



**ALAMEDA  
MUNICIPAL POWER**

*A Department of the City of Alameda*

# The Flash

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## Reducing Alameda's Carbon Footprint

By Madeline Deaton, President, Public Utilities Board

Back in the 1990s, Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) was one of the first utilities to invest heavily in renewable power. And since then, we've all been justifiably proud of our "Greenest Little Utility" reputation. But in today's world, with our growing awareness of climate change and our understanding of the impact of our carbon footprint, it's not enough for a utility to rely on renewable power alone.

It takes a commitment to helping all of us minimize the amount of energy we use in the first place because that's the fastest, most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). It takes offering an array of options that allow residential and business customers to choose how they want to be green. And it takes working with other cities, utilities, and community groups to fight climate change.

### Opportunity to Do More

Due to the utility's early investment in renew-



able energy, AMP now has the opportunity to do more to decrease our community's energy use, increase our efforts to reduce GHG emissions and help our neighbors do the same—without raising rates.

In 2011, California adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, that requires electric utilities to purchase a growing percentage of their electricity from qualified renewable sources by 2020. Because AMP's renewable portfolio is so strong, our utility not only exceeds the RPS, but is in a position to sell—on a short-term basis—some of its renewable energy to other utilities struggling to achieve compliance.

At the direction of the Public Utilities Board, AMP is selling a portion of its renewable energy through 2016 to the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR). This will ease the transition to renewable energy for CDWR and give them time to plan their investments in

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# AMP POWER MIX

The Power Content Label is an annual report that shows where your electricity was generated during the calendar year and how it compares to the State of California's power mix.

While AMP's power mix exceeds California's requirements for clean power, it has dropped due to the short-term sale of a portion of the utility's renewable energy not needed for compliance with the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (see article on reverse side). AMP continues to own the same generation resources and, after 2016, the utility will return to providing a high level of renewable energy to customers. Even better, overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will be lower after 2016 due to the projects paid for by the short-term sale of some of AMP's renewable energy. To learn more, visit AMP's website. [🌱](#)

## POWER CONTENT LABEL

ENERGY RESOURCES	ALAMEDA 2013 Fuel Mix (Actual)	2012 CA Power Mix**
<b>Eligible Renewable</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>15%</b>
-Biomass and Waste	15%	2%
-Geothermal	0%	4%
-Small Hydroelectric	1%	2%
-Solar	0%	1%
-Wind	6%	6%
<b>Coal</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Large Hydroelectric</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Unspecified Sources of Power*</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* "Unspecified sources of power" means electricity from transactions that are not traceable to specific generation sources.

\*\* Percentages are estimated annually by the California Energy Commission based on the electricity sold to California consumers during the previous year.

For specific information about this electricity product, contact **Alameda Municipal Power**. For general information about the Power Content Label, contact the California Energy Commission at 1-800-555-7794 or [www.energy.ca.gov/consumer](http://www.energy.ca.gov/consumer).

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renewable energy in the future.

But Alameda will benefit even more when the proceeds, as stipulated by the Board, are used to fund projects that will reduce GHG emissions associated with electric services in our own city. Approved projects for this fiscal year include converting the majority of our streetlights to light-emitting diodes (LED), distributing free LED light bulbs to every residential customer, and a new lighting retrofit program for businesses. Each of these projects will reduce Alameda's carbon footprint, reduce the amount of energy we use, and save money for all of us.

## The Next Steps

I invite you to help us take these next steps to becoming a greener utility and community by:

- Participating in our process of developing these new programs
- Sharing your ideas on how we can reduce greenhouse gases
- Committing to taking personal actions that reduce your own carbon footprint

Here in Alameda, we are truly fortunate to have a 127-year-old electric utility that continually strives to be the greenest little utility in America. For AMP, that means making choices that help protect the environment and maintain resources for future generations. By committing to green practices locally and beyond, AMP is doing its part to ensure that our community and our local utility not only survive, but thrive for decades to come. Find out more at [www.alamedamp.com/ghg](http://www.alamedamp.com/ghg). [🌱](#)

## CLIP and KEEP!

Important AMP contact numbers:

Customer Service .....	748-3900
After Hours/Emergency .....	748-3902
TDD (hearing impaired) .....	522-7538
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Internet .....	<a href="http://www.alamedamp.com">www.alamedamp.com</a>

The *FLASH* is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box H, Alameda, CA 94501-0263 or by email to [irwin@alamedamp.com](mailto:irwin@alamedamp.com)

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