

CPUC ACTION NEEDED ON CLEAN ENERGY MICROGRIDS

CALIFORNIA'S ELECTRIC GRID IS FAILING CALIFORNIANS

Our century-old electricity system is failing California residents and businesses, who for years have been left to deal with the costly and deadly impacts of public safety power shutoffs and rolling blackouts. With wildfire season fully upon us, more shutoffs are imminent and will once again leave California in the dark. Adding an economic crisis and pandemic, there is no time to lose to expand equitable access to clean energy solutions that enhance climate resiliency, support energy reliability and improve air quality by replacing polluting diesel-powered generators.

CALIFORNIANS WANT TO INVEST IN ENERGY SECURITY

Essential businesses throughout the state are prepared to invest in their own clean microgrid solutions to provide safe and reliable power and should be afforded every opportunity to protect themselves and the communities they serve as outages become increasingly common. The technology to achieve safer, more resilient communities is available now, but the state needs to provide greater access, choice and flexibility and adopt rules that do not punish customers for simply taking steps to ensure their own energy security.

THE CPUC MUST ACT NOW TO MEET THIS MOMENT

Through a [proceeding](#) currently underway, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has the opportunity to enable clean, proven microgrid technologies that will enhance energy safety and reliability while reducing emissions to create healthier, more climate-resilient communities.

Specifically, the CPUC should adopt a **new, standardized, technology-neutral tariff for customer-owned microgrids** that:

- **Enables essential businesses** like hospitals, pharmacies, grocery stores, logistic and data centers, food production facilities and financial institutions **to install their own clean energy solutions that ensure safe, continuous power to serve Californians**, including during emergencies.
- **Ensures customers who have chosen to invest in these systems for their energy security only pay for the electricity they use from the grid** and are compensated fairly for power they contribute back to the grid.
- **Allows businesses to choose the types of clean, microgrid technologies and systems** that best meet their specific needs and those of the communities they serve.
- **Expands and doesn't artificially limit access** so that every business, organization and community that wants to invest in a microgrid for safety, reliability and security is able to do so.

Californians have waited too long. To meet the statutory deadline set by the legislature in 2018 (SB 1339-Stern) and get more of these vital resources in place more quickly, the CPUC must establish a tariff structure that will provide for eligibility starting no later than January 1, 2021.

LEARN MORE AT: www.theclimatecenter.org/microgrids

GROUPS CALLING ON THE CPUC TO ACT INCLUDE:

- American Lung Association
- AC Transit East Bay
- Advanced Energy Economy
- Bloom Energy
- CA Alliance for Community Energy
- CA Grocers Association
- CA Retailers Association
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Equinix
- Microgrid Resources Coalition
- National Fuel Cell Research Center
- Nugget Markets
- Ramar Foods
- Scale Microgrid Solutions
- Schneider Electric
- Taylor Farms
- TechNet
- The Climate Center
- Valley Clean Air Now