

CHBC Supports Southern California Gas Company's Decarbonization Commitment and Encourages Hydrogen to Play a Major Role

Transitioning the gas supply to renewable and zero carbon sources is necessary, and to succeed, we're going to need hydrogen.

For Immediate Release

March 11, 2019 - YORBA LINDA, Calif. - The California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC) applauds Southern California Gas Company's commitment to achieve 20% renewable content in its gas supply by 2030 and for aiming to allow customers to buy renewable gas for use in their homes. These groundbreaking steps promise to help California meet its ambitious deep decarbonization targets and continue its leadership as a clean energy pioneer. We hope and trust that renewable hydrogen will play a critical role in helping Southern California Gas Company succeed in its effort.

Hydrogen produced from renewable and zero carbon sources is the only solution for producing decarbonized gas at mass scale. Renewable hydrogen can be made from organic feedstocks, and the most promising pathway for high volume production is to power electrolysis with renewable electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Renewable hydrogen can be blended in limited quantities into the existing gas supply to lower the greenhouse content of delivered gas, or it can be mixed with CO₂ to make renewable methane, which can enter seamlessly in unlimited quantities into the existing gas infrastructure, making possible the complete decarbonization of the gas system without having to invest in expensive retrofits. At the same time, electrolysis can help absorb excess renewable electricity that would otherwise be wasted, making a 100% renewable or zero carbon electricity future more possible. Renewable hydrogen and its derivatives stored in the gas network can provide the only known solution for long duration seasonal storage at the terawatt hour scale.

Electrolytic hydrogen is becoming widely recognized around the world as key to deep decarbonization strategies. The German government has concluded the technology is essential to achieving deep greenhouse gas reductions,^[1] the UK is advancing electrolytic hydrogen for heat and other uses to forward its deep decarbonization plans,^[2] and projects along with relevant policymaking are also underway throughout the rest of Europe, as well as in Australia, Canada, Japan and the US. CHBC looks forward to working with SoCalGas to help California decarbonize by making the future of its gas supply renewable.

[1] See: <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/a-greenhouse-gas-neutral-germany-is-almost-possible>

[2] See, e.g. <https://www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk/event/h21-launches-national/> **About the California Hydrogen Business Council**

The CHBC is comprised of over 100 companies and agencies involved in the business of hydrogen. Our mission is to advance the commercialization of hydrogen in the energy sector, including transportation, goods movement, and stationary power systems to reduce emissions and dependence on oil.¹

¹ The views expressed in these comments are those of the CHBC, and do not necessarily reflect the views of all of the individual CHBC member companies. Members of the CHBC include Advanced Emission Control Solutions, Air Liquide Advanced Technologies U.S., Airthium, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), American Honda Motor Company, Anaerobe Systems, Arriba Energy, Ballard Power Systems, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Beijing SinoHytec, Black & Veatch, BMW of North America, California Performance Engineering, Cambridge LCF Group, Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), CNG Cylinders International, Community Environmental Services, CP Industries, DasH2energy, Eco Energy International, ElDorado National – California, Energy Independence Now (EIN), EPC - Engineering, Procurement & Construction, Ergostech Renewal Energy Solution, EWII Fuel Cells, First Element Fuel, GenCell, General Motors, Geoffrey Budd G&SB Consulting Ltd, Giner ELX, Gladstein, Neandross & Associates, Greenlight Innovation, GTA, H2B2, H2Safe, H2SG Energy Pte, H2Tech Systems, Hitachi Zosen Inova ETOGAS GmbH, HODPros, Hydrogenics, Hydrogenious Technologies, Hydrogen Law, HydrogenXT, HyET - Hydrogen Efficiency Technologies, Hyundai Motor Company, ITM Power, Ivys, Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells, Kontak, KORE Infrastructure, Life Cycle Associates, Linde North America, Longitude 122 West, Loop Energy, Luxfer/GTM Technologies, McPhy Energy, Millennium Reign Energy, Montreux Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Natural Gas Fueling Solutions – NGFS, Natural Hydrogen Energy, Nel Hydrogen, New Flyer of America, Next Hydrogen, Noyes Law Corporation, Nuvera Fuel Cells, Pacific Gas and Electric Company - PG&E, PDC Machines, Planet Hydrogen, Plug Power, Port of Long Beach, PowerHouse Energy, Powertech Labs, Primidea Building Solutions, Proton OnSite, RG Associates, Rio Hondo College, Rix Industries, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), SAFCell, Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC), Sheldon Research and Consulting, Solar Wind Storage, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Southern California Gas Company, Sumitomo Corporation of Americas, Sunline Transit Agency, T2M Global, Tatsuno North America, The Leighty Foundation, TLM Petro Labor Force, Toyota Motor Sales, True Zero, United Hydrogen Group, US Hybrid, Verde, Vinjamuri Innovations, Volute, WireTough Cylinders, Zero Carbon Energy Solutions.