

San Diego Community Power Plan

Phase 1: Listening

Listening Sessions Co-Hosted with Community-Based Organizations Summary (Round 1)

December 5, 2022

Prepared for

San Diego Community Power

Prepared by

Kearns & West

Table of Contents

1. Overview	1
2. Objectives	1
3. Community-Based Organization Partners	2
Selection Approach	2
Community-Based Organization Compensation and Roles.....	2
4. When and Where	2
5. Listening Sessions.....	3
Casa Familiar.....	4
Project New Village.....	5
MAAC (North Session)	6
MAAC (East Session).....	6
Art Produce.....	7
Chicano Federation.....	8

Appendix

A – Casa Familiar Input

B – Project New Village Input

C – MAAC (North Session) Input

D – MAAC (East Session) Input

E – Art Produce Input

F – Chicano Federation Input

1. Overview

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is developing a Community Power Plan (CPP) that will provide a decision-making framework to guide its strategy and development of local programs. Based on findings from a community needs assessment, the CPP will guide investments in developing local renewable generation, demand reduction, storage, and other distributed energy resources in SDCP's service territory.

The first phase of community engagement for the CPP focused on listening and information gathering about community priorities and needs around energy-related issues across different communities to inform the development of the community survey and CPP, including the community needs assessment. SDCP co-hosted a first round of six listening sessions with community-based organizations between July and August 2022 to hear from a range of community members in Communities of Concern¹. A second round of listening sessions is planned for October/November 2022.

This summary documents the listening session objectives, community-based organization partners, when and where the listening sessions occurred, format, and the input themes from each session. Input from each listening session can be found in the appendices.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives for SDCP's first round of listening sessions co-hosted by community-based organizations were to:

- Introduce SDCP as a long-term community partner that is able help meet community needs, with recognition that many communities have not been able to share in the benefits of clean energy customer programs and/or have been impacted by the power utility system
- Hear input and local knowledge regarding:
 - What communities are working on right now
 - Communities' needs and challenges in general
 - How people see climate change affecting their communities, residents, local businesses, and schools
 - General concerns around electricity and power service
 - The kinds of power customer programs that could help community members meet their needs and accomplish community goals

¹ Defined as the top 25% scoring areas from CalEnviroScreen, known as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), as well as the additional census tracts identified by the Cities of [San Diego](#) and [Chula Vista](#) through their Climate Equity Index (CEI) reports. Specifically, the City of San Diego identified these census tracts as areas with very low, low, and moderate access to opportunity, whereas the City of Chula Vista defined them as the top 25% scoring areas within its own analysis. If other member agencies were to identify additional census tracts as the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista have done, SDCP would recognize those designations under the umbrella of Communities of Concern.

3. Community-Based Organization Partners

Selection Approach

In addition to the listening session objectives listed in the above section, the approach for identifying community-based organizations to partner with on the listening sessions considered a range of factors such as:

- Representation of residents who live in historically underrepresented communities, including those who live in Communities of Concern
- Service footprint with communities across multiple member agencies in SDCP's service territory, when feasible
- Experience with community engagement and/or have ongoing touchpoints with the communities they serve (e.g., monthly meetings with community members)
- Ability to gather community members for a listening session
- Relationships and established trust with community members
- Organizational focus on sustainability, social equity, environmental justice, energy, climate, housing, and/or a similar field

Using this approach, the community-based organizations that SDCP partnered with to co-host the listening sessions were the following: Art Produce, Casa Familiar, Chicano Federation, MAAC (2 sessions), and Project New Village.

Community-Based Organization Compensation and Roles

Community-based organization partners are integral to the engagement of community members during the development of the CPP. SDCP provided compensation to the organizations for their time spent co-hosting the listening sessions and provided additional assistance for interpretation services, children's activities, food and drinks, gift cards for compensating participants' time, transportation, and other needs as suggested by the organizations.

Compensation agreements were established which outlined the following roles for the community-based organization partners:

- Co-host two rounds of listening sessions, the first between July and August 2022 and the second between October and November 2022
- Help customize the listening session discussion format
- Identify a location and/or place that would be convenient and accessible
- Recruit community members to participate (at least 10 people and up to 30 people)
- Stay in communication with SDCP staff/the project team

4. When and Where

The community-based organizations determined if the listening sessions should be held in-person or virtually based on their community knowledge. Table 1 on the next page summarizes the details of the listening sessions, including the community-based organizations and the communities they represent or targeted for the listening sessions, date, time, and location of the listening sessions,

estimated attendees, and languages the listening sessions were held in, including if interpretation was offered.

