

Community Energy Conversation Analysis

Last year, MGE engaged Justice and Sustainability Associates (JSA) to conduct civic engagement among ratepayers. In December, JSA released a [report](#) based on 98 community focus group meetings and hundreds of comments.

Major Findings:

- Over 70% want MGE to increase investment in renewable energy sources.
- Reducing the fixed fee and billing based on usage was second highest priority.
 - “Participants voiced concerns about the impact of the fixed rate increase on low income families and senior ratepayers. Participants do not believe the current rate structure is equitable, and they would like to see a more equitable billing system, more compassionate treatment, and greater assistance for low-income families.”
- Other highly ranked suggestions: formation of a community energy partnership, conservation education/support, affordability and greater transparency.

Energy 2030 Framework:

In November, MGE released an energy framework which includes a few goals for 2030, but lacks enough specifics to be considered a plan at this point.

- 30% renewable energy by 2030 and 25% by 2025
- 40% CO₂ reduction, using 2005 as a baseline.
- No increase to mandatory fixed fees in the next rate case.

What's Next:

Phase III of the Community Energy Conversations is expected in April. This will be a workshop that builds off the dialogue from the focus groups and submitted comments. When completed, a Community Energy Partnership with MGE might be proposed, which should give customers more input into MGE's decision-making process.

Some Customer Comments from the Community Conversations:

- “Develop a plan to get off coal and move to clean energy quickly.”
- “I want MG&E to have a community partnership that is legally binding. I want a serious consideration of converting to a B corporation.”
- “Be fair to those who use less energy which includes poorer and older customers. Do not raise fixed rates.”
- “I would like to see MG&E support the EPA's Clean Power Plan- that would demonstrate their commitment to clean energy better than anything.”
- “Progressive billing that doesn't penalize customers that reduce energy use”
- “Develop a plan to get off coal and move to clean energy quickly.”