

Pioneer Community Energy offers local control of our electricity
Now serving El Dorado and Placer counties!

our Power our Choice



Powering today, empowering tomorrow

Pioneer puts community first while fulfilling energy needs

Locally controlled, locally operated, locally focused; Pioneer Community Energy is your community choice for electricity needs.

Pioneer is a community-owned electricity provider, powering the communities it serves with competitive rates, reliable service and a choice in energy options. That includes 100% green energy via Pioneer's Green100 program.

"We created Pioneer to provide local control over our current and future energy costs."

Jim Holmes
Chairman, Pioneer Community Energy
board of directors
Placer County supervisor

With its decision makers here in the communities it serves, Pioneer is a true community partner, offering reliable energy solutions and positive local impact. Why? Pioneer is powered by the communities it serves, not corporate shareholders.

Founded in 2017, Pioneer is a "community choice aggregation program" that serves more than 94,000 residents in Placer County including Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis and Rocklin. Soon, Pioneer will be offering its program to El Dorado County residents and businesses, too, with an anticipated customer base of more than 160,000.

As a CCA, Pioneer is a community-owned and operated energy provider, controlled by customers – not private outside investors. Pioneer keeps money spent on energy in its communities.

Its totally local board of directors truly represents

our region; its governing board is made up of local elected officials including county supervisors, mayors and city council members. Pioneer's customer service is also local with help only a phone call away.

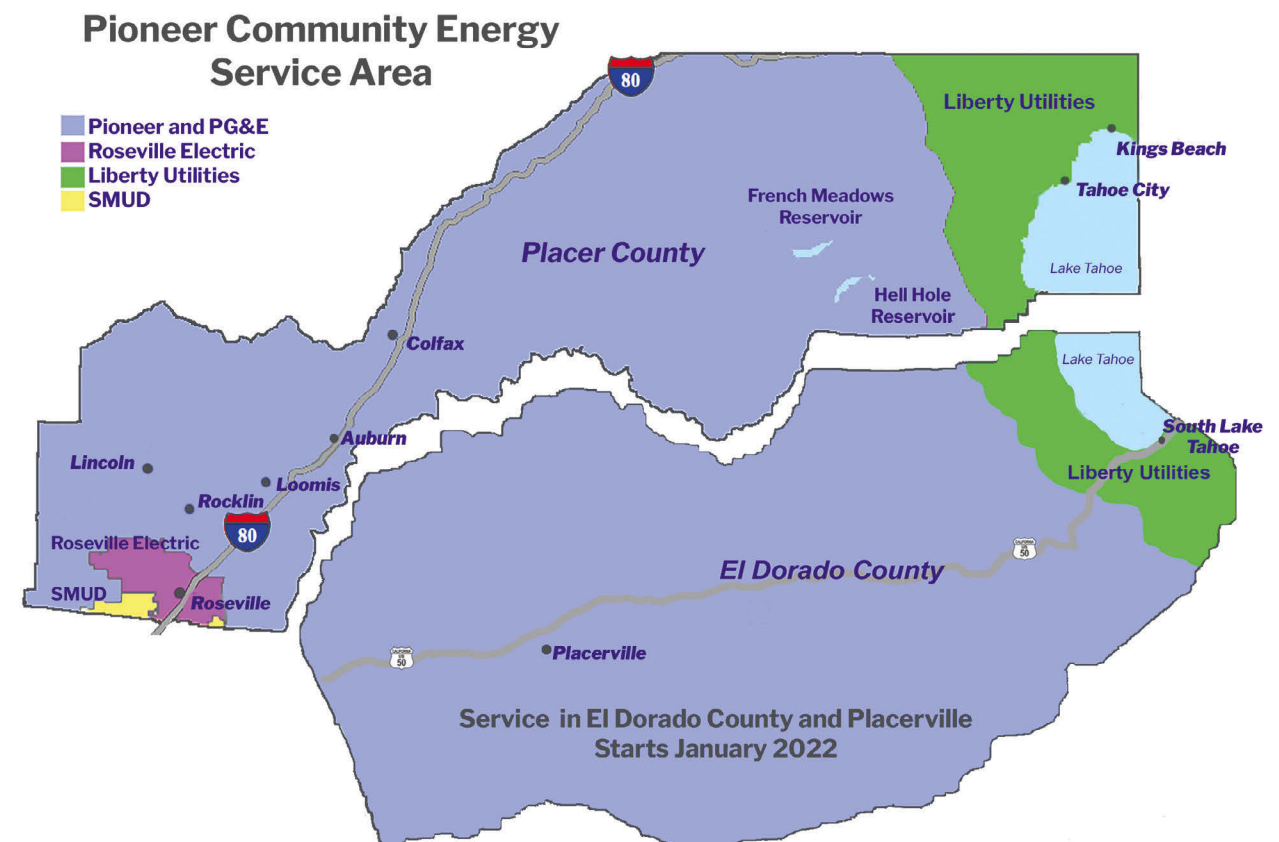
With that local focus comes independence; that's what distinguishes Pioneer from investor-owned PG&E. Pioneer and its employees are not only members of the community they serve, but true advocates for customers. Pioneer invests in local businesses, grid resiliency and community well-being – not corporate payouts.

