

COMMENTARY

Editorials, letters, columns and other opinions

Region's Clean Energy Plan is A Model for State



COMMENTARY
Robert Valderrama



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Jason Anderson

Having proven that clean energy can be a strong economic driver, **San Diego** has committed to achieving 100 percent renewable energy from sources like solar, wind, and geothermal energy by 2035. We believe the rest of the state can and should follow San Diego's lead.

California State Senate President Pro Tempore **Kevin de León** introduced Senate Bill 100, which would accelerate and increase California's existing requirements for power generated by renewable and zero carbon emission energy sources. The bill would move up the deadline to achieve 50 percent of power generation from such sources to 2026, raise the 2030 mandate to 60 percent, and calls for 100 percent of power generation from renewable and zero carbon emission sources by 2045.

California's climate and clean energy policies, many of which have been pioneered in San Diego, have been a boon for driving the state's energy economy and positioning the Golden State as a national and global clean energy leader.

California has the largest advanced energy industry in the United States, employing one in every six advanced energy workers nationwide. Employment in that sector grew at 18 percent in 2015, six times the rate of overall employment growth. In 2017, California employers

project that advanced energy employment will increase by another 8 percent.

Additionally, California continues to lead the country in attracting cleantech investment—reaching \$9.8 billion in 2015—in part because our policies drive demand for things like renewable energy, shifting the emphasis of corporate investors.

Policy Drives Growth

California is the top state for solar jobs, employing 152,947 workers. In California, more than 500,000 employees spend some or all of their time engaged in advanced energy work, such as advanced electricity generation, energy efficiency, advanced grid technology, energy storage, and advanced vehicles. The clean energy economy workforce is creating high-quality new jobs that train and support skilled workers with family-sustaining compensation and benefits. SB 100 will ensure that California keeps driving these remarkable jobs and economic activity gains further and faster.

We've seen similar renewable energy policies create positive change here.

Many of the people who visit the **Port of San Diego** each day are likely unaware that solar electricity is increasingly powering operations. Since 2009, the Port has been investing in photovoltaic systems to offset its own energy use. The four solar power systems generate 520,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which offsets its costs by roughly \$125,000 per year.

The Port is also tied into the San Diego region's electricity grid, which currently has a renewable portfolio of approximately 43 percent. The Port is one of the first ports in the nation to adopt a Climate Action Plan.

San Diego Leads in Installations

There are thousands of clean electricity projects powering businesses, homes, schools, houses of worship, and government facilities all across San Diego County. In fact, San Diego has more installed solar projects than any other major metropolitan area in the entire country. Additionally, more than 36,000 San Diegans are employed in the cleantech industry, which had an economic output of over \$6.8 billion in our region in 2016.

Those activities, spurred by private and public partners, resulted in a leading cleantech research firm — **Clean Edge** — ranking San Diego fourth in the nation for cleantech leadership in 2017. More specifically, the San Diego region ranks first in the nation in climate and carbon management; fourth in advanced transportation; sixth in cleantech investment, innovation, and workforce; and twenty-second in green buildings.

Given the successes we've seen in San Diego, we support the climate and environmental goals of SB 100, and we enthusiastically embrace the economic engine that this bill will drive for California. We cannot afford to miss the opportunity to advance this important measure.

Setting California on a path to 100 percent renewable and zero carbon emission electricity will generate good local jobs, ensure cleaner air, and promote a healthier environment for communities here in San Diego and across the state. Anchors aweigh on SB100!

Jason Anderson is CEO of Cleantech San Diego. Robert Valderrama is Chairman of the Board of Port Commissioner of the Port of San Diego.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR | Upcoming events

Fundamentals of HR

Organization: SDEA
When: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sept. 19
Where: SDEA, 8799 Balboa Ave. Suite 270, San Diego

What's Your Exit Strategy? Exit Options for Companies and Owners

Organization: ACG San Diego
When: 7-10 a.m., Sept. 19
Where: Lomas Santa Fe Country Club

From Chemical to Drug: The Path to a Small Molecule IND

Organization: JLABS
When: 12:30-5 p.m., Sept. 20
Where: JLABS, 3210 Merryfield Row, San Diego

How to Drive Your Market With User-Generated Content, With Tyler Anderson

Organization: SDX
When: 4-5:30 p.m., Sept. 20
Where: UCSD Extension, Room #317, 6256 Greenwich Drive, San Diego

Good Bugs vs. Bad Bugs: New Breakthroughs in Microbiome Technology

Organization: S.D. MIT Enterprise Forum

When: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Sept. 20

Where: Knobbe Martens, 12790 El Camino Real, San Diego

Tech San Diego Manufacturing Operations Roundtable: Additive Manufacturing: The Evolution of 3-D Printing

Organization: Tech San Diego
When: 7:45-10 a.m., Sept. 20
Where: Coleman University, 8888 Balboa Ave., San Diego

Mission to Washington, D.C.

Organization: San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
When: Sept. 24-27; Details to come
Where: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Management Development Program

Organization: HBS Club of San Diego
When: 5:30-8:15 p.m., Sept. 25 (through 12/11)
Where: The Girl Scout Leadership Center at the Balboa Campus, 1231 Upas St., San Diego

Building a Path to Personalized Medicine One Test at a Time

Organization: TiE South Coast
When: 6-8:30 p.m., Sept. 26
Where: Knobbe Martens,, 12790 El Camino Real, San Diego

New Hires- Select the Best

Organization: SDEA
When: 1-4 p.m., Sept. 27
Where: SDEA, 8799 Balboa Ave., Suite 270, San Diego

2017 Inspiration Awards

Organization: The Center for Wealth & Legacy
When: 4:30 p.m., Sept. 27
Where: Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, 2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla

To submit an event for possible inclusion, email the following information to Steve Adamek at sadamek@sdbj.com: name, time and location of event; event host, event speaker(s) and/or description of event.

