2017 Annual Report

Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
ABOUT CEERT

The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) is a partnership of major environmental groups and clean-energy companies. Since our founding in 1990, we have designed and fought for policies that advance clean, renewable energy and climate solutions for California and the West.

CEERT’s team of professional staff, active board members, expert consultants, and clean-technology and environmental affiliates carry out our work through a set of focused advocacy programs. We act as participants and intervenors before all the major governmental energy, climate, and air-quality agencies.

CEERT is urging decision-makers to embrace grid practices, climate policies, and diverse renewable procurement that will enable California to meet its pioneering clean-energy and greenhouse-gas reduction goals and speed up progress toward a low-carbon electric system across the Western states.

CEERT’s Executive Director V. John White and Controller Kimber West
From the Executive Director

Since our founding in 1989-90, CEERT has been leading California’s efforts to develop new clean and renewable energy resources. These efforts have gone through several phases — we have been enormously successful and have made extraordinary progress, but our path has often been stressful and filled with conflict, with many disappointments and setbacks.

CEERT seeks to dramatically reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the penetration of energy efficiency, renewable technologies, and other zero-carbon resources in order to create a reliable, affordable, equitable, and sustainable energy future. We accomplish this by educating, advocating, and organizing for the implementation of public policies and infrastructure investments that will transform the energy economy of California and the West to the benefit of all.

CEERT’s role is evolving beyond simply advocating for increased renewable and distributed energy resource procurement mandates and market integration. It is time to focus on renewables as a means to the end of achieving a reliable and affordable low-carbon grid, and not as the end in themselves. But that requires rethinking, redesigning, and integrating the California policy framework, and repurposing renewables to provide capacity and ancillary services, not just energy.

CEERT is increasingly oriented toward analysis and advocacy of operational changes to the grid to encourage market participation of a technologically diverse, low-carbon and renewable portfolio of distributed and grid-scale resources, to reduce reliance on natural gas, to encourage large-scale storage, to foster orderly progress toward an integrated Western regional grid, and to realize state and regional coordination on climate and clean energy strategies.

Our unique business model relies on a partnership between clean energy companies and developers and California’s leading environmental, environmental-justice, and public-health NGOs, with support from annual affiliate dues and special project contributions that foundation funding has matched overall by more than a 2-to-1 ratio.

Important tasks that we currently face include securing sufficient, ongoing funding for CEERT’s staff and programs, and ensuring the organization represents a diverse range of clean-energy technologies and nonprofit groups.

As we enter into our third decade of leadership and advocacy, and reflect on our successes to date and the challenges of the future, we are revitalizing and renewing CEERT’s strategic focus, organizational structure and priorities as we prepare to meet the consequences of past success and the opportunities and the challenges of the future.

V. John White
Executive Director
THE YEAR’S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In an unprecedented victory for clean energy, CEERT Technical Director Jim Caldwell’s work for the City of Oxnard and environmental-justice groups resulted in a committee of the California Energy Commission rejecting a proposed gas-fired plant in favor of a mix of low-carbon resources to meet the area’s Local Capacity Requirements (LCR). As a direct result of this verdict, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved three Requests for Proposals to procure carbon-free resources for LCR needs and allow the retirement of six gas plants that now supply LCR in four regions of the state.

- CEERT Director of Grid Policy Liz Anthony began an analysis of the generation and emissions profiles of each gas-fired power plant in California to identify which are the most-polluting and the least-needed, and which clean-energy resources can be cost-effectively substituted for each plant’s output.

- CEERT held active talks with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the Bonneville Power Administration, and Pacific Northwest stakeholders on California exporting surplus solar generation at midday in return for Northwest hydro resources providing flexible capacity to California starting in late afternoon.

- We made arguments that resulted in key changes to the CPUC’s final decision in the Diablo Canyon power plant proceeding, including a confirmation that procurement to replace the plant’s output should avoid an increase in greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

- We strongly advocated for early procurement of GHG-free resources to be an outcome of utilities’ and other load-serving entities’ Integrated Resource Planning processes.