Table 1: Listening Sessions Information

Community-Based Organization/ Geography	Date/Time	Location	Estimated Attendees	Language/ Interpretation
Casa Familiar (San Ysidro)	Thursday, July 28, 2022 5:00-6:00 p.m.	El Salon 114 West Hall Avenue San Ysidro, CA 92173	35	Spanish with English interpretation
Project New Village (Southeastern San Diego)	Saturday, July 30, 2022 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Educational Cultural Complex 4343 Ocean View Blvd San Diego, CA 92113	45	English with Spanish interpretation
MAAC (North County)	Tuesday, August 9, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	30	Spanish with English interpretation
MAAC (East County)	Thursday, August 11, 2022 6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual (Zoom)	70	English with Spanish interpretation
Art Produce (Mid-City San Diego)	Thursday, September 8, 2022 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Art Produce Gallery 3139 University Ave San Diego, CA 92104	15	English
Chicano Federation (Portside)	Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:00-11:00 a.m.	SDCCU North Park Branch 3180 University Avenue San Diego, CA 92104	15	Spanish with English interpretation

5. Listening Sessions

The following sections summarize the major input themes from each of the listening sessions, with all input documented in the appendices [Appendix A: Casa Familiar, Appendix B: Project New Village, Appendix C: MAAC (North Session), Appendix D: MAAC (East Session), Appendix E: Art Produce, Appendix F: Chicano Federation]. The discussion questions varied slightly depending on the meeting formats and discussion groups but generally covered the following:

- How can SDCP help you and your community?
- When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?
- What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?
- How is climate change affecting you?
- What interests you about renewable energy (i.e., clean energy or green energy)?

Casa Familiar

Format

The Casa Familiar listening session was held in Spanish with English interpretation available and took place in person at El Salon, Casa Familiar's community theatre room. As participants entered, they were welcomed by Casa Familiar staff and the project team and asked to sign in. Participants were then invited to participate in an activity where they placed sticky dots on a board to indicate the climate and energy solutions that most interested them.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process by SDCP staff and was followed by a Q&A and set of discussion questions. Participants were moved into three discussion groups that were facilitated mainly in Spanish by Kearns & West and SDCP staff with assistance of bilingual team members and interpreters. Participants had the opportunity to provide input verbally while the facilitators took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix A: Casa Familiar Input.

- Key priorities identified by participants included:
 - Reduce the cost of electricity and expand program qualifications for different income ranges
 - Improve access to information about programs and resources on how to reduce electricity use
 - Improve community safety, security, lighting, and basic needs
 - Increase access to energy-saving resources such as more energy efficient appliances and efficient electric technology
 - Expand access to solar panels for the community and schools
- Participants talked about how San Diego residents are facing high utility rates and bills, particularly low-income residents. Several expressed the need for more equity programs that are income-based and responsive to Communities of Concern.
- Access to educational resources to better understand time-of-use rates and limiting energy usage during peak periods were identified as challenges. Inconsistent energy, especially when multiple appliances are running, was identified as another key concern.
- Some talked about using the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program and other low-income assistance programs with SDG&E. Other community members noted that they are mindful of their energy use and turn off lights and appliances when possible. In general, residents noted that they currently have limited information about available programs and expressed interest in receiving more information.
- Several community members stated that they are facing higher costs due to climate change (e.g., higher utility bills due to using air conditioning more frequently with rising temperatures). Others noted increased health impacts and concerns about water availability and natural disasters.

- Community members expressed interest in accessible, affordable, and sustainable renewable energy. Several residents also highlighted the community’s ability to sell electricity and make money in the renewable energy transition.
- Community members noted general community improvements like better security, improved streetlights, improved quality of roads, lower cost public transportation, affordable cost of rent, and job training and career pathways.

Project New Village

Format

The Project New Village listening session was held in English with Spanish interpretation available and took place in person as part of Project New Village’s Health & Healing Summerfest event. As participants gathered, they were welcomed by Project New Village staff and the project team and asked to sign in. Participants were then invited to participate in an activity where they placed sticky dots on a board to indicate the climate and energy solutions that most interested them.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process by SDCP staff and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were asked to participate in a large group discussion facilitated by Kearns & West and SDCP staff. Participants had the opportunity to write their input on sticky notes and place them on boards or provide input verbally while the facilitator took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix B: Project New Village Input.

- Numerous community members expressed affordability and the need to reduce the cost of electricity and energy burden for communities as major issues. Some shared that residents are limited to SDG&E’s service and that SDG&E should be a public-owned utility to lower delivery charges. Others identified peak time-of-use hours as impractical for working people.
- Several people expressed the need to create opportunities for community members to expand microgrids in their communities and/or go “off-grid” and provide education and opportunities for helping communities transition to more energy efficient appliances and technology.
- Some residents signed up for the CARE program, installed solar panels and enrolled in Net Energy Metering (NEM) through Grid Alternatives, noting the importance of partnerships with community-based organizations, community leaders, and other local efforts. They expressed the importance of expanding access to existing state programs.
- Community members expressed interest in providing support for home infrastructure upgrades and building electrification. They noted the importance of constructing underground power lines for health, safety, and aesthetics reasons.
- Some community members stated that they feel guilt from their increased energy consumption as they are using more air conditioning and energy to manage their home temperature with rising heat. Fears and anxiety were expressed about the future and impacts from natural disasters (e.g., flooding, heat, extreme weather) and the slowness of cities to act.

