

# **Investing in a Climate-Safe Future**

## **A Business and Government Roundtable**

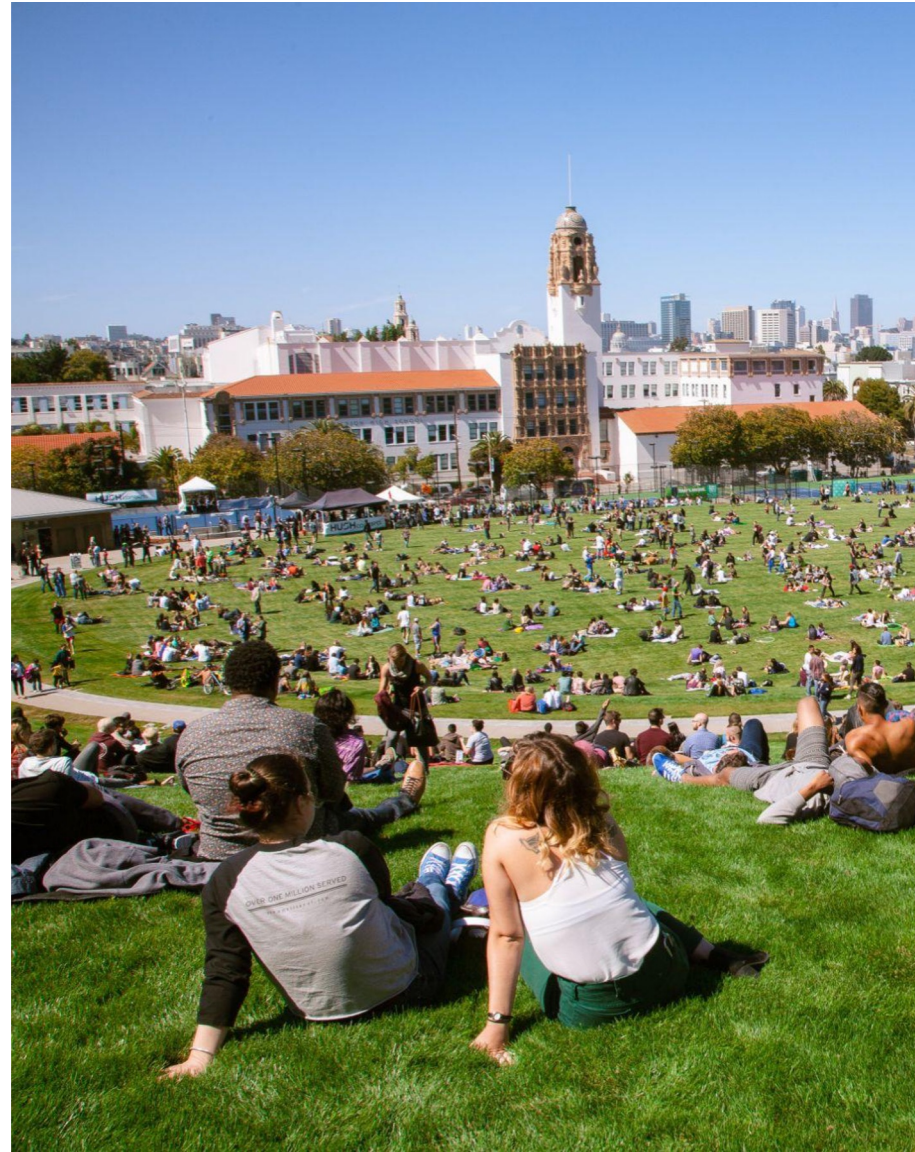
[www.theclimatecenter.org](http://www.theclimatecenter.org)



# Our Vision

We believe in thriving, healthy communities.

The Climate Center envisions a future where everyone in California benefits from equitable access to climate solutions, from clean air to renewable energy, healthy food, and more.



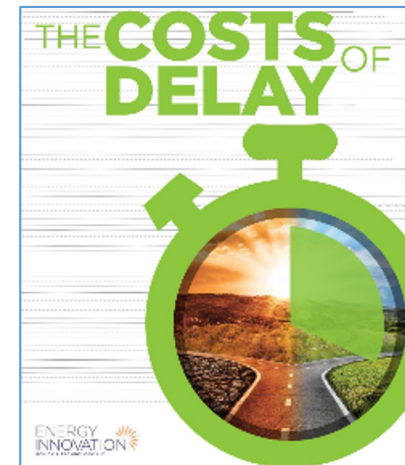


# Climate-Safe California

Climate-Safe California is a unique and comprehensive campaign to make California the first state in the nation to become carbon negative.

