

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is the Orange County Power Authority?**

Orange County Power Authority is a locally governed, not-for-profit Community Choice Energy (CCE) provider that serves Orange County businesses and residents with cleaner energy, at competitive rates.

- **What are Community Choice Energy providers and how did this begin?**

In 2002, the California State Legislature allowed for cities and counties to procure electricity for customers within their respective jurisdictions. CCEs are programs that allow local governments to purchase renewable energy on behalf of their communities, while still receiving transmission and distribution service from Southern California Edison (SCE).

There are 24 CCEs operating across California, serving over 11 million customers, in 200 communities. By 2025 it is expected that 85% of California will be served by CCEs.

- **How does it work?**

OCPA purchases renewable energy and works in conjunction with SCE who delivers the electricity using their existing power line infrastructure. SCE maintains all transmission, delivery, meter reads, and billing.

- **Which communities in Orange County are currently participating?**

The current member agencies are Buena Park, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, and the unincorporated areas of Orange County.

- **When will service begin?**

Commercial customer service began April 1st, 2022. Enrollment for residential customers will begin on October 1st, 2022. The unincorporated areas of Orange County will begin service in 2023. Enrollment for an account begins on the associated meter read date.

- **Do customers have a say in this?**

Yes, absolutely! All customers have a choice how much renewable energy they choose to have procured on their behalf. When joining a CCE, all member agencies may choose a customer enrollment program that best suits their local community.

Then, OCPA customers can make a choice from the following 3 programs:

- 100% Renewable Choice plan. This plan is \$0.015 more per kWh.
- Smart Choice which provides 69% renewable energy. This plan is \$0.01 more per kWh.
- Basic Choice which provides 38% renewable energy, which is currently set to match what customers pay for SCE Generation Charges.



answers@ocpower.org
(866) 262-7693
P.O. Box 54283
Irvine CA, 92619-4283

www.ocpower.org [f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [in](#)



Customers have the choice to stay at the enrollment program, make a change, or opt-out of OCPA and stay with SCE for both generation and transmission/delivery.

For more information on your local jurisdiction please visit our website at ocpower.org. In addition, our online Rate Comparison Calculator on the website can help customers make an informed choice.

- **Why are customers automatically enrolled in the CCE program?**
Historically, investor-owned utilities have been the default service provider for customers in their jurisdictions. In 2002 with Assembly Bill 117, the California State Legislature allowed for cities and counties to procure electricity for customers within their respective service areas and mandated that the customers residing in the CCE service area would automatically be enrolled, unless they chose not to participate by opting out.
- **Will grid reliability change under the Community Choice Energy (CCE) business model?**
The reliability of the grid will remain the same, and the dispersion of energy happens independent of any source of energy. The amount of energy sent out by the grid will still be fully maintained by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). If you experience a service outage, you will continue to report any occurrence to SCE.

As you consider the options and your own carbon neutrality goals, it is important to keep in mind that making the choice to participate in OCPA allows for:

- More local control over energy generation that serves member communities
- Competition to the energy market where prior to this, there was none
- Support of local energy projects
- Local workforce development
- Reinvestment of funds into new incentives and programs to support local need

Where can I get more information?

Visit the website at ocpower.org or call your local OCPA Representative directly.

Irvine:
Andrea Warner
949.767.8717
awarner@ocpower.org

Buena Park, Huntington Beach, Fullerton:
Andrew Di Giovanna
949.767.8718
adigiovanna@ocpower.org



answers@ocpower.org
(866) 262-7693
P.O. Box 54283
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