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Energy Efficiency Investments by California POUs Exceed \$1.8 Billion

California's publicly owned electric utilities are making significant investments in energy efficiency programs that successfully serve their local communities, reduce overall energy demand and contribute significantly to the state's decarbonization efforts.

The newly published annual report [Energy Efficiency in California's Public Power Sector – 13th Edition \(2019\)](#) details how California publicly owned utilities (POUs) have collectively spent more than \$1.8 billion on energy efficiency and demand reduction programs since formal reporting began in 2006 — saving nearly 82,000 GWh in net energy during that time.

During fiscal year 2018, California POUs spent \$219 million on energy efficiency programs, resulting in 639 GWh of net annual energy savings and reducing peak demand by nearly 129 MW. The POUs' actual energy savings were 24% above forecasted levels for 2018.

California POUs participate in and offer their customers a wide range of energy efficiency programs, including direct- and self-install programs for lighting and appliances, home weatherization and retrofits, electric vehicle (EV) incentives and rebates, energy storage, business and residential energy audits, public education, low-income assistance, and many more. California POUs use funding from Cap and Trade allowances, the Public Goods Charge and other sources for these many programs.

"We continuously evaluate and expand the programs that work so our communities and our customers benefit," said Barry Moline, Executive Director of the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA). "Each year, the report's findings show we are making significant investments in energy efficiency. They are having a positive impact in the communities we serve, and the entire state."

The 37 POUs that contributed data for the report cumulatively provide electricity to about 25 percent of California. The commercial sector accounts for the majority of POUs' annual energy savings (64.6%) and residential programs resulted in 27.6% of the total savings, according to the report.

Mike Webster, the Southern California Public Power Authority's (SCPPA) Executive Director, said, "SCPPA members continue to work with their customers to increase the energy efficiency in homes

and businesses, as well as to improve long-term utility system operations, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve local air quality in the communities they serve.”

Energy use in residential and commercial buildings collectively accounts for nearly one quarter of statewide GHG emissions. Focusing on programs that reduce energy consumption in existing buildings and new construction will continue to be critical in meeting California's long-term carbon reduction goals.

“Helping Californians improve the efficient use of energy in their homes and businesses is a priority for locally-owned utilities and a critical piece of our State’s long-term decarbonization efforts,” said Randy S. Howard, General Manager of the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA). “As locally-owned and governed utilities, our members offer a diverse portfolio of energy efficiency programs designed to best meet the needs of their customers. This report provides a snapshot of the significant investments that these utilities have made to support energy efficiency and demand reduction in their communities.”

California POUs are required by statute to annually submit the Energy Efficiency in California's Public Power Sector report to the California Energy Commission. View past reports (2006-2019) at cmua.org.

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About CMUA: Representing 64 publicly owned electric utilities and water agencies statewide, CMUA provides Members and Associate Partners with many valuable services and benefits, including legislative and regulatory advocacy; news and regular updates about the energy and water industry; and engagement through annual events, coalitions and member-led decision making. For more information, visit cmua.org.

About NCPA: Headquartered in Roseville, California, NCPA is a nonprofit joint powers agency established in 1968 to construct and operate renewable and low-emitting generating facilities and assist in meeting the wholesale energy needs of its 16 members: the Cities of Alameda, Biggs, Gridley, Healdsburg, Lodi, Lompoc, Palo Alto, Redding, Roseville, Santa Clara, Shasta Lake, and Ukiah, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Port of Oakland, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), and Truckee Donner Public Utility District — collectively serving nearly 700,000 electric consumers in Central and Northern California. For more information, visit ncpa.com.

About SCPPA: SCPPA is a joint powers agency formed in 1980 under California law to provide support to its members in the planning, construction, management and operation of electric energy resources. Members today include the cities of Anaheim, Azusa, Banning, Burbank, Cerritos, Colton, Glendale, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Riverside and Vernon, and the Imperial Irrigation District. For more information, visit scppa.org.