Pioneer also knows its customers depend on its service 24/7. It goes above and beyond to provide stable and competitive rates while working to lessen the impact of Public Safety Power Shutoffs and improve grid resiliency.

At the same time, Pioneer continually strives to improve its service and customer programs. Recently, it formed a Community Programs Advisory Committee (CPAC), an 11-member panel of volunteers from Placer and El Dorado counties to provide public insight and perspective on ratepayer benefit programs.

"We created Pioneer to provide local control over our current and future energy costs, and part of that control is determining what types of customer programs we would like to offer," says Pioneer board chairman Jim Holmes, who also serves as a Placer County supervisor. "Local control also means inviting the public to help us shape those programs through CPAC."

With Pioneer, community always comes first.



Local Matters

Pioneer keeps control and funds at home

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Conventional wisdom tells businesses that local sourcing has more advantages than outsourcing, no matter what the product. There's more quality control, for one thing. For another, operations are more transparent. It's also important that locally generated funds remain within their communities.

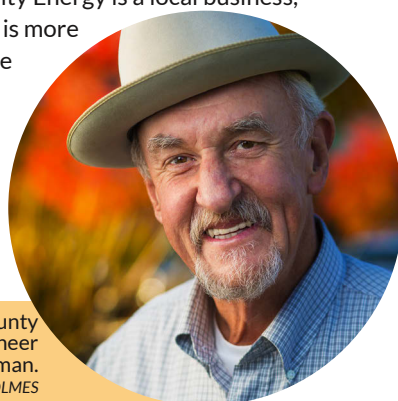
Those factors are especially true of Pioneer Community Energy, the community-owned and operated energy provider serving more than 94,000 residents and businesses throughout Placer County. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, Pioneer will begin service in El Dorado County, including the city of Placerville, adding 68,000 more accounts. Since Pioneer is a community-owned energy provider, Pioneer customers – not a group of distant shareholders – drive what local programs and energy products Pioneer will provide.

Control is local. Pioneer's nine-member board of directors consists of elected local officials, including county supervisors and city council members – folks known within the community.

One of them is Jim Holmes, a member of the Placer County Board of Supervisors and this year's Pioneer Community Energy board chair.

"Because the board is made of elected local officials, our customers with questions about how we do business have access to us," Holmes says. "We're more accountable and responsive to our customers than non-local companies. We're accessible every day, either in our offices or out in the community. If people have an issue, they can call their representative on the Pioneer board."

Because Pioneer Community Energy is a local business, Holmes points out, "our board is more involved on a regular basis. We keep abreast of what's going on. Our business model is one of maintaining local control and giving public access to us decision-makers."



