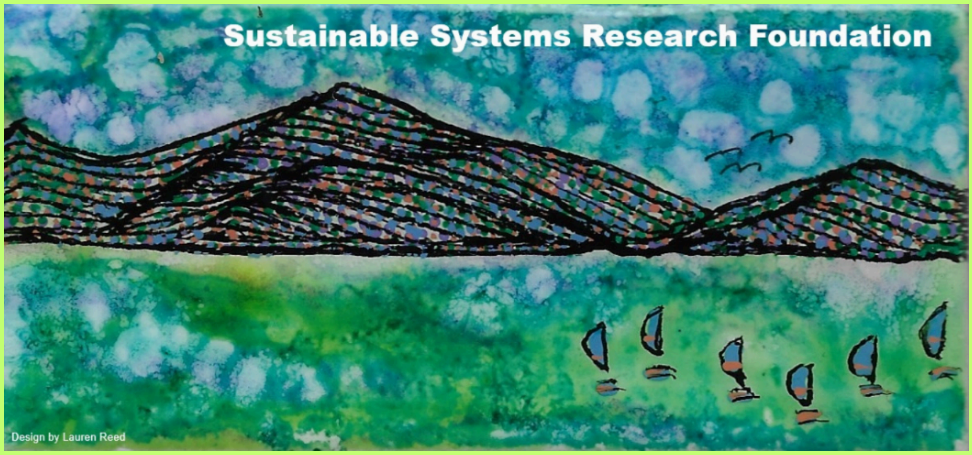

Join the Movement to Create a Sustainable Energy Utility in Santa Cruz!

Utility rates have risen precipitously over the past decade while the quality of services has not. Whether you are a customer of PG&E or Central Coast Community Energy, half of your electricity rates are attributable to long-distance transmission and local distribution. Moreover, the investor-owned utilities and the California Public Utilities Commission have made it impossible for cities and counties without an independent electrical utility to develop any kind of locally generated community energy.

But there's the loophole: a municipal sustainable energy utility (SEU) like the one recently established in Ann Arbor, Michigan. An SEU would not buy out PG&E and be burdened with impossible debt for obsolete infrastructure. Instead, a municipal SEU would, bit by bit, build a parallel renewable energy system while offering significantly lower rates. The obstacles are daunting but so are the benefits.

An SEU will be community-owned and operated and will trump the PG&E monopoly, reduce your electric bill and offer a model of energy autonomy to California and the country. Achieving this goal will require jumping through technical, legal, regulatory, policy, financing and political hoops. It will require the active participation of and contributions from a significant number of committed individuals.

This is an invitation to join this movement. To enroll, write to sustainablesystemsresearch@gmail.com