The California Alliance for Community Energy unites activists and grassroots organizations under a single focus: to support and defend Community Choice energy programs that advance local clean energy for the environmental, economic, and social justice benefit of our communities.

The Alliance combines passionate commitment to the local benefits of decentralized clean energy resources, and deep experience in the formation and implementation of Community Choice programs.

We represent the “conscience” of the Community Choice movement. We see Community Choice program success as nothing less than engaging the community and meeting its needs, in economic, environmental and social justice terms. In 2018, our accomplishments reflected the following priorities:

Priority #1: Defending Community Choice programs from myriad attacks. We fought legislative and regulatory actions that attempted to diminish or undermine Community Choice:

- **Campaign: Oppose AB 813 – CAISO Regional Expansion** – We drove back a big-industry effort to privatize control of California’s electricity grid. Key Alliance actions:
  - Our May white paper *Our Position on CAISO Regional Expansion* reframed the political debate. While AB 813 advocates claimed cheaper energy and raised the specter of “renewables curtailment,” we countered that the real issue was a hostile takeover of California’s energy and environmental policy.
  - Through expert opinion, statewide collaboration, and unyielding coalition building, and a statewide letter-writing campaign, we beat the drum against AB 813. As statewide opposition grew to over 120 organizations, AB 813 went down to defeat.

- **Opposition to SB 237** – In July, a gut-and-amend legislative initiative promised to undermine Community Choice. We were able to limit the damage of SB 237, which would have allowed all non-residential electricity customers to procure their own electricity through Direct Access.
  - *Our Position on Expanding Direct Access* spelled out our strong opposition. With unity among the Alliance's network and all local Community Choice agencies, SB 237 was weakened significantly before its ultimate passage.

- **Campaign: Oppose CPUC Undermining of Community Choice** – In August, we launched a battle, once again, for the survival of Community Choice programs in California, one which is continuing into 2019.
  - The Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) is an on-going departing load charge levied on Community Choice customers. We first spoke out against this charge in March 2016, demanding an end to the PCIA.
  - In August, we rolled out our campaign to *Oppose CPUC Undermining of Community Choice*, namely, a dramatic increase in PCIA charges. On October 11, however, CPUC Commissioners disregarded the results of its own year-long proceeding.
In this action, the CPUC Commissioners confirmed once again their hostility toward Community Choice, further evidence of CPUC Bias Favoring Monopoly Utilities Against Community Choice, which the Alliance has chronicled since 2017.

Priority #2: Promoting best practices in Community Choice energy. Throughout 2018, we have spoken at conferences and workshops, distributed materials, and hosted expert discussions to strengthen Community Choice energy programs. Highlights:

- Publication of our Guide to Creating State-of-the-Art Community Choice Programs – Written by and for advocates, the Guide is already an indispensable resource for local activists seeking form and strengthen Community Choice programs.
- Through workshops and panel presentations, monthly statewide member calls, and new position papers, we have continually brought new content, insight and opinion to our Alliance on such topics as the IOU Code of Conduct, CAISO regional expansion, and local development business planning, among others.

Priority #3: Expanding and strengthening the coalition for action.
The nature and pace of policy threats continued throughout the 2018, leading to increased emphasis on the Alliance's systems for engaging and involving both members and non-members. Highlights:

- Tripled our database of activists. These individuals are the lifeblood of the Alliance – willing to take action themselves, and to encourage others to take action as well.
- Launched our first campaigns on Action Network, a digital organizing platform. Our first Action Network campaign generated over 7,000 individual emails to targeted recipients.
- Revamped our website to a platform that better showcases the many aspects of our work: campaigns, position papers and publications, and events. Check it out.

Continuing the Fight: Challenges Ahead in 2019

It's clear that 2019 will be pivotal for Community Choice energy programs. By year's end 2018, the damaging effects of the PCIA order have already taken a toll, as at least one new Community Choice program has been cancelled. 2019 will reveal continuing damage, through PCIA-caused rate hikes, program delays, cancellations, and other losses of community-bound investment crucial to delivering environmental, economic, and social justice benefits to our communities.

California has 18 operational Community Choice programs in 160 communities, serving eight million customers. These programs are leading the way to a future in which our State’s aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets are not just met, but are met ahead of schedule, cost-effectively, and with economic and social benefits to their communities.

There is no getting around it. The Alliance must take on and reverse the continued imbalance between Community Choice, the monopoly utilities, and the CPUC. This effort will require all our effort and resources. As 2018 ends, we have ramped up outreach, fund-raising, and direct action. Please join us in this crucial battle.