Jim Holmes, Placer County supervisor, serves as Pioneer Community Energy's board chairman.
PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM HOLMES

HOW TO READ YOUR PG&E BILL



ENERGY STATEMENT

www.pge.com/MyEnergy

Account No:
Statement Date: 03/04/2021
Due Date: 03/25/2021

Typically Page 1 of Your Bill Service For:

PG&E collects the full bill.

This is the amount paid to Pioneer

Your Account Summary

Amount Due on Previous Statement	\$313.95
Payment(s) Received Since Last Statement	-313.95
Previous Unpaid Balance	\$0.00
Current PG&E Electric Delivery Charges	\$122.91
Pioneer Community Energy Electric Generation Charges	45.63
Current Gas Charges	138.30

Total Amount Due by 03/25/2021 \$306.84



ENERGY STATEMENT

www.pge.com/MyEnergy

Account No:
Statement Date: 03/04/2021
Due Date: 03/25/2021

Typically Page 3 of Your Bill

Details of PG&E Electric Delivery Charges

01/28/2021 - 02/25/2021 (29 billing days)

Service For:
Service Agreement ID:
Rate Schedule: E1 P Residential Service

01/28/2021 – 02/25/2021	Your Tier Usage	1	2
Tier 1 Allowance	348.00 kWh (29 days x 12.0 kWh/day)		
Tier 1 Usage	348.000000 kWh @ \$0.24986		\$86.95
Tier 2 Usage	240.796000 kWh @ \$0.31443		75.71
Generation Credit			-66.00
Power Charge Indifference Adjustment			25.95
Franchise Fee Surcharge			0.30

Total PG&E Electric Delivery Charges \$122.91

2017 Vintaged Power Charge Indifference Adjustment

Service Information

Meter # 1004893175
Total Usage 588.796000 kWh
Baseline Territory P
Heat Source B - Not Electric
Serial D
Rotating Outage Block 50

PG&E's cost for electricity is credited back to Pioneer customers
PG&E's exit fee - Changes annually



ENERGY STATEMENT

www.pge.com/MyEnergy

Account No:
Statement Date: 03/04/2021
Due Date: 03/25/2021

Typically Page 4 of Your Bill

Details of Pioneer Community Energy Electric Generation Charges

01/28/2021 - 02/25/2021 (29 billing days)

Service For:
Service Agreement ID: ESP Customer Number:

01/28/2021 – 02/25/2021

Rate Schedule: E-1			
Generation - Total	588.796000 kWh @ \$0.07719		\$45.45
	Net Charges	45.45	
Energy Commission Surcharge			0.18
Pioneer is committed to protecting customer privacy. See our privacy policy at pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/customer-privacy/			

Total Pioneer Community Energy Electric Generation Charges \$45.63

Service Information

Total Usage 588.796000 kWh

For questions regarding charges on this page, please contact:
PIONEER COMMUNITY ENERGY
2510 WARREN DR STE B
ROCKLIN CA 95677
1-844-937-7466
www.PioneerCommunityEnergy.ca.gov

Pioneer customers pay this for electricity. Pioneer receives no additional funds.

John Hidahl
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HIDAHL

Keeping the lights on

How local control makes a difference during Public Safety Power Shutoff

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

PIONEER AND PG&E: WHO DOES WHAT



Pioneer Community Energy, your local community energy provider, **purchases and provides the electric supply** used by homes and businesses.



The poles and wires that transmit Pioneer's electricity — the infrastructure — are owned by PG&E.

That makes Pioneer customers also PG&E customers.



PG&E continues to read meters and bill Pioneer/PG&E customers. Instead of PG&E's electric supply charges, those combined bills contain Pioneer's electric supply charges.

Learn more at www.pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov.

It's business as usual for PG&E to stage Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) in the summer, turning off electrical power to foothill communities to prevent electric grid-ignited wildfires.

But when PSPS events kept occurring in Auburn in 2019, then-city councilwoman Cheryl Maki noticed something disturbing. While City Hall had power, the Auburn Police Department next door — incredibly — did not. Old Town Auburn and the Gold Country Fairgrounds were powered, but KAHl radio was dark.

