



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dollar amounts updated Aug. 5, 2019

Press Contact:
Kalicia Pivirotto | Marketing Manager
(415) 464-6036 | kpivirotto@mceCleanEnergy.org

MCE Customers Offered \$2.8+ Million in Cash Back for Generating Their Own Solar Energy in 2018-19

SAN RAFAEL and CONCORD, Calif. — MCE is issuing cash outs totaling over \$2.8 million to rooftop solar customers when they have produced more electricity than they used themselves. MCE's [Net Energy Metering](#) (NEM) program currently provides incentives for rooftop solar customers, including paying premium rates that compensate solar customers at the full retail rate plus an extra penny per kilowatt-hour for excess electricity generated.

MCE's NEM program is an example of MCE's mission in action: supporting in-service area renewables, reducing carbon, lowering energy costs through self-generation, and incentivizing local rooftop solar through the annual cash-out process, which is another channel for community reinvestment.

Customers also have the option to transfer their credits to MCE programs that serve disadvantaged communities, like the [MCE Solar Rebate Program](#). Since launching the program in 2013, MCE has allocated \$535,000 in income-qualified solar rebates through a partnership with [GRID Alternatives' Energy for All Program](#), which reduces household electricity costs by up to 90 percent by providing no-cost solar systems to homeowners who qualify as low income.

"MCE's solar program is a great incentive for everyone in our region to be less reliant on energy sources that are contributing to climate change and the growing threat of wildfires," said Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of Benicia and MCE Board Member. **"Many of the recipients of the innovative cash-out program are local governments and schools that are using these funds to reinvest in making our communities more resilient."**

MCE has a high number of rooftop solar customers in its service area, with NEM participants making up over 7 percent of MCE's total customer base. This year, MCE's cash outs were distributed as follows:

- Over \$1.43 million in Contra Costa County
- Over \$670k in Marin County
- Over \$435k in Napa County
- Over \$265k in Solano County

"In the first full year of working with MCE, Pittsburg Unified School District has realized a \$72,000 cash out from overproduction of our solar arrays district-wide, due to the 2019 Net Energy Metering Cash Out Program," said Dr. Janet Schulze, Superintendent, Pittsburg Unified School District. **"This was a win-win situation for us. Our solar arrays are in place and now we are gaining additional value for the energy we are producing beyond the needs of our schools."**

How MCE's NEM Cash-Out Program Works

To calculate the amount of the cash out MCE customers receive, a meter tracks the net difference between the amount of electricity an MCE customer's solar panels produce and the amount of electricity used during each billing month. When the panels produce more electricity than is used on-site, customers receive a credit on their bill that rolls over excess credits every month.

Most customers with solar panels in California are required to forfeit any surplus credits on their account each year through a 'true-up' process. MCE's NEM program currently offers several innovative features, allowing customers who earn credits of \$100 or more to cash out their full credit balance or simply roll the credits over into the following year — up to a maximum of \$5,000. Customers with a credit below \$100 will have their credit automatically rolled over.

###

About MCE: MCE is California's first Community Choice Aggregation Program, a not-for-profit, public agency that began service in 2010 with the goals of providing cleaner power at stable rates to its customers, reducing greenhouse emissions, and investing in targeted energy programs that support communities' energy needs. MCE is a load-serving entity supporting ~1,000 MW peak load. MCE provides electricity service to approximately 470,000 customer accounts and more than 1 million residents and businesses in 34 member communities across 4 Bay Area counties: Napa, Marin, Contra Costa, and Solano. For more information about MCE, visit mceCleanEnergy.org.