# Climate Inaction and Delay Costs Trillions

- It costs much less to invest big today than to wait until 2030
- In California, we can invest ~\$47 billion/year now or it will cost us \$110 billion/year starting in 2030.
- \$150 billion in damages from 2018 California wildfires alone
- \$80 billion invested in California climate action will generate ~725,000 jobs



# Our theory of change

**Build a coalition  
of climate  
advocates through  
partnerships**

**Enact accelerated,  
equitable, state  
climate policies**

**Unleash  
innovation and  
channel market  
forces**

**Make climate  
solutions  
accessible to all**

**Rapid reductions  
in climate  
pollution**



# Some recent achievements

- TCC scaled Community Choice Energy across California, bringing clean, affordable, reliable energy to more than 11 million people.
- **AB 1757** (C. Garcia and R. Rivas), will help California scale up proven, cost-effective practices that lock carbon in the soil and improve food and water security.
- TCC helped secure nearly \$3 billion in new funding last year for small-scale solar and battery storage.
- **SB 233**, co-sponsored by The Climate Center will require most new electric vehicles (EVs) sold in California to have bidirectional charging capability by 2030.

# The Climate Center's Business Partners



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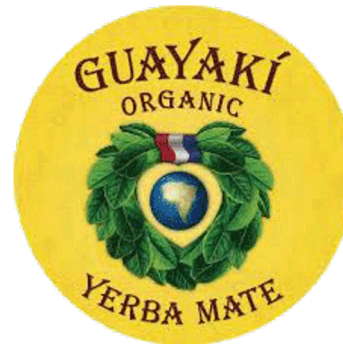
# The Climate Center's Business Partners



**WILLOW CREEK**  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT



# The Climate Center's Business Partners



# Today's Agenda

- **Doron Amiran**, Business Program Manager, The Climate Center
- **Brad Baker**, Founder and CEO, SOMO Group
- **Ardi Arian**, CEO, Renewable America
- **Jane Elias**, Energy and Sustainability Manager, Sonoma County
- **Roundtable Discussion**



## **Investing in a Climate Safe Future**

Presented by Ardi Arian

**June 13, 2023**

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# WHICH INVENTOR WOULD BE MOST SURPRISE?



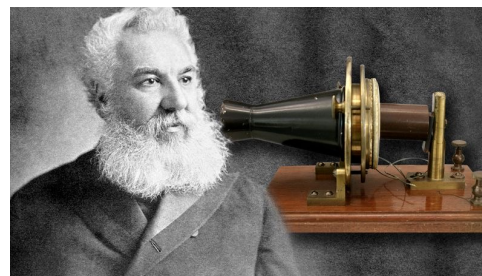
2023

**DeLorean from Back to the Future**



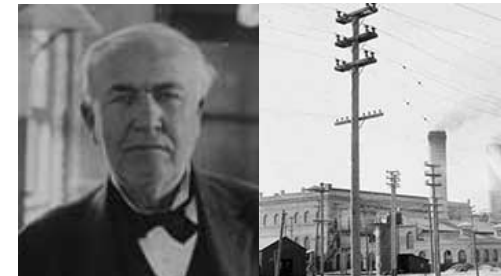
**First Radio**

G. Marconi (1874 – 1937)



**First Phone**

A. Graham Bell (1847 – 1922)



**First Utility (59cust.)**

Thomas Edison (1847 – 1931)

**ANA**  
Think Local. Act Local.



# CALIFORNIA'S NEEDS & TARGETS

## 60% RENEWABLE BY 2030 & 100% DECARBONIZATION BY 2045

Advancing the use and availability of renewable energy is critical to achieving California's ambitious climate change goals. California's load-serving entities are required to increase their procurement of eligible renewable energy resources to 60% of retail sales by 2030, with the electricity sector targeting 100% renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045.

## DECENTRALIZED & DISPATCHABLE CLEAN POWER

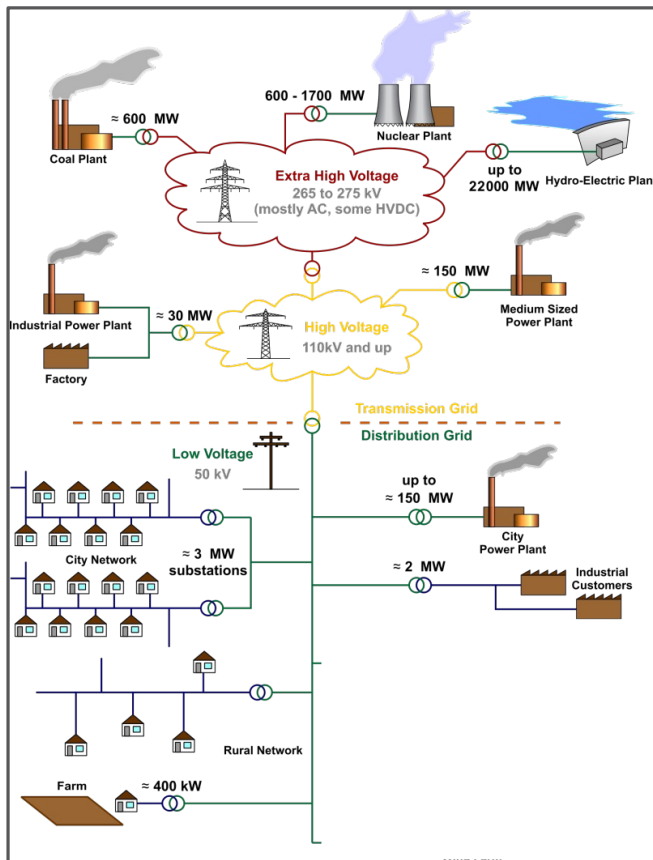
Solar on rooftops are well served and continuously growing. Large utility-scale is providing clean power in south and central CA. Distribution-connected clean power generation combined with energy storage can maximize **grid reliability** for the whole community. But this market is underserved, and current projects are overpriced. Energy storage is needed to support the continued integration of renewables.

## PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS & RECOVERY AFTER DISASTERS

Recent rolling blackouts and natural disasters like wildfires create a big challenge for the community and all stakeholders. Blackouts need to be prevented, and quick recovery after disasters is crucial.



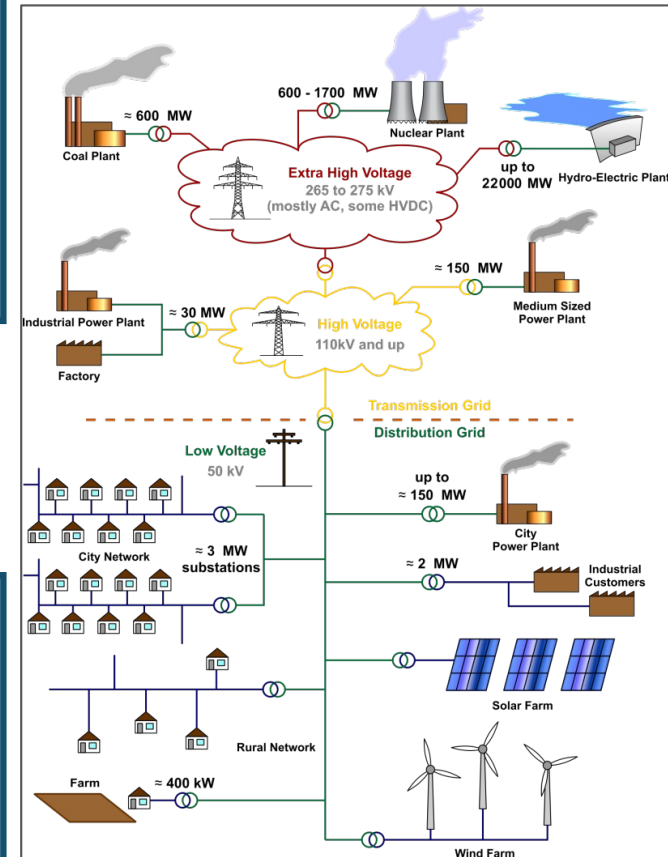
# WHAT KIND OF GRID TRANSITION IS NECESSARY?