One paradox was that KAHl is part of the national Emergency Alert System, with a vital role in getting emergency information to communities — including alerts regarding PSPS outages.

Pioneer Community Energy, the locally governed energy provider, was asked to help find a solution. One of its experts examined the situation and consulted with PG&E, which manages the electric grid, to adjust some of its circuitry. As a result, the lights came back on — and remained on — in the police station and at KAHl.

KAHl news director Barry Stigers recalls being “totally frustrated that the switch had been turned off.”

“Prior to that incident, there were times we had gone an entire week with no power,” Stigers says. “It's vital that our power stay on during PSPS events, based on who we are — the only emergency voice in Placer County that most people up here grew up with. But when PG&E's reliability became questionable, everyone suffered.”

The emotional issue of grid resiliency and the literal act of keeping the lights on in foothill communities continues as a hot-button issue.

John Hidahl, the current chairman of the

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and a Pioneer Community Energy board member, is frank about the question he is often asked: Will El Dorado County's move to Pioneer Energy on Jan. 1 change the situation with PSPS events?

“No, they will still be controlled by PG&E,” he says. “But Pioneer is making a difference by convincing PG&E that there are areas of emergency-services needs that require its resources to improve continued connectivity.”

Simply put, being local has its advantages. One of Pioneer's main strengths is the “community choice aspect and the services it provides,” Hidahl points out. “It emphasizes the purchase of electrical power from local sources.”

Pioneer offers an option not available from other area power companies. Its Green100 program supplies 100% renewable energy “for those who want to minimize greenhouse gases,” Hidahl says. “Pioneers has the opportunity to create other programs, as well. It's flexible and agile.”

“There were times we had gone an entire week with no power.”

