



# County of Yolo

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## 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS

Proposed Early Action to Implement Resolution No. 20-114 Related to the Climate Crisis

### PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action would result in the enrollment of all Yolo County electricity accounts not covered by existing County solar/renewable projects into Valley Clean Energy's UltraGreen program, which provides 100% renewable and 100% carbon-free electricity for an increase of 1.5 cents/kilowatt hour. Yolo County will enroll accounts for buildings outside of Valley Clean Energy's territory, such as those in West Sacramento, in the similar Pacific Gas & Electric program. Yolo County has installed solar to offset County electricity use and was one of two initial founding members of Valley Clean Energy, a community choice aggregation agency that consolidates the purchase of renewable energy for the City of Davis, the City of Winters, the City of Woodland, and the County of Yolo. A 2019 report to the Valley Clean Energy Board of Directors estimated Yolo County renewable energy projects only cover two-thirds of the County's electricity accounts; this action would ensure 100% of Yolo County's electricity is from renewable sources. The action is also essential to ensure Yolo County's related action to develop an inventory and feasibility study to remove fossil fuels from Yolo County operations results in a decrease in carbon emissions, since the transition to all-electric appliances and equipment will not result in the maximum potential emission reduction without a complementary move to 100% renewable energy accounts.

### BACKGROUND

Climate scientists have increasingly identified electricity generated by fossil fuels (e.g., natural gas) as a key contributor to greenhouse gas emissions warming the planet. The power sector is the single largest source of carbon emissions at 24 gigatons per year.<sup>1</sup> Yolo County's action will help reduce demand for electricity generated by fossil fuels in Yolo County and will allow the County to lead by example in supporting the UltraGreen option from VCE.

### CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING POLICIES

The early action is consistent with the following performance indicator in the 2011 *Yolo County Climate Action Plan's* executive summary which states the community choice aggregation program will result in 50% of the County relying on 50% renewable energy, and 25% of the County relying on 100% renewable energy (page xii) because the action utilizes Valley Clean Energy, the local

<sup>1</sup> Doerr, John. *Speed and Scale: An Action Plan for Solving our Climate Crisis Now*. Penguin Business, 2021.

community choice aggregation program. The early action also supports the following measure in the 2011 *Yolo County Climate Action Plan*:

- Measure E1. Pursue a community choice aggregation program

This early action is also consistent with AQ-1 of the February 2021 *Yolo County Sustainability Plan*, as follows:

- Action AQ 1.2. Increase adoption of electric vehicles and equipment

## **BENEFITS TO DISADVANTAGED/VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**

This action will not benefit disadvantaged or vulnerable communities.

## **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION**

Enrolling all of Yolo County municipal electricity accounts not covered by existing County solar/renewable projects into Valley Clean Energy's UltraGreen program and/or the similar Pacific Gas & Electric program, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, although the exact reduction is unknown at this time. Yolo County would work with Valley Clean Energy and Pacific Gas & Electric to estimate the greenhouse gas emission reduction for tracking purposes as part of signing up for UltraGreen.

## **CO-BENEFITS**

The action may help reduce pollution in other areas of the state or country from electricity generated from fossil fuels by reducing demand.

## **TRANSFORMATIVE/REPLICABLE ELEMENTS**

If Yolo County shares the County's decisions to transition to 100% renewable electricity accounts with the public through earned media or paid media, the County's action may influence other local jurisdictions to similarly make the transition.

## **DEGREE OF READINESS**

Funding to transition all Yolo County's accounts to 100% renewable electricity will be included in the 2023-24 Yolo County budget with the goal of transitioning all accounts by July 1, 2023. Yolo County staff propose ongoing funding for 100% renewable electricity in future budgets as well.

## **COSTS**

According to a March 14, 2019 Valley Clean Energy Alliance staff report, it would cost Yolo County approximately \$16,000 per year (about \$1,333 per month) to opt into Valley Clean Energy's UltraGreen for the remaining 1/3 of Yolo County's accounts which are currently not 100% renewable.

## FUNDING

Yolo County will explore funding options for this action, which may include ARP funds, General Fund, Department funds, or a combination of these, to align with the 2023-24 County budget. Yolo County will not apply for grants for this effort because of the small dollar amount.

## CONCERNS

The Yolo County Administrator's Office will determine which Departments, if any, will pay for the increased cost of UltraGreen and which funding strategy to apply.

## PARTNERS

Yolo County would work with Valley Clean Energy to implement this early action.

## PERSONNEL

In the chart below, please list names, role, and contact information for all project leader(s) and project partners.

Name	Role (Lead or Partner)	Email	Phone
<b>Kristen Wraithwall</b>	Lead	kristen.wraithwall@yolocounty.org	530-666-8047
<b>Mitch Sears</b>	Partner, Valley Clean Energy	mitch.sears@valleycleanenergy.org	530-446-2750