**LOWER**  
↙  
**TRANSMISSION  
GENERATING  
RESOURCES**

**Grid**  
→  
**Transition**

**INCREASE**  
↘  
**DISTRIBUTION  
GENERATING  
RESOURCES**



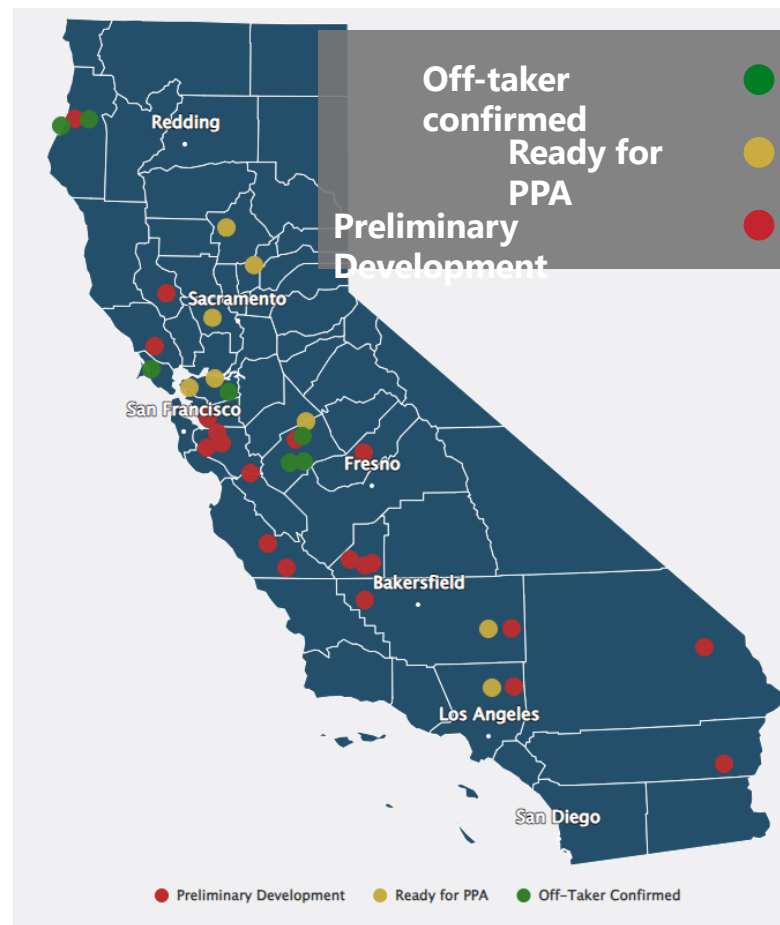
## PROJECT PIPELINE

Renewable America has over 268 megawatts (MW) of solar and 597 megawatt-hours (MWh) energy storage projects under development throughout California. Our projects are strategically located to provide maximum benefit to the region, while also meeting the community's demand.

- ✓ 5,000+ parcels assessed
- ✓ 1,000+ landowners qualified
- ✓ 40+ projects under development

**SOLAR 320MWdc**

**STORAGE 680MWh**



Last updated June 7, 2023

**RNA**  
Think Local. Act Local.



# THANK YOU!

For further information please visit our website

[www.renewam.com](http://www.renewam.com) or email me at  
[ardi@renewam.com](mailto:ardi@renewam.com)

COUNTY OF SONOMA

*COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE – CLIMATE  
ACTION & RESILIENCY DIVISION*

# *Investing in a Climate-Safe Future: Business and Government Roundtable*

JANE ELIAS, ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

[JANE.ELIAS@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG](mailto:JANE.ELIAS@SONOMA-COUNTY.ORG)



# *County of Sonoma's Coordination with Business*

## 1. Take Stock

- Understand existing efforts and players
- Identify the gaps
- Evaluate if the role best fits with government
- Who is the lead?

## 2. Collaboration

- Support ongoing and new efforts as needed
- Bringing people/entities to the same table





# *County of Sonoma: Examples*

## Climate Action and Resiliency Division – County Administrator's Office

1. PACE Financing
  - a. Property owners/managers
  - b. Lenders
2. Workforce Development
  - a. Contractors
  - b. Energy Professionals
  - c. Youth
3. Business Development
  - a. Marketing
  - b. Leads
  - c. Identity
4. Funding
  - a. Grants
  - b. Direct install for energy improvements



# County of Sonoma Strategic Plan



## Climate Action and Resiliency

Make Sonoma County carbon neutral by 2030.

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

### Climate Action and Resiliency: Goal 2

Invest in the community to enhance resiliency and become carbon neutral by 2030

#### Objective 1:

Support carbon eliminating microgrid technology in communities and energy grid resiliency to reduce impact of power loss during power shutdowns and natural disasters (floods, fires, earthquakes) through education and legislative advocacy, prioritizing critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations.

#### Objective 2:

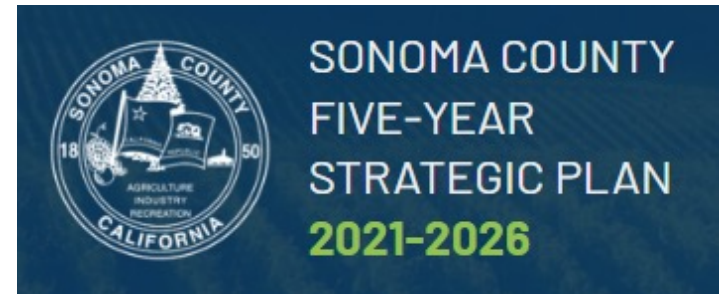
Provide \$20 million in financing by 2026 that incentivizes property managers and renters to retrofit existing multi-family housing towards achieving carbon neutral buildings.

[▶ Summary](#)

#### Objective 3:

Partner with educational institutions, trade associations, businesses and non-profit organizations to establish workforce development programs that focus on carbon neutral and resilient building technologies by 2023.

[▶ Summary](#)



<https://socostrategicplan.org/>



# *Key Challenges and Key Successes*

- A lot of players
  - County vs Community
  - Planning vs Implementation
  - So many opportunities!
- Unique partnership opportunities
    - USDA NRCS Climate Smart Commodities
    - Wildfire and Insurance Pilot Program
  - Direct to business services and programs
    - PACE financing program (SCEIP)
    - Contractor trainings and resources
    - Green Business certification
    - Lower energy costs