- CEERT helped persuade the CAISO to add 500 MW of transmission capacity from the Imperial Valley, which will enable the statewide grid to bring in new geothermal generation from the Salton Sea region.

- We influenced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s decision to delay plans to repower 2,500 MW of gas-fired plants while it studies the viability of low-carbon alternatives.

- We helped develop and secure adoption of the state’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Reduction Strategy, a culmination of CEERT’s decade-long advocacy leadership on SLCPs.

- We coordinated with state and national organizations to defend the 2022 – 2025 vehicle emissions and fuel economy standards against current federal efforts to roll them back.
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CEERT Board Co-Chairs Laura Wisland and Roby Roberts
Decarbonizing the Electric Grid

CEERT has been playing a leadership role in reforming and decarbonizing the California grid. Our focus is to bring about key changes in decision-makers’ current assumptions and rules that have led to an overreliance on gas-fired power plants rather than clean-energy resources.

2017 Highlights:
• In a major victory for clean energy, CEERT Technical Director Jim Caldwell’s work for the City of Oxnard and local environmental-justice groups resulted in the Siting Committee of the California Energy Commission rejecting the proposed Puente gas-fired plant in favor of a mix of low-carbon resources to meet the Moorpark Sub-Area’s Local Capacity Requirement (LCR) needs. (All of the new gas plants authorized for construction in California over the preceding seven years were designed to fill an LCR need.) This was a precedent-setting recommendation: as one utility expert wrote, “Gas will never again get a rubber-stamp approval.” The CEC’s decision on Puente led Southern California Edison to issue a Request for Proposals for clean-energy resources to fill the area’s LCR needs.
• As a direct result of the Puente verdict, the California Public Utilities Commission put forward three Requests for Proposals to procure carbon-free resources for LCR needs and allow retirement of six gas plants that now supply LCR needs in four regions of the state.
• In addition, the country’s largest municipal utility, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, has suspended plans to refurbish several gas plants while it studies zero-carbon alternative solutions for its LCR needs.
• CEERT Director of Grid Policy Liz Anthony began an analysis of the generation and emissions profiles of gas-fired power plants in California — especially those located in disadvantaged and environmental-justice communities — to identify which of those plants are the most-polluting and the least-needed, and which clean-energy resources can be cost effectively substituted for each plant’s output. No such comprehensive analysis currently exists.
INCREASING GRID INTEGRATION ACROSS THE WESTERN STATES

A number of parties are holding ongoing discussions about a viable path to a regionally integrated electric grid in the Western U.S. Such a system would enable more cost-effective renewables procurement, better sharing of reserves among states, reduced reliance on fossil-fueled power, increased exports of California’s surplus solar energy and imports of low-cost regional wind and hydropower, and significant economic benefits for utility customers.

Grid integration within California will also be essential for us to meet our climate and energy goals. CEERT continues to encourage the state’s publicly owned utilities to expand resource-sharing and cooperation with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) grid.

In 2017, CEERT:
• Held active discussions with the CAISO, the Bonneville Power Administration, and Pacific Northwest stakeholders on California exporting surplus solar generation at midday in return for Northwest hydro resources providing flexible capacity to California starting in late afternoon. Such an arrangement would significantly reduce the need to use gas-fired power to meet the grid’s steep evening ramp, when the sun has set but temperatures, and air conditioning use, remain high in Southern California.
• Continued to collaborate with renewable energy companies, non-governmental organizations, and funders on the *Fix the Grid* campaign, which has carried out analysis, education and outreach on ways that regional grid integration will enable California and the West to achieve our greenhouse-gas (GHG) reduction targets.
• Met with senior LADWP officials to discuss expansion of the Energy Imbalance Market’s day-ahead market, scheduling of hydro resources, low-carbon-grid planning, and governance and transparency issues on regional grid integration.
• Held talks with Dave Olsen of the CAISO Board of Governors and IID General Manager Kevin Kelly about potential avenues for resolving long-running disputes between CAISO and IID over transmission access issues.
EXPANDING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

CEERT advocates at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for an enlarged and diversified renewable energy portfolio, less procurement of fossil-fueled power, and fair valuation of the considerable benefits that clean-energy resources bring to the grid and to society.