- Community members noted increased health impacts, such as asthma and other respiratory issues. Several community members highlighted environmental justice, financial burdens, and higher costs of water, food, and energy as a result of climate change.
- Community members expressed interest in renewable energy because it will be sustainable and healthier.

MAAC (North Session)

Format

The MAAC listening session targeting North County community members was held in Spanish with English interpretation available and took place virtually on Zoom. As participants joined, they were welcomed by MAAC staff and the project team.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process by SDCP staff and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were moved into two breakout discussion groups; one discussion group was facilitated in Spanish with English interpretation and the other was facilitated in English with Spanish interpretation. Participants had the opportunity to provide input verbally or via chat.

Input

The following sections summarize the major input themes with all input received included in Appendix C: MAAC (North Session) Input.

- Many community members expressed the need for education and information on what is impacting their electricity use, ways to reduce their electricity use, and how to understand their bills. Several attendees emphasized the importance of translating all materials and information provided.
- Several residents are using the CARE program and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), but some noted that they don't use CARE because they are homeowners or because they believe it should be used by those that need it most. Several community members expressed the need to expand the CARE program to include homeowners and to create easier and culturally responsive access to CARE and other programs. Outside of customer programs, other participants shared that they reduce their energy use by using energy efficient appliances and using electricity for less time.
- With increases in heat and extreme weather events due to climate change, participants stated that they are using more air conditioning and utilizing cool zones (e.g., malls and libraries) when it is too hot to stay home.

MAAC (East Session)

Format

The MAAC listening session targeting East County community members was held in English with Spanish interpretation available and took place virtually on Zoom. As participants joined, they were welcomed by MAAC staff and the project team.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process by SDCP staff and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. The session was facilitated by Kearns & West and an interpreter. Participants had the opportunity to provide input throughout the session verbally, via chat, or by entering responses into a polling software (Poll Everywhere).

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix D: MAAC (East Session) Input.

- Community members emphasized the need to create local job opportunities in the renewable energy transition.
- Numerous community members expressed the high cost of electricity as a major issue and noted the importance of customer service. Participants also noted concerns over the weather.
- Some participants are using the CARE and LIHEAP programs. Several participants shared that they try to reduce their electricity use by unplugging electronics when not in use, limiting use of high consumption appliances, and by using natural light.
- Many community members stated that they are experiencing higher temperatures from climate change, and some shared that they are using their air conditioning more and thus more energy as a result. Concerns about weather, droughts, flooding, and impacts to agriculture were noted as well.
- Community members expressed interest in renewable energy because it is a clean, stable energy source that is less polluting to the environment and provides benefits for future generations such as improved air quality, water quality, and public health benefits. They noted that more renewable energy should also result in more stable energy prices since it's reliable and not finite.

Art Produce

Format

The Art Produce listening session was held in English and took place in person at the Art Produce Gallery. As participants entered, they were welcomed by Art Produce staff and the project team and asked to sign in. Participants were then invited to participate in an activity where they placed sticky dots on a board to indicate the climate and energy solutions that most interested them. Additionally, participants were asked to complete the community needs survey while waiting for the presentation to begin.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were invited to join one of two discussion groups and had the opportunity to provide input verbally while project team members took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix E: Art Produce Input.

- Several community members expressed the need for reducing housing and transportation costs, including having lower rents, affordable homes for purchase, improved public transit, and access to affordable electric vehicles. Assistance with in-home panel upgrades, the need for more efficient appliances, and home weatherization was also emphasized by a few participants.

- Most participants highlighted the high cost of electricity and in-home energy efficiency upgrades as major issues. Some community members noted concerns over maintaining safe and comfortable home temperatures and working electrical outlets.
- Numerous participants shared that they try to reduce their electricity use by limiting the use of high-consumption appliances and unplugging electronics when not in use, leaving their homes and spending time at cooling centers during high-heat weather events, and using natural light and shading when possible. Several participants have installed energy efficient light bulbs, heat pumps, and solar panels to reduce their energy use.
- Some community members stated that they are experiencing higher temperatures due to climate change, and a few others shared that they are noticing a decrease in rain and available water. Increases in illnesses and health issues related to heat, air quality, and pollen were also identified by several participants. Concerns about jobs, inflation, and other economic impacts were noted as well.
- Many community members expressed interest in renewable energy because it makes them feel empowered to make positive changes, with several noting the opportunity to invest in and improve communities. Some participants shared that they are interested in renewable energy because of the technology, job creation, and feeling less guilt about energy use.

