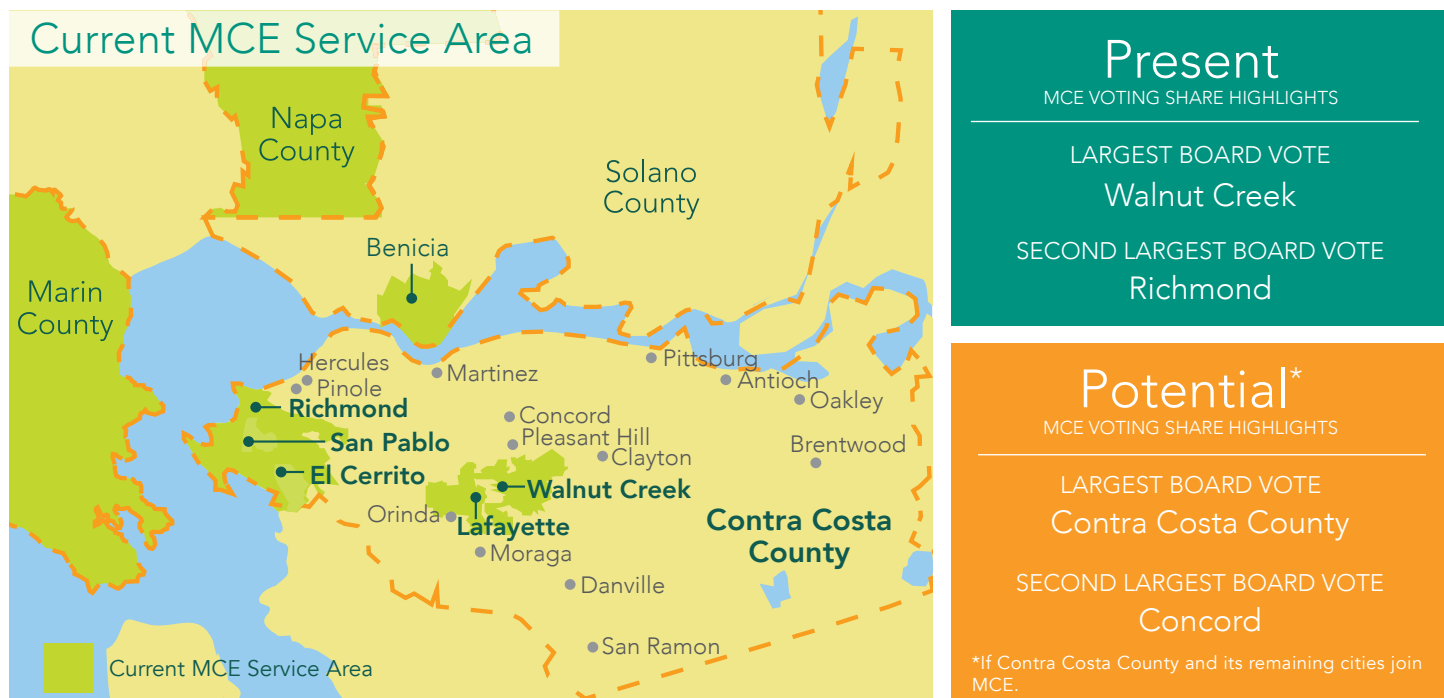


# Renewable Energy Options for a Unified Contra Costa County

Joining MCE is the quickest, most reliable, and cost-effective route to providing Contra Costa County with local control, meaningful energy options, and substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. Since 2012, MCE has helped Contra Costa communities take control of their ratepayer dollars by expanding consumer choice, reducing utility costs, and investing in California-based renewable energy. These benefits have inspired cities and counties throughout the State to follow suit and pursue community choice energy.

## 1 Local Control

**A quarter of all Contra Costa cities have already joined MCE.** As a result, these cities exercise more local control over energy-related decisions through MCE’s democratically elected Board of Directors. By joining MCE, Contra Costa County would hold the largest vote on MCE’s Board. Unincorporated areas would unite with neighboring cities that already have MCE service, eliminating the risk of customer confusion if multiple programs operated in the same vicinity. This is especially true for customers in El Sobrante, North Richmond, Kensington, Walnut Knolls and other unincorporated communities adjacent to MCE’s service area.



## 2 Minimize Financial Risk

- » **Economies of scale create efficiency, and cost-effective administration** — Contra Costa can minimize redundancy and capitalize on collective investments in local energy projects, long-term power contracts, human resources, and community outreach.
- » **Avoid start-up costs** — There is no cost to join MCE at this time. Creating a new program would require millions of dollars in start-up financing, introduce risk and uncertainty, and could take years to begin providing service at comparable rates.

- » **MCE’s long-term renewable energy contracts lock-in low wholesale prices.** This provides MCE communities with more protection against future market fluctuations.
- » **MCE has an established credit profile, which is needed to purchase power and finance local buildout.** MCE will be able to make greater and quicker local investments than new programs that will need to establish their credit worthiness over time.
- » **MCE’s experienced community outreach team helps maintain high customer participation rates.** In 2016, MCE participated in over 120 community events in Contra Costa County to help the public make informed decisions about their electricity service.

## MCE BENEFITS TO CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SINCE 2012

RENEWABLE ENERGY PAYMENTS OFFERED BY MCE TO EL CERRITO, RICHMOND, AND SAN PABLO SOLAR CUSTOMERS IN 2016	\$250,000
FUNDING PROVIDED TO RISING SUN ENERGY CENTER TO TRAIN SAN PABLO AND EL CERRITO YOUTH FOR GREEN COLLAR JOBS IN 2016	\$85,000
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCCUSD) MCE SAVINGS IN 2014-2015	~\$66,000
CITY OF RICHMOND MCE SAVINGS IN 2014-2015	~\$54,000
SOLAR REBATES PROVIDED BY MCE TO LOW-INCOME ENERGY CUSTOMERS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FOR 42 SOLAR INSTALLATIONS	\$29,100
PAID BY MCE TO WCCUSD FOR SURPLUS ENERGY GENERATED BY THE DISTRICT’S SOLAR ARRAY IN 2015	\$28,000+

### 3 Local Renewable Build-Out and Job Support

- » MCE has partnered with RichmondBUILD and supported its job training academy through contracts worth approx. \$100,000.
- » MCE’s 10.5 MW Richmond Solar One project — the largest publicly-owned solar development in the Bay Area — is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in 2017.
  - » Partnering with RichmondBUILD to achieve 50% minimum local-hire requirement.
- » Two solar Feed-In Tariff projects are now online in Richmond.
  - » 23 local jobs supported: 85% minority workers; 30% workers with a history in the justice system.



Richmond Mayor Tom Butt and RichmondBUILD graduate Jeffrey Gatlin at the MCE Solar One groundbreaking ceremony.

### 4 Greenhouse Gas Reductions

- » Due to MCE enrollment, over 122,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions were eliminated from 2010–2014; equivalent to keeping nearly 25,800 fossil-fueled cars off the road for a year.
- » MCE provides a default 50% renewable energy service, achieving Governor Brown’s 2030 Statewide energy goals 18 years ahead of schedule.

**QUESTIONS?**

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