We are urging the Commission to place greater overall emphasis on achieving the state’s GHG-reduction and grid-reliability goals, and are fighting for new, near-term renewable procurement in the CPUC’s Integrated Resource Planning and Renewable Portfolio Standard proceedings.

In the words of CEERT Regulatory Counsel Sara Myers, “It’s our relentlessness that makes the difference!”

In 2017, CEERT:

• Strongly advocated for procurement of GHG-free resources to be an explicit outcome of utilities’ and other load-serving entities’ Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) processes. We argued for a GHG-reduction target range of 42 – 52 million metric tons, which would align the IRP’s modeling with the CARB GHG Scoping Plan’s assumptions.
• Urged the CPUC in its IRP Proceeding to plan for and commit to a more diverse clean-energy portfolio, including procurement of high-value, higher-cost resources such as geothermal that will help balance California’s clean-energy portfolio.
• Made arguments that resulted in key changes to the CPUC’s final decision in the Diablo Canyon power plant proceeding, which included a confirmation that procurement to replace Diablo Canyon’s output should be addressed in the IRP rulemaking in a way that will avoid increased GHG emissions.
• Recommended that the CPUC’s Resource Adequacy (RA) program begin the transition away from near-exclusive reliance on gas-fired generation, and that the program re-evaluate flexible RA and then either eliminate or extensively modify it. We collaborated with environmental justice organizations and shared technical expertise with them as a crucial part of our campaign to restructure the RA program.

CEERT Regulatory Counsel Sara Myers

CEERT Associate Regulatory Attorney Megan Myers
ADVANCING CALIFORNIA’S PIONEERING CLIMATE POLICIES

California’s pioneering climate goals require slashing greenhouse gases 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and achieving an 80% or greater reduction in GHGs by 2050.

CEERT’s Climate Action Program is working to strengthen the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB’s) 2030 GHG Scoping Plan, establish GHG reductions as the chief target of the CPUC’s Integrated Resource Planning process, and tighten controls on methane and other potent but short-lived climate pollutants.

In 2017, CEERT:

- Helped develop and secure adoption of the state’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Reduction Strategy, which we consider the culmination of CEERT’s more than decade-long advocacy leadership on SLCPs.
- Met several times with CARB Executive Officer Richard Corey and other senior CARB staff to discuss the increasing emissions from some gas-fired power plants in disadvantaged communities, and ways that local air districts could limit those plants’ output during times of high pollution.
- Underscored to CARB the urgent need to pursue better transparency and real-time reporting of electric-sector GHG emissions.
- Participated in the Dairy/Livestock Working Group, which is collaborating with state agencies to overcome technical, market, and regulatory challenges facing projects that aim to reduce agricultural methane.

CEERT Board members Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Senior Policy Director of the American Lung Association in California; and Bill Magavern, Policy Director of the Coalition for Clean Air
Advocating for Transmission, Bulk Storage, and Demand Response

CEERT is advocating at the CPUC and the CAISO for large-scale energy storage, strengthened demand response programs, and new and upgraded transmission lines—three essential means of advancing clean energy and a low-carbon grid.

