

Sonoma Clean Power to double first customers served

Sonoma Clean Power will be doubling the size of its service launch from 10,000 to 20,000 customers in the initial phase, with an emphasis on commercial customers who are slated to start receiving service on May 1, 2014.

Most residential customers will be eligible for service in one of the two later phases at the start of 2015 and the start of 2016.

The updated plan improves finances for the program by serving a larger customer base more quickly, while providing a better schedule for educating customers and setting rates. Customers will receive two enrollment notices before their Sonoma Clean Power service starts and two more after.

"SCP is currently negotiating with power suppliers to ensure the best mix of cleaner power sources at the most competitive rates. With 79% of the County participating, that really increases our negotiating power. Contracts are expected to be signed by November 2013," Says Geof Syphers, CEO of the new power provider.

While negotiations are underway, Sonoma Clean Power is seeking applications from interested community members who wish to be considered to serve on two committees: the Business Operations Committee and the Ratepayer Advisory Committee.

The Business Operations Committee will meet monthly during the start up phase. Members will be appointed to staggered four year terms with a commitment of approximately four hours monthly. Members must have business or professional experience in certain specific areas.

The Ratepayer Advisory Committee will meet 4 times in 2013, and generally 3 times each following year to advise on the annual rate process. Members will be drawn from commercial and residential customers, and will be appointed to staggered four year terms.

More information regarding the duties and powers of these two committees can be found on the Sonoma Clean Power website. Applications are available at sonomacleanpower.org.

SCP is the new, locally-controlled electricity provider in Sonoma County. It will offer residential and commercial customers in participating areas the option of using more environmentally friendly power, generated by renewable sources—like solar, wind and geothermal—at competitive rates. SCP will serve customers in the Cities of Sonoma, Santa Rosa, Cotati, Windsor, and Sebastopol, and in the unincorporated area of the County.