Barry Stigers
KAHl news director

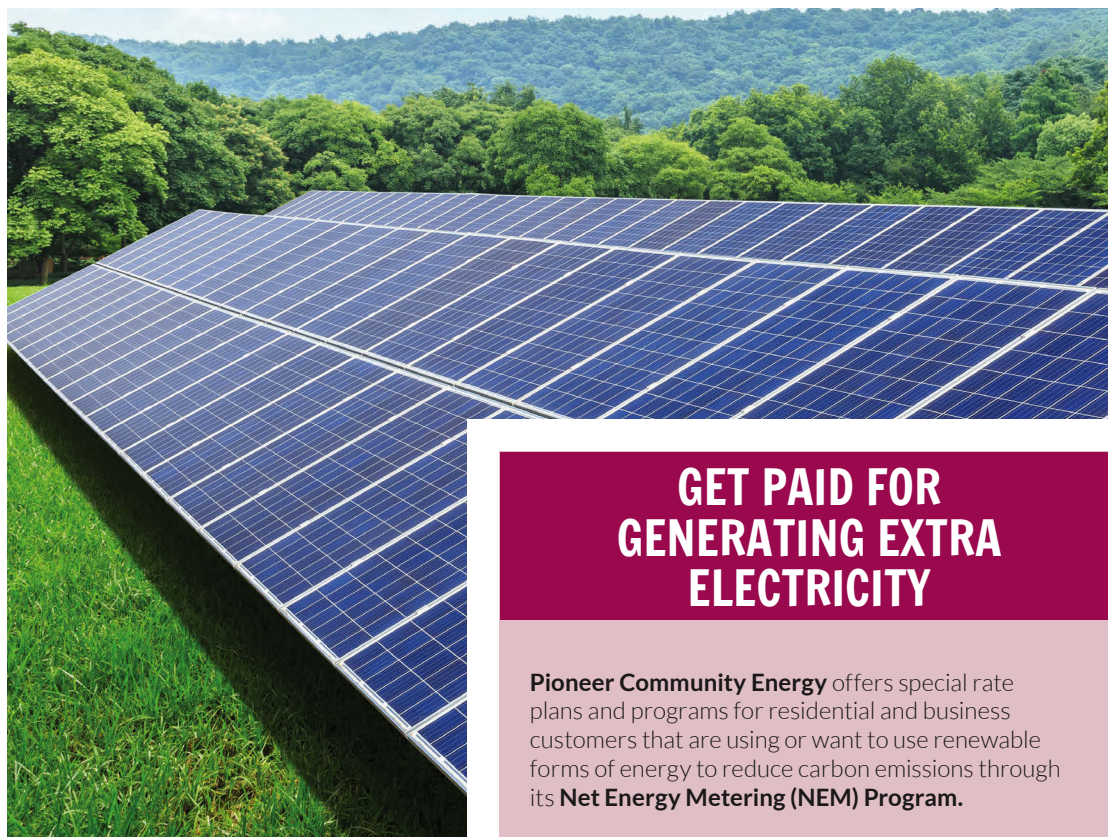


Barry Stigers
PHOTO COURTESY OF KAHl

Harnessing power of the sun

Pioneer supports customers who go green

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT



Farmers know the power of the sun; they rely on it every day. They also realize the sun can do a lot more than grow plants.

Edward Horton is a Pioneer Community Energy customer whose family grows bearded irises and pumpkins at the Horton Iris Garden in Loomis. Pioneer Community Energy is a locally controlled, nonprofit partnership that gives customers electric power at competitive rates.

Horton says Pioneer supports customers like him who have made the switch to solar energy. Currently, his home and every building on his ranch relies on solar power for electricity.

Horton has solar panels on the roof of his storage building because the building can draw the maximum amount of energy from the sun, unlike his house which is surrounded by trees, he says.

"I went solar years ago under one of the original programs," he explains. "But when Pioneer came into existence, I moved over to their solar program the day it was available."

In fact, Pioneer Community Energy's Net Energy Metering program rewards customers like Horton with an annual cash-out payment if the customer has generated more electricity than used over the previous 12 months. Customers whose cash out is more than \$25 receive a check, and those less than \$25, customers get a bill credit.

"We're hooked into the grid," says Horton, "but we make all the electricity we can. Anything that we don't use goes back into the grid, and we get credit for it.

"And if our solar doesn't generate enough for our immediate use," says Horton, "then we get our energy off the grid that's billed through Pioneer."

In Colfax, fellow Pioneer Community Energy customer Connie Heilaman is operating two businesses: a window treatment design firm and a gift shop, Connie's Decor.

Heilaman, who first opened her businesses in 1976, says she has been a Pioneer customer from the start.

"I thought Pioneer was a better and less expensive source for giving us electricity at a lower cost," she says.

Heilaman says she started using solar power about a year and a half ago.

"I have always been one who believes in being a good steward of our natural resources," she says.

If needed, Pioneer provides her with electricity beyond what her solar panels can produce, she says.

Like Heilaman, Horton says he is pleased with Pioneer Community Energy.

"Pioneer has been fine to work with, and they do their best to provide us with the lowest rates available," he says. "They have through the last two or three years maintained rates that are equal to or lower than PG&E rates."

"We make all the electricity we can. Anything that we don't use goes back into the grid, and we get credit for it."

Edward Horton
Pioneer Community Energy
solar customer

GET PAID FOR GENERATING EXTRA ELECTRICITY

Pioneer Community Energy offers special rate plans and programs for residential and business customers that are using or want to use renewable forms of energy to reduce carbon emissions through its **Net Energy Metering (NEM) Program**.

What is the NEM Program? Pioneer's NEM program allows customers who generate solar to receive credit for their generation each month. Then once a year, Pioneer does a "cash out". With the cash out, if the customer has generated more electricity than used over the previous 12 months. Customers whose cash out is more than \$25 receive a check, and those less than \$25, customers get a bill credit.

What customers get: A check if their kilowatt-hour balances are equal to or greater than \$25. Customers get a credit on their next bill if their KWH balance is less than \$25.

To learn more: Visit www.pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/customers/solar-nem.

