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## MARIN MAKES HISTORY, LAUNCHES CALIFORNIA'S FIRST COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY PROGRAM

**SAN RAFAEL**—Marin Clean Energy today marked its historic launch as California's first community choice energy program, charting a bold, new course in the state's energy marketplace and fulfilling its promise to provide customers with more clean, renewable energy at the same or lower rates as they currently pay.

“By flipping the switch on Marin Clean Energy, we're showing that local communities can have a meaningful role in deciding where their energy comes from,” said Marin County Supervisor Charles McGlashan, chairman of the Marin Energy Authority. “Programs like Marin Clean Energy will help Marin County and California make meaningful progress toward reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gases and promoting the expansion of renewable energy sources while still ensuring customers get the reliable service they expect. This is our best opportunity to make a significant difference for both our local economy and the environment.”

Along with State Senator Mark Leno and Assemblyman Jared Huffman, more than 100 local businesses, community leaders and clean energy advocates celebrated Marin Clean Energy's launch on the island green at the Marin County Fairgrounds. Tom Roth, senior policy advisor to Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, and Amy Zimpfer, associate division director for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, also spoke.

“This is an exciting and important first step,” said Fairfax Mayor Lew Tremaine, who serves on the Marin Energy Authority Board of Directors. “A tremendous amount of thought, careful planning and public input over the past six years has gone into making Marin Clean Energy a success, and we're seeing the results of that today. None of this would have happened without the support of our communities and the hard work by so many experts, local advocates and other supporters who believe that the choices we make locally can make a difference globally.”

Gordon Bennett, chairman of Marin Green Leadership, agreed. Marin Green Leadership is a non-profit partner organization with Marin Clean Energy that co-sponsored the launch event and provides educational outreach to businesses and the public. Its volunteers have worked in recent months to recruit hundreds of local businesses as supporters of Marin Clean Energy.

“Local businesses get it, they know that their communities and their customers value clean energy and protecting our environment,” Bennett said. “Businesses also want to know that the energy is reliable and affordable, and Marin Clean Energy makes that business case easy for them to understand.”

Marin Clean Energy was formed under legislation approved in 2002 that authorized local communities to join together to purchase their own power. From the beginning, Marin Clean Energy saw the legislation as an opportunity to increase Marin County’s use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

“We’re extremely proud that Marin Clean Energy will deliver on its promise of 25 percent renewable energy—almost double what the existing utility provides—at the same or lower rates,” said Barbara Thornton, San Anselmo Mayor and Marin Energy Authority board member. “In addition, Marin Clean Energy is 78 percent carbon free, which far exceeds our original estimates and beats the existing utility by 50 percent. Only through bold action can we hope to gain ground in our fight against global warming.”

In addition to its Light Green program, which offers 25 percent renewable energy, Marin Clean Energy also offers a Deep Green program that provides customers with an affordable option to receive 100 percent renewable energy. And while Marin Clean Energy purchases the power, PG&E continues to deliver it through its wires, provide repair and customer service and billing.

“We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us, as we expand Marin Clean Energy to more customers and steadily increase both the amount of renewable energy we provide and the amount we get from local sources,” said Dawn Weisz, interim Director of Marin Clean Energy. “What the past six years have shown us is that with local support we can succeed. We expect to provide 100% renewable power to all our customers well before 2020, well before any of the investor-owned utilities, and at a lower cost.”

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*Marin Clean Energy is a program of the Marin Energy Authority, a not-for-profit publicly approved joint powers authority composed of the County of Marin and the cities of San Rafael, Mill Valley, Fairfax, Sausalito, San Anselmo, Tiburon and Belvedere. For more information about Marin Clean Energy, visit [www.MarinCleanEnergy.info](http://www.MarinCleanEnergy.info).*