Chicano Federation

Format

The Chicano Federation listening session was held in Spanish with English interpretation available and took place in person at Chicano Federation's office inside of San Diego Community Credit Union's (SDCCU) North Park Branch. As participants gathered, they were welcomed by Chicano Federation staff and the project team and asked to sign in. Participants were then invited to participate in an activity where they placed sticky dots on a board to indicate the climate and energy solutions that most interested them and were asked to complete the community needs survey while waiting for the presentation to begin.

The listening session began with a short presentation about SDCP and the CPP process and was followed by a Q&A portion and set of discussion questions. Participants were asked to participate in a large group discussion facilitated by the project team and had the opportunity to provide input verbally while project team members took written notes.

Input

Major input themes from the session are summarized below with all input received included in Appendix F: Chicano Federation Input.

- Numerous community members expressed concerns over residents living in outdated homes with poor ventilation and inefficient appliances, and a few participants highlighted specific concerns regarding renters' reliance on building owners to provide upgrades. Many emphasized the need to improve in-home ventilation and assist with energy efficiency upgrades.
- Several participants suggested creating programs to assist residents with the cost of upgrades and electricity use in general. Some shared concerns about the high costs of upgrades and specifically middle-income residents being unable to qualify for current programs. Expanding the income range qualification for programs was emphasized.

- Some participants shared that they try to reduce their electricity use by unplugging electronics when not in use, going to cooling centers to avoid using in-home cooling, and avoiding cooking to reduce the temperature in their homes. Several others noted that more information and accessibility are needed on available programs.
- and suggested sharing information about programs in electricity bills.

Appendix A

Casa Familiar Input

General Questions and Comments

- Are you taking solar (power) through the panels?
- Are you also providing gas?
- Do we have two different bills?
- What is the price difference between the two?
- When did the switch to SDCP happen?
- Will there be a low-income discount?
- Some solar panels aren't working with SDG&E programs.
- How can you change to an electric vehicle?
- Some people are being sold energy upgrades they can't afford.
- Is electricity in San Diego more expensive than other areas in California?
- Will there be another meeting to inform the community when SDCP decides on programs?

Dot Activity Results: What types of energy and climate solutions would you be most interested in?

- Solar panels: 16
- All-electric appliances: 6
- Electric transportation and charging: 9
- More efficient appliances: 8
- Improved comfort through insulation, efficient windows, or other weatherization: 11
- Smart, internet-connected thermostats: 11
- More efficient lights: 7
- Batteries (energy storage): 2
- Other: 4

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Change to energy-saving light bulbs for all of San Ysidro
- Ensure community members can use medical devices
- Improve access to energy-saving resources and appliances
- Improve air quality
- Improve security
- Improve the quality of roads and streets
- Job training and careers pathways

- Low-cost transportation
- Lower the cost of rent
- Make electric boilers available to help with electrifying panels
- More parking and parking structures
- More resources and technical assistance to help community members learn more about programs
- Programs for people with disabilities
- Provide solar panels to community members
- Reduce electricity use at home by using efficient appliances
- Reduce the cost of renewable energy
- Reduce the cost of transportation (electric vehicles) and provide support for community members to access electric vehicles
- Work with car dealerships to reduce costs
- Broaden the income ranges of who qualifies for programs (e.g., retired, middle income community members)
- Ensure people can access essential services such as laundry
- Improve security and police in communities
- Improve street lighting in communities
- Improve ways to help community members understand how to reduce electricity use
- Offer workshops and education on electricity use, bill reduction, tiers, and time-of-use rates
- Provide better incentives for solar panels
- Provide support for LED lightbulb transitions and a home conversion appliance replacement program
- Provide the best prices
- Educate people about green/renewable energy and how to use it
- Education about energy efficient appliances to buy
- Help community members take advantage of programs and benefits
- Keep community members informed about programs
- Lower electricity prices
- Make solar panels in homes and apartments more available to help community members save money
- Provide education on how to save money and electricity
- Provide solar panels in schools
- It is important to value community voices.

When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?

- High bills to maintain a cool home
- Inconsistent energy – stove and lights don't always work (One community member noted that they live in a trailer with an electric stove, but many community members have stoves that are gas.)
- Lights dim, shut off, and the lightbulb color is too bright
- No blackouts or brownouts
- Washers and dryers use a lot of energy.
- Community members need more equity programs that are income-based and responsive to Disadvantaged Communities.
- It is difficult to understand the tiers and higher time-of-use rates.
- Limiting the time of energy usage is challenging.
- Programs should prioritize social equity and focus on environmental justice communities.
- Car crashes into nearby light poles resulted in residents losing power. It took two years to repair the pole.
- Community members need support with buying energy saving lightbulbs.
- Some new light poles in front of residents' houses are not working.
- There should be a control on rate increases and a cap on rates.
- Transformers exploded in some communities and left them without power.
- When some customers receive their electricity bill, the rate is higher despite using the same amount of energy.
- When turning on multiple appliances, the lights dim or turn off. Some residents cannot run multiple appliances at the same time.
- All residents should qualify for lower cost (some residents that are homeowners don't qualify for programs and can't afford the bill/bill increases).
- Community members can't live without electricity (people need food in the fridge, clean clothes, etc.).
- Electricity bills have gone up.
- Some residents have to make tradeoffs between food and utilities to pay the bills.

