

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE

Staff Report – Item 9

TO: Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Rebecca Boyles, Director of Customer Care and Marketing
Yvonne Hunter, Legislative and Project Specialist

DATE: June 27, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback on the proposed collaboration with Cool Davis and recommend that the VCE Board of Directors support staff proceeding with the effort.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

For several years, VCE and Cool Davis¹ have talked about how to accomplish shared goals by fostering closer collaboration. While VCE has co-sponsored several past Cool Davis events, no formal working relationship has existed. Workshops, resource materials and consulting services offered by Cool Davis are high quality and serve audiences well.

To address the desire for a more formal relationship, VCE and Cool Davis have been developing a Memorandum of Understanding that would be used to guide the formal collaboration. To proceed with a formal collaboration, staff sees it as essential that Cool Davis rebrand its “Davis-centric” reputation in a way that resonates throughout VCE’s wider service territory. Cool Davis is beginning to offer programs outside of Davis, and because VCE stressed the importance of such rebranding as part of the MOU discussions, Cool Davis is undergoing a rebranding effort that will enable it to be a resource for all of Yolo County.

The types of collaborative projects envisioned emphasize activities that would relate to VCE’s strategic plan as well as Cool Davis’ strategic plan. Funding sources might include VCE contributions, joint grants and other sources. While specific individual projects would be agreed upon, designed and implemented together, example projects include the following:

- EE/HVAC Replacement – “Make a Plan” Workshops or Webinars – workshops or webinars designed specifically for, and offered in, Winters and Woodland. These could include low-

¹ Cool Davis’s mission is to work to create enduring community resilience through equitable and inclusive strategies that lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help the region adapt to a changing climate. Cool Davis has been conducting outreach and developing programs to encourage households to take action on energy conservation, energy efficiency and home electrification since beginning their work in 2010.

income ERRO program activities as well as offering Electric Advisor (Concierge Service) services. (Note: VCE was a co-sponsor of two previous highly successful and well-received “Make a Plan” workshops/webinars designed and implemented by Cool Davis.)

- EV Adoption – e-bikes and cars:
Buying an EV – things to know and consider (including understanding incentives and federal tax credits)
- Workshop or webinar on energy efficiency in rental properties aimed at real estate and rental property owners. These could also include (low-income) ERRO grant activities.

Initially, one project will be designed and implemented to test the process and make refinements as necessary. Staff will include budget, revenue sources, costs, timelines, and participant responses in its evaluation of success. The CAC’s Outreach and Programs Task Group will provide review and input in selecting the project. The CAC will receive periodic updates about projects, similar to updates it receives about other VCE programs.

In addition to formal “collaboration projects”, VCE might also co-sponsor or become a partner in separate Cool Davis projects. This might include, for example, Cool Davis efforts related to resilient and climate ready neighborhoods.

The draft MOU under legal review includes details on how projects are to be developed, budgets, timelines, administration, information sharing, privacy, indemnification, and reporting to Cool Davis and VCE advisory committees and boards and the broader community. It also includes a provision related to Cool Davis rebranding for joint projects with VCE.

The Outreach and Programs Task Group evaluated the proposed collaboration with Cool Davis, and is supportive as long as the collaboration extends into communities outside of Davis.

CONCLUSION

Staff believes that pursuing a more formal working relationship with Cool Davis would benefit both VCE and Cool Davis, as well as the communities we both serve. Staff requests comments from the CAC about the proposed collaboration and a support recommendation to the VCE board to proceed with the collaboration. (Note: The VCE board will review and act upon the MOU between Cool Davis and VCE, as well the Cool Davis board.)