We have a vision of California powered with 100% clean energy. That vision begins at the local level in San Diego, where we see the opportunity to make it the first large region in the country to achieve 100%. Relying on job-creating and cost-effective local clean energy projects, we can lead a transition away from dirty gas plants and power our homes, schools, and businesses by increasing efficiency and capturing the sun that falls on our roofs and parking lots.

San Diego has long been a leader in innovation. We are positioned at the front line of the local clean energy transformation, second only to Los Angeles in rooftop solar capacity. Likewise, our region has the highest per capita number of electric vehicle purchases in the nation, creating an exciting opportunity—and imperative—to make clean energy the dominant fuel source for the next generation of cars on our roads.

This opportunity to transition our economy to 100% clean energy is one that we cannot afford to miss. Thanks to tireless grassroots advocacy and strong leadership in San Diego, our city is now considering a plan to transition away from dirty gas plants to 100% clean energy by 2035.

**SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC’S FOSSIL FUEL ADDICTION**

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) wants fossil fuels to anchor its energy system for decades to come. A representative from the utility noted in the San Diego Union-Tribune that “natural gas is the foundation fuel for a generation.” Nearly two-thirds of SDG&E’s power comes from dirty gas, and SDG&E is planning to lock it in as the fuel of the future by building a major new gas pipeline through California and new gas-fired power plants to ensure that fossil fuels sit at the heart of its system.

In recent years, San Diegans have fought multi-billion dollar gas plant proposals across the region. Most recently, the $2.2 billion Carlsbad Energy Center Project, which is on the cusp of being built, would increase dangerous carbon pollution and drive energy bills higher, at the same time that the cost of local clean energy solutions like efficiency and rooftop solar continue to fall.
CLEAN ENERGY IS THE SOLUTION

Clean energy solutions are available and are helping our economy grow while reducing dangerous carbon pollution. We can phase out fossil fuels using technology available today while building a stronger, more equitable economy. Even though roughly 5% of California’s power came from solar in 2014, 54,000 Californians worked in the solar industry—more than the combined workforce of the five largest utilities in the state! We’re just getting started, and by committing to 100% clean energy, San Diego can pace the state and nation in clean energy.

THE ROAD TO 100%

San Diego stands at a historic juncture, with the City Council considering a Climate Action Plan on December 15th. If approved, the plan requires powering the entire city with 100% clean energy by 2035, making our city a national leader on clean energy and climate. As San Diego increases its use of clean energy, we will see tangible improvements in our quality of life, including cleaner air, economic development, and more stable energy bills.

Right now, we don’t have a choice about where our power comes from. If we stay stuck with a monopoly utility that is doubling down on fossil fuels, we won’t be able to get to 100%. That’s where Community Choice Energy comes in. Choice Energy is a nonprofit electricity provider that local governments can establish to take control over the energy mix and electricity rates.

When given the choice, San Diegans choose clean energy over dirty fossil fuels; we just need to give them the choice by opening the market to competition. Choice Energy is listed as a potential action item in the proposed Climate Action Plan and is being studied by the City. However, in the face of SDG&E opposition, getting it across the finish line will require broad community support.

JOIN WITH US

Be a part of history making! A 100% clean energy commitment and consumer choice will not materialize without a sophisticated grassroots campaign. SDG&E may want a future in fossil fuels, but with people like you leading the way we can win.

To get involved visit us at sierraclub.org/mygeneration or email Pete Hasapopoulos at pete.hasapopoulos@sierraclub.org