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- Disconnect appliances and chargers not in use
- Don't use hot water when the weather is hot
- Resident's children remind them to unplug anything not in use.
- Medical devices
- Residents noted that they use both gas and electric water heaters.
- Some community members' apartments pay for electricity and gas.

- Some customers are mindful of appliances aging.
- Turn off lights and appliances during peak times
- Use cool zones, or go to the pool or beach to avoid using energy in the home
- Use efficient light bulbs and windows
- Well-maintained electric plugs positively affect the operation of appliances.
- CARE program
- Family-based program
- Low-income programs
- Information about programs is important for some community members. They noted they don't have any information now.
- Live in Section 8 housing and don't have to pay for electricity
- Neighbors reduce use because of lost jobs (and inability to pay their high bills).
- Load washers with more to do fewer loads

How is climate change affecting you?

- Air pollution increases allergies and eye irritation
- Drought; the community is drier and water is drying up
- Homes feel suffocating from the heat and some residents are using more air conditioning as a result
- Less water in the estuary
- Loss of glacial ice habitat
- Loss of species
- Many animals are leaving their habitats because they are losing habitat.
- More hurricanes and tornados
- No rain/less rain than usual
- Outlets in some homes are heating up
- Sea levels rising
- Skin issues are increasing from the sun.
- Some residents are becoming dehydrated faster. They are changing their schedules based on the sun and heat.
- The number of earthquakes is increasing (some noted this is because of the increased heat)
- The weather is not as cold during the winter; some residents use their heaters less during winter.
- Wildfires
- Air pollution is increasing from cars.

- Climate change is expensive and many community members are facing other social and income-related issues.
- Energy bill increases due to running the air conditioning more
- Heat island effect; some communities need more trees and canopy to counter this.
- Increased gas use
- Increased stress on low-income communities as a result of climate change
- Asthma and other chronic illnesses are occurring more commonly.
- Cars are overheating.
- Increased use of fans in summer and heaters during winter
- Kids get sick, are stressed out, and are upset when it is hot.
- Smog is increasing.
- Some community members haven't turned on air conditioning because it is expensive despite being very hot in the home.
- The Tijuana River and landfill smells get worse when the temperature rises.

What interests you about renewable energy (i.e., clean energy or green energy)?

- Accessible to community
- Green energy is life.
- It recuperates the earth.
- There is less pollution as a result.
- Affordable transition
- Community's ability to sell electricity and make money
- Electric vehicle stations and access in the community
- It will be a sustainable system.
- The cheapest option is of interest.
- It seems that it will cost less.
- We need more information about renewable energy.

Appendix B

Project New Village Input

General Questions and Comments

- Can there be a cap on bill/rates?
- Is SDCP advocating for customers in Sacramento?
- Is SDCP advancing local energy development to reduce transmission costs?
- SDCP needs to make the local investment.
- What is delivery charge vs. generation charge?
- Is SDCP an alternative to SDG&E? Do I still need SDG&E for delivery?
- Are you here to hear from us about where we want solar?
- Even when SDG&E is reprimanded, they keep raising rates.
- What programs will reduce my delivery fee?
- Is there a plan for policy advocacy? How does the community and those connected to it help?
- Why does SDG&E still have to be in the equation (delivery fee)?

Dot Activity Results: What types of energy and climate solutions would you be most interested in?

- Solar panels: 8
- All-electric appliances: 5
- Electric transportation and charging: 6
- More efficient appliances: 4
- Improved comfort through insulation, efficient windows, or other weatherization: 4
- Smart, internet-connected thermostats: 2
- More efficient lights: 2
- Batteries (energy storage): 2
- Other: 4 (reasonable public transit, reduce vehicle miles)

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Be able to afford additional lights
- Be intentional with outreach and expand who outreach is done with
- Cooling centers so community members don't have to turn on air conditioning at home (provide cooling centers that are open after hours)
- Create programs to help customers meet challenges and help them understand bills
- Don't let San Diego renew the SDG&E 10-year franchise deal
- Help community members examine their solar options

