

# WHERE DOES OUR ELECTRICITY COME FROM?



LARGE  
HYDROELECTRIC  
**35.0%**



BIOMASS  
AND BIOWASTE  
**10.2%**



SOLAR  
**8.8%**



ELIGIBLE  
HYDROELECTRIC  
**1.4%**



UNSPECIFIED  
POWER  
**44.6%**



## 100% CARBON-NEUTRAL ELECTRICITY SINCE 2013

Like a nutrition facts label that shows the ingredients in food, the Power Content Label shows the sources of electricity purchased by City of Palo Alto Utilities to power local homes and businesses.

Carbon-neutral electricity comes from a variety of sources, including renewable resources like solar, wind and small hydroelectric plants. Large hydroelectric sources are also carbon-free, but the state of California doesn't consider them renewable.

Since 2016 the City of Palo Alto Utilities has had long-term contracts with California-based renewable energy providers to provide 100% Carbon Neutral power to the community. In 2020, as the value of in-state renewable energy rose, CPAU began taking a regional approach to purchasing power, selling its high priced in-state renewable energy and buying the most cost-efficient renewable energy from outside the state. This program generates earnings (\$2.9M in 2020) which are being split between pandemic rate relief and investments in local decarbonization efforts necessary to meet our ambitious climate goals. Although the power sourced out-of-state remains carbon-neutral, it's not recognized as renewable by the state and instead is labeled as "unspecified." But CPAU retains its long-term contracts, and when this in-state / out-of-state energy exchange program ends, the Power Content Label will look like it did in 2019: 100% renewable and carbon-neutral sources.

**Palo Alto is reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2030**

### POWER SOURCES IN 2020

CPAU power sources include five solar PV projects, two wind projects, five landfill gas-fired projects, the Calaveras hydroelectric project, and the Western Area Power Administration (Western) contract, which is sourced from Central Valley Project hydroelectric facilities. All of these resources are located in California. Power supply percentages vary annually based on the available output from our contracted generators. In 2020, CPAU's hydroelectric generation was somewhat lower than long-term average levels due to relatively dry weather conditions, so CPAU needed to purchase additional renewable generation from other utilities in the western US.

**Find more details at**

**[cityofpaloalto.org/PowerContentLabel](http://cityofpaloalto.org/PowerContentLabel) and [cityofpaloalto.org/CarbonNeutral](http://cityofpaloalto.org/CarbonNeutral)**



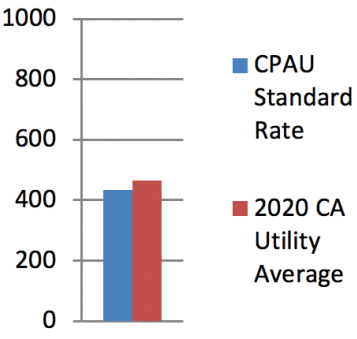
CITY OF  
**PALO ALTO**  
UTILITIES

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## 2020 POWER CONTENT LABEL

**City of Palo Alto Utilities**

[cityofpaloalto.org/PowerContentLabel](http://cityofpaloalto.org/PowerContentLabel)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity (lbs CO <sub>2</sub> e/MWh)		Energy Resources	CPAU Standard Rate	2020 CA Power Mix		
CPAU Standard Rate	2020 CA Utility Average	<b>Eligible Renewable<sup>1</sup></b> Biomass & Biowaste Geothermal Eligible Hydroelectric Solar Wind	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>33.1%</b>		
<b>434</b>	<b>466</b>					
		<b>Coal</b> <b>Large Hydroelectric</b> <b>Natural Gas</b> <b>Nuclear</b> <b>Other</b> <b>Unspecified Power<sup>2</sup></b> <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0%</b> <b>35.0%</b> <b>0.0%</b> <b>0.0%</b> <b>0.0%</b> <b>44.6%</b> <b>100.0%</b>	<b>2.5%</b> <b>4.9%</b> <b>1.4%</b> <b>13.2%</b> <b>11.1%</b> <b>2.7%</b> <b>12.2%</b> <b>37.1%</b> <b>9.3%</b> <b>0.2%</b> <b>5.4%</b> <b>100.0%</b>		
		<b>Percentage of Retail Sales Covered by Retired Unbundled RECs<sup>3</sup>:</b>		<b>41%</b>		
		<p><sup>1</sup>The eligible renewable percentage above does not reflect RPS compliance, which is determined using a different methodology.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>Unspecified power is electricity that has been purchased through open market transactions and is not traceable to a specific generation source.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Renewable energy credits (RECs) are tracking instruments issued for renewable generation. Unbundled renewable energy credits (RECs) represent renewable generation that was not delivered to serve retail sales. Unbundled RECs are not reflected in the power mix or GHG emissions intensities above.</p>				
		For specific information about this electricity portfolio, contact:		<b>City of Palo Alto Utilities</b> <b>(650) 329-2161</b>		
		For general information about the Power Content Label, visit:		<a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/">http://www.energy.ca.gov/pcl/</a>		
		For additional questions, please contact the California Energy Commission at:		Toll-free in California: 844-454-2906 Outside California: 916-653-0237		