In 2017, CEERT:

- Continued our longstanding advocacy at the CAISO for an expansion of transmission lines to carry geothermal energy from the Imperial Valley to the statewide grid. CAISO recently agreed to pay for an upgrade to the Imperial Irrigation District’s transmission system that will confer significant reliability and economic benefits for CAISO’s service territory.
- Met with CPUC Energy Division staff, SCE senior procurement officers, and CAISO staff to discuss the potential for transmission upgrades in the Moorpark/Oxnard Sub-Area. These expansions would be an important complement to SCE’s Request for Proposals for preferred resources that can meet the Moorpark area’s local reliability needs.
- Worked with key stakeholders on outreach and educational efforts to broaden public support for large-scale storage, including pumped hydro and renewable hydrogen. Central issues included the analysis and treatment of bulk storage in the CPUC’s Integrated Resource Planning process and the urgent need for the CAISO to work with the CPUC on adding more large-scale storage.
- Advocated before the CPUC and the CAISO to strengthen existing demand response (DR) programs while pressing for changes in DR procurement. We worked with groups such as Environmental Defense Fund and DR companies such as EnerNOC in pursuing these goals.

CEERT’s V. John White and Commissioner Andrew McAllister of the California Energy Commission
PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

CEERT is advising the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) on its plans for attaining a clean-energy electric system, working with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to remove barriers to development of its geothermal resources at the Salton Sea, and helping to establish new forms of clean transportation in the Central Valley.

In 2017, CEERT:
- Helped persuade the CAISO to add 500 MW of transmission capacity from the Imperial Valley, which will enable the statewide grid to bring in new geothermal generation from the Salton Sea region. The specific resolution, which CEERT had long advocated for, entailed payment for an upgrade to IID’s transmission system that will confer significant reliability and economic benefits to the CAISO grid, and the “added benefit of removing a limitation to increased deliverability from the Imperial area.”
- Succeeded in getting our Technical Director Jim Caldwell appointed to the Community/Stakeholder Advisory Committee that is counseling LADWP on its current 100% Clean Energy Study.
- Influenced LADWP’s decision to delay earlier plans to repower over 2,500 MW of gas-fired plants in the LA Basin while it studies the viability of low-carbon alternatives.
- Continued to collaborate with and sponsor the Latino Environmental Advancement Project’s Green Raiteros program and its efforts to secure clean-energy vehicles for a ride-sharing program that offers rural residents affordable transportation to their medical, legal and other essential appointments in the Central Valley’s major cities.

Rey León, Mayor of Huron, Executive Director of the Latino Environmental Advancement Policy institute, and CEERT Board member; and V. Manuel Pérez, Riverside County Supervisor, former State Assemblymember from the Imperial Valley, and 2014 Clean Power Champion
ACCELERATING CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Because vehicles account for about 40% of greenhouse-gas emissions in California, the state needs to place a high priority on the transportation sector in order to meet its climate goals. CEERT’s Clean Transportation Program works to speed up the transition to low-carbon fuels and to support viable markets for zero-emission electric and fuel-cell vehicles.

In 2017, CEERT:
• Coordinated with state and national organizations to defend the 2022 – 2025 vehicle emissions and fuel economy standards against current federal efforts to roll them back. Detailed analyses from CARB, the Obama administration EPA, and the International Council on Clean Transportation strongly demonstrate that the original standards are technically and economically viable.
• Helped lead NGO advocacy on VW’s cheating on emission certification tests and ways the company should be required to mitigate damages and speed up development of a market for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in California. In response to our criticisms, Volkswagen/Electrify America’s revised $200 million Cycle 1 ZEV Investment Plan highlighted strategies to promote deployment of electric vehicles in the Central Valley.
• Participated in advocacy efforts to improve and extend the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard program’s carbon-intensity reduction targets for transportation fuels.
• Continued to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. The Program’s draft 2018 – 2019 Investment Plan proposed $20 million each for electric vehicle charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure, supplemented by $17.5 million for advanced freight technologies and $12.7 million for manufacturing and workforce training and development.
**Western Grid Group**

Western Grid Group is a fiscally sponsored project of CEERT. WGG works to build a low-carbon electric system throughout the Western Interconnection by increasing renewable energy, reducing fossil energy, and supporting nonpolluting technologies.