- Expand the number of people in the conversation
- Expanding or making programs like Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) accessible to apartment owners (change the policy)
- Focus on CalEnviroScreen areas (they should be the first priority for alternative energy)
- Give money to those most in need to reduce environmental impact
- Help everyone get off the grid
- Help community members assess solar options and understand options besides the bigger companies
- Home infrastructure upgrades and panel upgrades
- Invest in building electrification
- Lowering delivery charge
- Map cooling centers
- Microgrids/off-grid solutions
- Microgrid capacity building for community-based organizations
- Microgrids in Communities of Concern
- Minimize transmission
- New construction should include renewable energy.
- Partner with environmental leaders, community leaders, and other local efforts
- Create policies to ensure a just transition
- Prioritize solar locally
- Reduce the energy burden for communities
- Sell power to SDCP (instead of buying power)
- Underground power lines in communities – it is healthier and improves aesthetics
- Help community members with understanding bills and provide technical assistance
- Ensure community members can leave lights on for safety without being afraid of high bills

When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?

- Affordability
- Residents are limited to SDG&E. Make it a public-owned utility.
- Peak time-of-use hours are not practical for working people.
- CARE program participants are excluded from time-of-use rates.
- Conduct a feasibility study for San Diego for public power and meeting the requirements

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- Solar panels and Net Energy Metering (NEM) make differences in bills – used Grid Alternatives. Provide grants to help people. (2 comments)

- Grants for panel and home infrastructure upgrades (e.g., solar)
- CARE program to ensure residents have the same bill or a stable bill

How is climate change affecting you?

- Kids have more asthma at earlier ages.
- Hotter weather and fewer cool temperatures in the evenings; it is more uncomfortable in homes, especially for residents with no air conditioning.
- Algae blooms are increasing, which impacts the drinking water. Algae blooms are affecting the water and increasing costs.
- The cost of air conditioning is too high/residents are running air conditioning more.
- Some residents are changing when they do laundry to manage costs.
- The water is warmer.
- Food insecurity due to higher prices
- Increases in wildfires
- Ecological anxiety and concerns for the future
- Some residents feel a sense of guilt for their consumption and energy use.
- Fears for the future and more people experiencing climate disasters
- Anxiety about climate change and the slowness of the City of San Diego Climate Action Plan
- Some community members are driving more because it's too hot to walk or bike.
- Flooding and extreme weather events are affecting families
- Climate change is affecting everyone through environmental justice, financial burdens, higher costs of water, food, energy, and many others.

What interests you about renewable energy (i.e., clean energy or green energy)?

- Clean/green energy are healthier options.
- It allows for self-sustainability/ownership

Appendix C

MAAC (North Session) Input

General Questions and Comments

- Is this a new project in partnership with SDG&E?
- Will all San Diego County have the option to change to this new program and starting when?

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Help us find ways to reduce electricity use at home with more efficient electronics.
- Bring more knowledge to community
- Interpret in different languages
- Explain the SDG&E bill
- People are not sure where all of the energy they are consuming is coming from.
- Offering community knowledge of bills and how to find ways to reduce energy bills would be very helpful.
- I agree with transparency on what's being billed.
- How can solar power be an option for schools and healthcare facilities? Creating a win-win
- I agree about knowledge.

When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?

- How to keep the level of use low when everything in our apartments is electric
- Unplug electronics when not in use and choose the right LED bulb
- Knowing whether fans or air conditioning takes more energy
- When and for how long can I use certain types of (cooling options)
- Why don't you partner with the City of Chula Vista and the Nature Center? Make it more effective even for people who pay rent on the lease?
- At times the bills are so high.

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- I once bought energy efficient appliances that use less energy, like a washing machine.
- I sometimes minimize the rate at which I fast to save energy. I basically cook fast food.
- CARE program
- CARE program really helps; it's there if you need it.
- Does not use CARE; they are young and able to work, so as a family feel like they should leave those resources to people who are in even more need
- Does not use CARE
- Homeowners pay more than low-income or people who don't have low incomes. Both parties need help in the CARE program.

- Many people don't think they'll qualify and don't want to go through the hassle of getting documents.
- For a lot of communities, language is a barrier.
- LIHEAP has really been helping so far in providing assistance to low-income families.

How is climate change affecting you?

- Using air conditioning much more
- Climate change is affecting everyone
- People go places like malls and libraries to cool down
- Extreme weather events

What interests you about renewable energy (i.e., clean energy or green energy)?

- Really important that SDG&E promote their use of clean energy

Appendix D

MAAC (East Session) Input

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Creation of local jobs
- To create jobs
- To have better lighting for more security within the communities (Tener mejor alumbrado para más seguridad en la comunidad)
- Creating more jobs
- It would help most low-income families with sustainability.
- Be able to give quick responses to complaints
- Make services cheaper
- Creating job opportunities
- Cleaner and renewable power to support healthier communities
- Creation of jobs
- Due attention should be given priority
- Prioritize employment of locals
- I think creating job opportunities and paying necessary attention to details

When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?