The Green100 Plan Rate

What is Green100? A renewable energy option offered by Pioneer Community Energy.

Who qualifies? Any residential or business customer desiring to reduce carbon emissions. Enrollment is voluntary.

What customers get: Electricity generated through 100 percent renewable sources, including geothermal, wind, solar, hydroelectric or biomass resources.

How to sign up: Visit www.pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/green100.

Lexi Boeger likes the idea of local control that Pioneer Community Energy provides.
PHOTO COURTESY OF LEXI BOEGER

The Pioneer Difference

Giving energy customers choices — and a voice

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT



Placerville freelance artist and graphic designer Lexi Boeger says she depends on PG&E to power up her home, including the computers she uses for her work.

The mother of two says, however, that she is considering making the switch to Pioneer Community Energy, which will soon be available in her community. Pioneer is a community-owned nonprofit partnership that provides electric power and related services directly to local residents and businesses. Currently in Placer County, Pioneer is expanding its services into El Dorado County in January 2022.

Unlike PG&E, Pioneer gives communities governing control so local citizens can make decisions on issues such as the rates charged and options for service.

Boeger's family has been growing grapes and making wine in El Dorado County for four generations. Besides her freelance work, Boeger also handles her family winery's marketing duties and serves as president of the El Dorado Winery Association, working with other local winemakers and grape growers.

As a utilities customer, Boeger says she likes that she now has the choice to either stay with PG&E exclusively or to give Pioneer a try.

"I believe that it's important to have competition," she says. "And, if I choose Pioneer, I can always switch back, so it gives me control over the choice."

Besides residential consumers like Boeger, Pioneer Community Energy is also attractive to companies that are considering moving their operations to the area, says Sherri Conway, the director of Placer County Economic Development.

One attractive offering is Pioneer's Green100 rate plan. Through this program, Pioneer customers looking to reduce their home's or company's carbon footprint can opt to receive electricity from 100% renewable resources.

"Those resources can include anything from geothermal to wind and solar, and that's important to a lot of corporations that are looking to establish roots here," she says.

"The green rate is a way for companies to meet state carbon reduction requirements," says Conway.

"That's an incentive for corporations like Amazon because many want to look at renewable energy options. So, because Pioneer offers that, I can build that into my proposals when we're looking to get a company to relocate here, or trying to retain one."

Meanwhile, Boeger says she likes that Pioneer Community Energy is locally controlled. A board of local elected officials govern Pioneer and all board meetings are open to the public so consumers can voice any concerns they have about power rates or other issues.

"There's an ability to give feedback and have influence," she says. "If we're happy with the service or not, we can voice our concerns from different perspectives. When you have a big monopoly in charge, you just feel like you're not being heard and that your needs aren't important because it's this big, untouchable entity."

Boeger says she will make her decision whether to switch to Pioneer soon.

"I like change," she says. "I like having choices, so I'm excited to see what Pioneer will do, and I think it's going to be good for the community."

"I like having choices, so I'm excited to see what Pioneer will do, and I think it's going to be good for the community."

Lexi Boeger
Placerville artist and
graphic designer

PROVIDING SOURCES FOR SAVING MONEY

Pioneer Community Energy helps customers save money through several programs:

- **Bill Protection:** This program protects customers who switch from a flat rate to the 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. peak hour Time-of-Use-C rate (TOUC). If a customer switches to TOUC, but pays more on TOUC than the customer would have paid on the original rate, Pioneer will refund the difference.
- **Budget Billing:** Customers may enjoy more manageable billing with payments divided evenly over 12 months based on the customer's energy usage history.
- **Income-qualified Home Energy Assistance Program:** This federal program assists low-income households with paying their current utility bills, weatherization projects, energy budget counseling and more.

Discount Programs

Eligible customers also can access these money-saving programs:

- **California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE):** An income-based utility bill discount program.
- **Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA):** An income- and household-based utility bill discount program.
- **Energy-saving rebates:** Rebates for using energy-efficient appliances, generators and ENERGY STAR water heaters and thermostats in the home.
- In addition, Pioneer Community Energy's new **Advisory Committee** launches this fall to develop new customer programs. The meetings will be open to the public. Watch for dates and times.

