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Sonoma Clean Power and CTE Foundation Expand Free STEM Kit Access for Schools in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

Santa Rosa, Calif., August 17, 2026 – [Sonoma Clean Power \(SCP\)](#), the public power provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties, and the [Career Technical Education \(CTE\) Foundation](#) are expanding hands-on clean energy education through a free STEM Kit Lending Library now available to middle and high school teachers throughout the region.

The library marks a new chapter in a partnership between SCP and CTE Foundation that began with SCP's first grant for Switch EV programs in 2017. The current agreement continues through June 30, 2027. Previously, the organizations placed 10 Switch EV Labs at regional schools, giving students opportunities to build an electric vehicle from start to finish. The new lending model builds on that work with shorter, more affordable projects that fit into existing science, math, engineering, and automotive courses without requiring specialized training for teachers.

Following a beta test during the 2025-26 school year, SCP and CTE Foundation are opening the library to more classrooms this fall, ahead of a formal launch and ribbon cutting planned for January 2027.

In the 2025-26 school year, the lending library pilot and Switch EV initiatives engaged 267 students in grades 8-12. More broadly, SCP-supported STEM and climate programs reached more than 18,000 students throughout its service area that year, reflecting SCP's commitment to education and workforce development.

"Meeting our clean energy goals will take more than new technology. It will take a skilled local workforce," said Geof Syphers, CEO of Sonoma Clean Power. "Through partnerships like this one, we can help students begin exploring careers in clean energy and the skilled trades while they are still in school."

Funded by SCP and administered by CTE Foundation, the library rotates kits among schools rather than assigning them to a single campus. After the recent purchase of 10 additional Switch Relay Lab Kits, the library now includes three sets of Switch Relay Lab Kits and one set of Lectec Kits. Across four checkout periods each school year, the library can serve up to 16 classrooms, expanding access for schools without dedicated CTE programs or technical facilities. CTE Foundation plans to purchase another set of STEM kits before the January launch, which would increase capacity to as many as 18 classrooms during the second semester.



Switch Relay Lab Kits allow students to build and troubleshoot low-voltage circuits using components found in automotive, electrical, and manufacturing systems. Lectec Kits focus on EV design and sustainable transportation as students assemble and test electric skateboard and scooter platforms. Each kit includes teacher resources and a seven-lesson Sustainable STEM curriculum covering engineering, materials science, algebra, data analysis, renewable energy, and fuel systems.

“Every classroom is different, so teachers need resources they can adapt,” said Brandon Jewell, Director of Programs at CTE Foundation. “This library gives educators the flexibility to use the kits in ways that fit their students, schedules, and curriculum.”

The pilot included 64 students at Montgomery High School, the Academy of Innovative Arts in West Sonoma County, and Mendocino High School. All three participating teachers said they would use the kits again and recommend the program to their peers, citing strong student engagement, teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance.

“There is a big difference between reading about electric technology and making it work with your own hands,” said Sean Dalton, Events Manager at Sonoma Clean Power. “Giving students the chance to experiment, make mistakes, and solve problems is what makes this kind of learning stick.”

Teachers can now reserve kits for the fall semester, with the first checkout period beginning August 24. Kits are available for pickup at SCP’s Customer Center in downtown Santa Rosa.

To view available kits, curriculum details, checkout dates, and reservation information, visit the [STEM Kit Lending Library](#).

About Sonoma Clean Power

Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is the public power provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties, serving about half a million people and investing in its communities through partnerships targeting climate solutions, education, and the fundamental needs of residents. Its EverGreen service is the only 100 percent locally generated energy option available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and customers also have the option to earn cash rewards through SCP’s award-winning demand response Rewards program. In downtown Santa Rosa, SCP operates its Customer Center, dedicated to helping customers cut their energy costs and improve energy efficiency in their homes. To learn more, visit sonomacleanpower.org or call 1 (855) 202-2139.

About Career Technical Education Foundation

Founded in 2012, Career Technical Education (CTE) Foundation is a Sonoma County nonprofit organization with a mission to innovate the education-to-career experience to strengthen student success. For over a decade, CTE Foundation has provided funding to schools to help them create and enhance more than 145+ CTE courses in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, engineering, health care and hospitality. The organization has also collaborated with education and industry partners to create countywide programs that provide students with a pathway to post-secondary education and careers. Since its founding, CTE Foundation has invested more than \$18.2 Million in local schools and career



exploration opportunities for Sonoma County students and has deepened its investments and commitment to student success through innovative, career-connected learning that increases student engagement, brings relevancy to classroom learning, and gives young people hope for a future in Sonoma County. For more information, visit www.ctesonomacounty.org.

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