro and nuclear sources. GHG-free sources represented 55% of PG&E's portfolio in 2014 and are expected to make up 78% of the portfolio in 2020. PG&E's emissions rate is 1/3 the national average.

PG&E's rates are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. PG&E must file an application whenever it proposes a rate change. Rates have increased at a rate somewhat below the Consumer Price Index (a kWh has increased to 16.3 cents since 1994, but would have been 17.3 cents if adjusted for the CPI.)

PG&E is initiating a community solar program that allows customers who do not have access to rooftop solar, due to insufficient rooftop space, shading, or ownership issues, to purchase solar energy for their homes and businesses. There will be two options. One

allows the customer to purchase 50 or 100% of their usage from a pool of solar projects. The second allows a customer to buy into a single project. All resources are above and beyond PG&E's RPS requirements. The residential customer premium is 3.58 cents/kWh. Commercial customer premiums will range from 2.81 to 4.85 cents per kWh, depending on customer class. There is an on-line rate calculator for the Solar Choice program.

The Power Charge Indifferent Adjustment (PCIA) is set to ensure stranded generation costs are not shifted to non-participating customers. The PCIA is charged to consumer choice aggregator customers like Marin Clean Energy customers as well as Solar Choice customers (it is basically the same).

- B. Discussion with MCE representative on MCE electricity rates, power mix, emission factors, and use of renewable energy credits. Allison Hang, MCE Community Development Manager, gave a presentation on MCE's electricity content, power sources, and rates. MCE is a non-profit community choice aggregator (CCA) whose mission is to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy supply and energy efficiency at stable and competitive rates while providing local economic and workforce benefits. They offer their customers two electricity choices: Light Green, which contains a minimum of 50% renewable energy, and Deep Green, which is 100% renewable energy. In 2014, Light Green electricity was 56% renewable. MCE's goal is for Light Green to contain 80% renewable content and be 95% greenhouse gas free by 2025. Deep Green costs 1 cent per kWh more than Light Green.

MCE has 17 energy contracts with 12 suppliers. Most of their renewable energy in 2014 came from wind. They are currently developing 8 new local projects totaling 20 megawatts (MW), including a 1MW solar project in Novato (enough to power 200 homes) and a 10.5 MW solar project in Richmond. They also constructed a project at San Rafael Airport on 48 airport hangars. Commercial solar projects can be made feasible through MCE's feed-in tariff, which guarantees to buy solar energy at 1 cent above the market rate. Eligible projects must be willing to sell their power to MCE over a 20-year term, be in the MCE territory, and be no larger than 1 MW. Allison said a typical residential PV project has an 8-10 year payback.

Unbundled renewable energy credits (RECs) represented 15% of MCE's power mix in 2015. The MCE board has adopted a policy to decrease the amount of unbundled RECs to 3% in 2016-2024. RECS are the lowest-priced option to purchase green energy but some people have voiced concerns about their use.

The unincorporated area of Napa County is an MCE member. Napa county customers began being enrolled in MCE in February 2015. MCE now serves 90% of Napa customers. There are 157 Deep Green customers in Napa County, which is about 1% of all MCE customers in Napa County.

MCE prices are currently slightly higher than PG&E prices due to the PCIA. A residential customer who uses 463 kWh per month would pay \$91.04 under PG&E rates and \$95.15 per month under MCE rates.

All other Napa communities have passed an ordinance expressing their interest in joining MCE. The Yountville Town Council will consider the ordinance at their March 1 meeting. Go Green team members were encouraged to attend the March 1 meeting.

Consultant Christine O'Rourke discussed an MCE/PG&E power content comparison that shows MCE's greenhouse gas emissions factor has consistently been below PG&E's

emission factor since 2010 when MCE began providing electricity to customers. MCE's emission factor was nearly 26% below PG&E emission factor in 2014. PG&E electricity was 55% greenhouse gas free in that year while MCE electricity was 66% greenhouse gas free.

The Go Green Team voted to recommend the Town Council move forward with joining Marin Clean Energy. M/S: Gotch/Hewitt. Ayes: All. Absent: Santos.

- C. Consideration of action to recommend Town Council adoption of a draft Single-Use Carryout Bag Reduction Ordinance. The Team discussed the draft Single-Use Carryout Bag Reduction Ordinance and voted to recommend the Town Council adopt the ordinance. M/S: Gotch/Breitagam. Ayes: All. Absent: Santos.

**5. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS AND STAFF:** None.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. M/S: Hewitt/Breitagam. Ayes: All. Absent: Santos.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine O'Rourke

Town Consultant