Learn more at pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov.



Auburn resident and business owner Scott Johnson gets power for both his home and business through Pioneer Community Energy's Green100 program.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

The Healthy Choice

Pioneer Community Energy's Green100 program offers clean energy options

BY ANNE STOKES

OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

In addition to its Green100 program, Pioneer Community Energy also can connect customers with other ways to lessen their environmental footprint *and* save money:

- The **California Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Project** (CALEVIP) provides incentives for electric vehicle charger installations.
- The **Inland Counties Incentive Project** provides \$17.5 million in funds for zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure in El Dorado, Placer, Butte, Yolo counties and other California communities.
- Stay cool and help prevent service interruptions with PG&E's free **SmartAC** incentive program that keeps your air conditioning running efficiently.
- Get rebates when you install **energy-efficient appliances**, thermostats and other products in single-family homes or multifamily units including apartment buildings, mobile home parks and condominium complexes.
- **SMUD's Energy and Technology Center** offers energy-efficient classes and seminars for both residential and commercial customers.

For more information on the Green100 program, visit online at pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/about-us/programs/.

Community Programs Advisory Committee

Pioneer taps into community expertise via its Community Programs Advisory Committee. Made up of customers who live or work in Pioneer's service area, this committee advises the Pioneer Community Energy Board about programs.

To learn more including possible participation, go to <http://pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/cpac/>.

These days, Californians can see and smell wildfire season, even if their own community isn't in flames. According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, studies have found hotter temperatures and less rainfall are a recipe for more intense and frequent wildfires. Those same studies implicate man-made climate change as the likely cause.

"We haven't had the sun unobstructed by the smoke here for weeks and it's been like this for the last three summers," says Scott Johnson. "It's going to get worse if we don't start reducing our carbon footprint."

Johnson, owner of Johnson Piano Service, has been living and doing business in the Auburn area since 1979. A longtime environmental advocate, Johnson was one of many local residents that lobbied the city of Auburn to implement a Green New Deal resolution in 2019. Today, Johnson gets power from Pioneer Community Energy's Green100 program. The program enables customers to source their electricity from 100% renewable energy, including:

- **Hydroelectric** power;
- **Solar** farms and panels on homes and local businesses;
- **Wind** energy; and
- **Biomass** that burns cleared forestry materials to power electricity-generating turbines.

Johnson notes that while it costs him an additional one cent per kilowatt hour, it's a small price that he's willing to pay for sustainability.

"For your average \$100 bill, it comes out to about \$5 a month. It's not a lot of money, but it is going to have an impact," he says. "When we're given an opportunity to move toward renewable resources rather than fossil fuels, I think it's incumbent upon all of us to pursue that, especially when it's this easy."

In El Dorado County, Pioneer Community Energy will begin providing services starting in January 2022 and Supervisor John Hidahl is already on board with the Green100 program.

"I think it's the right thing to do," he says. "The primary benefit of renewable energy (is) you get cleaner air ... and when it's all said and done, you can get back to a more natural environment."

Hidahl, who also serves on the Pioneer Community Energy Board of Directors, says that the Green100 option gives customers a choice in where they get their energy, something a lot of people appreciate.

"If you're buying your power from PG&E, they may be paying for some of it from solar, some of it from wind, some of it from fossil fuels," he says. "You can't pick 100% renewable from PG&E, but you can from Pioneer."

For more information on the Green100 program, visit pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov/green100/ or call 1-844-937-7466.

"When we're given an opportunity to move toward renewable resources rather than fossil fuels, I think it's incumbent upon all of us to pursue that, especially when it's this easy."

Scott Johnson
Auburn resident, business owner and
Pioneer Community Energy
customer

Choices that local customers like

Pioneer Community Energy responds to residents' needs in Placer and El Dorado counties

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Locally-owned and -operated energy provider Pioneer Community Energy specializes in offering its currently 94,000 — soon to be 160,000 — foothill customers choices.