- High cost (9 comments)
- Weather (2 comments)
- Improve electricity
- High voltage
- Large consumption rate of electricity by some machines
- Grid modernization

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- CARE program through SDG&E
- The electricity bill is included in my apartment, but we are still trying to reduce electricity usage.
- Adjust my appliances' temperature (e.g., refrigerator)
- Unplug unused electronics
- Reduce some power
- Turning off high-consumption electric appliances
- Using natural light
- LIHEAP through SDG&E
- Avoid using high energy consumption machines (e.g., washing machine)

- Turning off appliances when not in use
- Power reduction (2 comments)
- Taking shorter showers
- Use LED bulbs
- Using natural light (2 comments)

How is climate change affecting you?

- Higher temperatures
- It is a significant impact because of the heat it requires the need to use air conditioning more often, which uses more energy.
- More health risks
- Take more showers (more water consumption)
- Seriously
- Fairly at the moment (2 comments)
- Not so much
- Not too bad
- Temperature is a bit unfriendly. It has been a bit high for me. I do not know if everyone feels the same way.
- Higher electrical bills and blackouts
- I am surely not a friend of high temperatures and that is exactly what I experienced recently. I feel a lot of discomfort.
- Climate change has led to a scarcity of water, seasons of drought, and excess flood, which affected agricultural activities and caused loss of food, and affected animals. Those in agriculture know better.
- High electricity
- Weather is unfriendly at the moment.
- High temperature

What interests you about renewable energy (i.e., clean energy or green energy)?

- Have a better quality of energy for a better future of our children
- That it provides a path to end our dependence on fossil fuels
- Clean air
- It is absolutely clean.
- It is ecosystem friendly.
- Zero carbon emissions
- It's environmentally comfortable.
- It's certainly clean.
- No pollutants (2 comments)
- They don't emit greenhouse gasses.

- Reduces carbons emission
- Clean air and water (2 comments)
- Promote sound health
- Less polluting to the environment
- No carbon emissions polluting the atmosphere
- Green Energy: Because it creates stable energy prices
- It never runs out.
- Stability
- It is reliable
- Improve public health
- It reduces pollution and ensures a clean environment, thereby preventing some diseases that could spread due to a polluted environment.
- Has less effect on global warming
- Increase clean energy production
- It would help most low-income families with sustainability

Appendix E

Art Produce Input

General Questions and Comments

- How does individual solar impact what SDCP and SDG&E are doing?
- Generally, participants noted a lack of trust in SDG&E.
- Where are the renewable power systems coming from?
- Where is SDCP getting its renewable energy?
- When requests to use less energy are sent to consumers, how does that affect amusement parks or golf courses?
- Does the CPP cover the entire San Diego region? How will it work for specific communities and their needs?
- When will SDCP report back to the community?

Dot Activity Results: What types of energy and climate solutions would you be most interested in?

- Solar panels: 4
- All-electric appliances: 3
- Electric vehicle transportation and charging: 3
- More efficient appliances: 3
- Improved comfort through insulation, efficient windows, or other weatherization: 5
- Smart, internet-connected thermostats: 0
- More efficient lights: 0
- Batteries (energy storage): 4
- Other: 2

What is your community working on right now?

- Safe/comfortable working conditions with heat/cold
- No money
- Resurfacing asphalt
- New power lines
- Road work
- I wish it was homelessness.
- Going electric
- Collecting rainwater

When it comes to electricity and energy at your house, what issues do you face?

- In older homes, gathering the money to purchase more efficient appliances often leaves homes in a more wasteful cycle.

- Upgrading electrical panels for more power
- Staying cool
- Consistent and working outlets (and electrical systems)
- Mostly cost
- Efficient, affordable air conditioning
- Electrical undergrounding
- Storing energy
- SDG&E is expensive.
- Need an electric range and dryer
- Insulated walls
- Temperature control without proper insulation
- Energy is expensive.
- Efficient solar water heater or heat pump
- Electrical appliances upgrade

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Lower rents to help with housing costs
- Make solar panels more available
- Provide affordable homes for purchase
- Stop non-local, mass-produced energy
- Offer different types of battery storage
- Generate energy locally and use it as soon as possible (don't rely on storage)
- Combine community centers with electric vehicle charging stations
- Use solar panels to help with shading and cooling
- Activating rooftops
- Help people with upgrades, understanding how to upgrade, and why they should pay for grid upgrades
- Improve indoor air quality by helping people switch to electric from gas
- Keep electrical wires above ground unless necessary
- Affordable housing (2 comments)
- Solar panels everywhere – on garages, parking structures, etc.
- Solar water heaters
- Option for an energy provider
- Turn empty buildings into community assets
- Issues with density (housing)
- Advocacy
- Old houses are expensive to heat or cool (weatherize homes)

