

# COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Principles to Guide the Role of Clean Energy

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The California Municipal Utilities Association has identified seven key principles the Governor, Legislature and the state Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery should consider when contemplating the role of clean energy in the state's COVID-19 economic recovery.

## Principle #1

**The recession induced by COVID-19 should not stand in the way of achieving California's existing, well-established climate goals.**

Economic recovery efforts should support achieving California's existing climate change laws, including the state's nation-leading 60% Renewables Portfolio Standard, 100% zero-carbon goal and greenhouse reduction target of 40% below 1990 levels.

## Principle #2

**California must maintain strong electric utilities to deliver on California's climate goals and wildfire mitigation efforts.**

Economic recovery efforts should recognize that financially and operationally healthy electric utilities are critically important to achieving California's climate goals and effectively delivering on wildfire mitigation efforts.

## Principle #3

**Recovery efforts should not impact electric rates and customer bills.**

Economic recovery efforts should recognize that electric prices matter, that electric rates in California are higher than most the rest of the country, that many of California's residents and businesses are struggling to pay their electric bills due to the economic downturn, and that California is relying on the state's quickly decarbonizing electric industry for further carbon reductions in other sectors.

## Principle #4

**Recovery efforts should reflect a multi-sector perspective and that the electric sector already is leading greenhouse gas emission reductions in California.**

Economic recovery efforts should recognize the electric sector accounts for only 16% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions — a percentage that is rapidly declining at the same time other sectors, such as transportation, which accounts for 41% of statewide emissions, actually may be increasing emissions.

## Principle #5

**Cost-effectiveness and feasibility should be embedded into clean energy efforts.**

Economic recovery efforts should consider cost-effectiveness and technological feasibility and should support implementation flexibility based on local conditions.

## Principle #6

**Reliability of the electric grid should be maintained and protected.**

Economic recovery efforts should recognize that electric reliability is paramount. It may be assumed, but is key to the recovery, that the grid must deliver electricity around the clock, 365 days a year.

## Principle #7

**Recovery efforts should support a strong and healthy workforce.**

California has long maintained a thriving clean energy economy and recovery efforts should sustain a cost-effective, clean energy workforce.

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*CMUA's members are California's not-for-profit, publicly owned electric utilities, that provide affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity to 25% of our state. Operating without private funding or profits, our members are community-focused, and support local businesses and residents in a cost-effective manner, with rates on average 15 below private utilities.*