In 2017, WGG:

- Educated public policymakers throughout the West on the benefits of further expansion of regional electric markets. We analyzed quantitative and qualitative approaches to market benefit studies as well as governance, transparency, and adaptability of market options, and shared our results on market development considerations with state energy officials, including PUC commissioners.
- Managed collaboration among the West’s leading clean energy advocacy organizations and associations to implement shared clean energy goals. Supported seven work groups focused on issues ranging from market expansion opportunities to improving operation and power flow on the grid between balancing areas.
- Engaged in grid reliability and renewables integration and operations issues, ensuring that proposals are not advanced that will preferably select fossil resources in the name of reliability. We advocated against a federal proposed rulemaking that favored coal, and led a coalition in Arizona that halted a proposal that would have supported coal unduly.
- Conducted groundbreaking work to promote refinancing and encourage replacement of fossil power plants with clean energy, providing shareholder opportunities, savings for customers, and a way out of uneconomic plants for utilities. With Climate Policy Institute, assessed financial transition issues in speeding and easing the shift from fossil to clean energy.

*Western Clean Energy Advocates winter meeting*
At our Clean Power Champions Awards Ceremony on September 11, 2017, CEERT honored three exemplary leaders for their work to advance clean energy.

**Senator Ricardo Lara**
Senator Lara has consistently passed laws that improve public health and rein in air pollution, particularly around low-income communities of color. Bills that he has authored are helping to slash emissions of short-lived climate pollutants like methane and black carbon, accelerating deployment of low-emissions trucks and buses, and giving consumers greater incentives to replace old, polluting wood-burning stoves with cleaner and more efficient appliances.

**Anne Baker**
Anne is California’s Deputy Controller of Environmental Policy. She authored the first California Climate Action Plan, which led to the adoption of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Anne developed legislation on climate policy, air quality, water planning, and water use; drew up budgets for environmental protection, natural resources, and transportation; and was the lead legislative staff for the California Clean Cars Initiative enacted in 2002.

**Jackalyne Pfannenstiel (1947 – 2017)**
Jackie was a former Chair of the California Energy Commission; Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; the first woman corporate officer at Pacific Gas & Electric Company; and co-founder of Advanced Microgrid Solutions. She was instrumental in establishing California’s energy efficiency targets and in decoupling utility revenues from volume of energy consumed, which eliminated a key barrier to utility investment in energy efficiency.
AT THE CLEAN POWER CHAMPIONS CEREMONY

Watching the Clean Power Champions Awards presentations

CEERT Board member Carl Zichella and former State Senator and 2003 Clean Power Champion Byron Sher

CEERT’s V. John White, State Controller Betty Yee, and 2017 Clean Power Champion Anne Baker
CEERT 2017 Financial Statements

CEERT Program Expenses

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Core Renewable Energy Advocacy</td>
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<td>CPUC Regulatory Intervention</td>
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<td>Grid Decarbonization</td>
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<td>Climate Policies</td>
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CEERT Sponsored Projects

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<td>Western Grid Group</td>
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<td>Latino Environmental Advancement Project</td>
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<td>Fix the Grid Campaign</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal, Sponsored Project Expenses</strong></td>
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**Total Program Expenses**

| Total                           | $1,780,599 | 100.0%    |

CEERT Program and Administrative Expenses

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<th>Expense</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<td>Direct Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Administration and Overhead</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Organizational Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,291,965</strong></td>
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Kimber West, Controller

John Shahabian, Director of Operations
CEERT AFFILIATES
8minutenergy Renewables
American Clean Skies Foundation
American Wind Energy Association
American Lung Association in California
Avangrid Renewables
Baker Energy Team
Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Coalition for Clean Air
Cyrq Energy
EDF Renewable Energy
EDP Renewables
EnergySource
EnerNOC, Inc.
Environmental Defense Fund
GE Renewable Energy
Geothermal Resources Council
Latino Environmental Advancement Project
Magnum CAES
National Grid
Natural Resources Defense Council
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Pure Resource
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Renewable Northwest

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Pattern Energy

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Berkshire Hathaway Energy

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Liz Anthony  
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