- Install insulation and sealant
- More education and outreach about SDCP
- Charging stations
- Affordable electric vehicles
- Usable and affordable public transit

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- CARE program
- Light bulb replacement and transformers through SDG&E (but they did not take the old lightbulbs; individuals are left with the responsibility of disposing)
- Rain barrels
- It is difficult to find information about programs.
- Lower use of air conditioning
- Use heat pumps
- Insulation
- Stay in cooler rooms/use shading
- Use tree canopy for shade/cooling
- Unplug/turn off lights when not in use
- Not using electricity during peak times (4:00-9:00 p.m.)
- Air dry clothes
- Energy efficient light bulbs
- Skylights (no need to turn on lights in summer)
- Would like to install solar

How is climate change impacting you?

- Less rain
- Excessive heat for longer periods, causing heat strokes
- Increased humidity
- Increased pollen and allergies
- Some companies are not responding to changes in the climate (i.e., aren't using shade and cooling for health and safety during heat waves).
- Impacts to jobs
- Climate migration
- Mosquitoes/bugs are migrating to the region.
- Mental health issues and trauma related to climate change
- No rain
- California is in a drought.
- Heat rises

- Seeing heat rise in other countries
- More opportunities for cooling
- Heat is hazardous to outside jobs (e.g., construction).
- Health conditions
- Not enough water
- Inflation on everything

What interests you about renewable energy?

- Being empowered with education about opportunities
- More accessible programs
- Being a part of the change
- Cleaner air
- Addressing historical challenges
- Renewable technology
- Inflation Reduction Act money is available to help with climate justice.
- Youth are more involved.
- Being able to have these conversations and share information with communities
- Making information available for all communities (can explore hyperlocal focused groups to share information)
- Opportunities to communicate information through youth
- Ensure those that don't speak English can still participate
- Affordable housing
- Solar everywhere
- Not feeling guilty for driving
- Better public transportation
- It offers freedom and autonomy.
- No equity without renewable
- Agrivoltaics – solar generation and farming
- Invest back into the community
- Job creation

Appendix F

Chicano Federation Input

General Questions and Comments

- Does SDCP offer low-income programs?
- Are people automatically transferred to SDCP?
- Does SDCP cost more than SDG&E?
- When will people begin to see the transition to SDCP?
- Will the bill still come from SDG&E, or do we have to coordinate with a new agency?
- Is SDCP working in partnership with SDG&E?
- Will there be programs to help customers pay bills (e.g., if they are late or can't pay)?
- How will people select which program they want to use?
- What are the benefits of using Power100?
- Will our consumption be represented by SDCP?
- What additional assistance will SDCP offer?
- Is the rate the same throughout the whole year?
- Will SDG&E be eliminated?
- Where is the discount for community members?
- Will SDCP offer solar panels?
- Why do we have to pay for light/electricity?

Dot Activity Results: What types of energy and climate solutions would you be most interested in?

- Solar panels: 0
- All-electric appliances: 1
- Electric vehicle transportation and charging: 1
- More efficient appliances: 4
- Improved comfort through insulation, efficient windows, or other weatherization: 4
- Smart, internet-connected thermostats: 2
- More efficient lights: 0
- Batteries (energy storage): 2
- Other: 1 (grants + stipends to purchase electric vehicles)

How can SDCP help you and your community?

- Homes should have more ventilation to avoid using air conditioning/fans excessively (4 comments)
- Energy efficient appliances to reduce energy use/bills
- Additional programs for discounts, even for middle-class households

- Programs to help low- and middle-income people obtain air conditioning units/heaters that keep homes at a safe temperature without using too much energy
- Efficient lights and window upgrades to make homes more energy efficient
- Keeping costs low is important
- New boilers to reduce energy use

When it comes to electricity and energy use at your house, what issues do you face?

- Poor ventilation in homes
- Poor insulation and appliances that are not energy efficient, windows, and lights use up a lot of energy
- High bills
- What are the benefits to communities to transition to SDCP if they are still paying the same high prices?
- Middle-income communities often don't qualify for programs.
- Staying cool during heat waves
- Health issues – how can this program prioritize elders and people with health issues?
- Make appliances safe to use at all times, especially during peak times
- Heat pump air conditioners instead of heaters only in apartments
- Renters need to check with apartment owners to do upgrades – split the incentive so benefits also go to renters
- Need better cooling and to be able to pay the bills to keep homes cool
- Make programs that include all areas/allow more people to qualify
- Share information about programs to communities in their bill
- Provide programs for all income levels

What programs do you use to reduce your electricity use or your electric bill?

- Turn off lights and appliances not in use
- Leave home/go to cooling centers to avoid using cooling (this is challenging for many low-income families)
- Limiting cooking to reduce temperatures in the home