One of the most popular is its 100% renewable energy option, Green100. Power sourcing for the program may include geothermal, wind, solar and hydroelectric.

It's a choice that Richard Hall signed up for when it became available in 2020. Hall is the CEO and founder of the Bottomline Lawyers firm in Auburn.

"We're witnessing the effects of climate change, and we want to participate in fixing that problem," explains Hall, who has been a Pioneer Community Energy client since the company was founded in 2017.

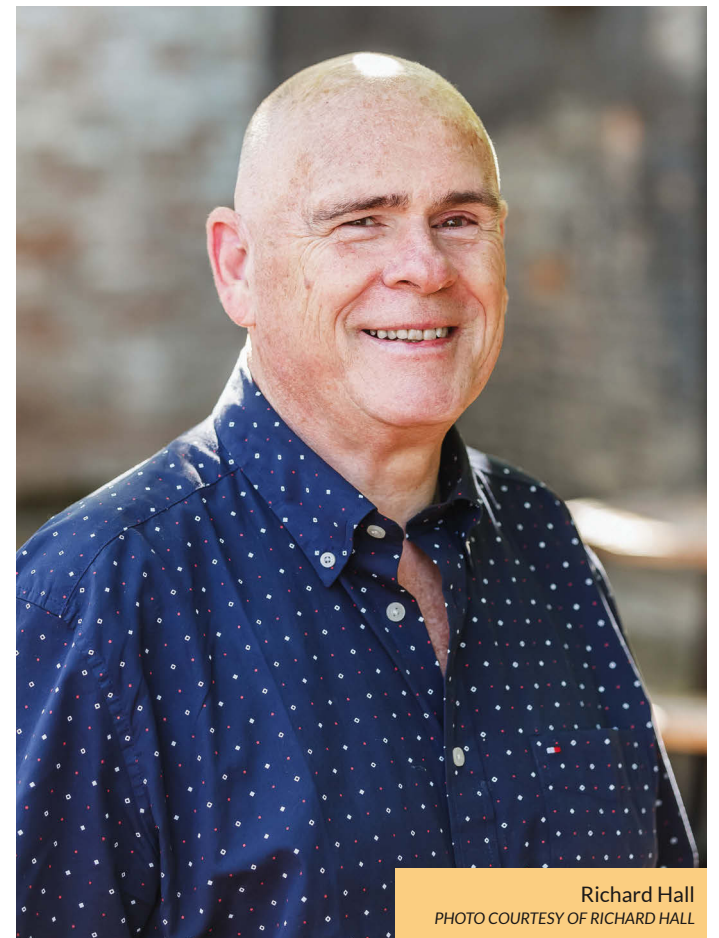
"Pioneer is a big supporter of local community efforts, and is able to pump money back into local concerns, whether those are energy related or community related," he adds. "The use of funds is happening here locally, as opposed to happening someplace where they don't even know what Auburn is."

"My experience with Pioneer was awesome even though I'm not a Pioneer customer. (Pioneer) not only answered all my questions, but created a spreadsheet so I could continue calculating whether I was getting the best rate. ... This is well beyond and above any type of service I've ever received from a utility company. As soon as my term with PG&E has ended, I will be moving over to Pioneer."

L. Ford

Pioneer's board of directors is more accountable, responsive and accessible than the key players at other power companies, Hall says. The reason is because the board is made up of local elected officials, who are accountable to voters and can readily monitor local issues.

Local control is better than long distance, Hall explains, "because we get to make choices here that ultimately contribute to the health of the local environment and the financial health of the local economy."



Richard Hall
PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD HALL

Competitive rates

Local control

Innovative programs

Learn more!

Pioneer Community Energy

2510 Warren Drive, Suite B
Rocklin, CA 95677

Office hours:

9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday

916-758-8969

or toll free **844-937-7466**

Pioneercommunityenergy.ca.gov