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PSE Energy Quarterly | Spring 2024

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PSE Energy Quarterly is the newsletter of PSE Healthy Energy, a nonprofit research institute that studies the way energy production and use impact public health and the environment.



In a [new report](#) PSE collaborated with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) to explore opportunities and barriers to community-led solar and storage resilience hubs across California. Through this collaboration, PSE provides a top-down view of climate resilience needs and potential resilience hubs, while APEN and CBE offer a bottom-up view, providing insights on what it takes to design a resilience hub that reflects local needs and priorities.

Resources from this collaboration include the Candidate Resilience Hub Mapping Tool and the Public Safety Power Shutoff Map. Visit the [California Community Resilience Hubs webpage](#) for more details and resources from PSE, CBE, and APEN.

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News Briefs

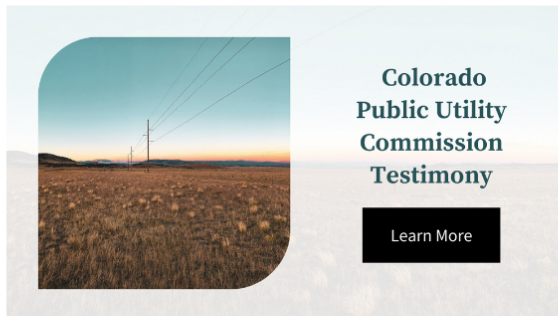


PSE collaborated with a team at UC Berkeley on a research [study](#) to help Richmond, CA communities find more actionable information to improve air quality by characterizing hyperlocal patterns of air pollution. This research involved the deployment of a suite of 50 custom-built black carbon sensors alongside our network of 50 low-cost PM2.5, NO2, and ozone sensors within the [Richmond Air Monitoring Network](#). Data were collected for four weeks in two seasons in the adjacent cities of Richmond, North Richmond, and San Pablo, California, east of the San Francisco Bay.





Since 1970, the Clean Air Act has led to a reduction in air pollution emissions. However a [recent study](#) from PSE's Dr. Yaneli Nunez and Columbia University shows that there are inequities in how certain groups in the U.S. are exposed to air pollution. Read about this study, which assesses the disparities in air pollution emissions changes for racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups across different counties in the U.S. from 1970-2010.



In Colorado, a utility company submitted its plan to the Colorado Public Utility Commission (CPUC) in response to Senate Bill 21-264, which requires gas distribution utilities to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets by 2025 and 2030. PSE's Sophia Bisogno, Dr. Lebel, and Dr. Bilsback authored a [detailed report](#) on the indoor and outdoor air quality, public health, and equity implications of the utility-proposed plan as compared to alternative plans with larger greenhouse gas reductions; the report was attached to written testimony. Dr. Bilsback also gave a testimony to the CPUC in March via Zoom.

Kitchen Studies Europe



PSE scientists Dr. Lebel, Nicole Lucha, and Jackson Goldman conduct field research in Milan.

During the first few months of 2024, our team, in collaboration with Stanford University, researched the health impacts of natural gas throughout Europe. After sampling in the UK in 2023, we collected gas stove samples from homes in Amsterdam and Milan advancing the understanding of the relationship between natural gas energy and people's homes.

Conference and Webinar Highlights



Dr. Krieger with panelists from the APS March meeting. From left to right: Yan (Joann) Zhou Argonne National Lab, Dr. Elena Krieger, Nikita Dutta NREL, Arjun Makhijani IEER, and Roderick Jackson NREL

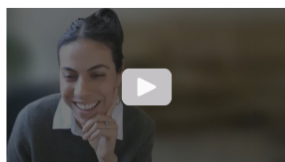
Dr. Krieger joined the American Physical Society's (APS) March meeting in Minneapolis, to give a [talk](#) on the topic of phasing out gas in buildings, during a session on incorporating equity into decarbonization.



Dr. Elena Krieger joined a NASEO webinar to share key findings from a Congressionally-mandated study on the impacts of net metering, which is a billing mechanism used to compensate utility customers with rooftop solar. This study focused on economics, technology developments, equity considerations, and policy and regulatory frameworks.



Dr. Krieger also moderated a CA Climate Policy Summit [discussion](#) on the obstacles and challenges of implementing health-protective, equitable, and labor-friendly ways of fully shutting down and cleaning up California refineries, in tandem with the state's decline in oil demand.



Dr. Nunez also took part in an ISEE North American Chapter Policy Committee webinar. She discussed shaping climate-relevant health policy through professional societies and impactful science.



Dr. Yanelli Nunez joined a EPILOG panel where they explored the different postdoctoral career paths while considering the scarcity of opportunities in academia. She offered her insights and strategies for identifying, exploring, and navigating different career paths after graduation to the Students and New Researchers Network (SNRN).



Dr. Bilsback outside the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

Dr. Kelsey Bilsback visited Geneva to attend the Global Methane Forum on behalf of PSE. She discussed PSE's ongoing research into the link between methane and public health risks with other conference attendees





EPA Grantee Meeting: Community Health and Air Quality Implications of Refinery Retrofits and Retirements



Dr. Bilsback also participated in an EPA grantee meeting, where she and Dr. Lara Cushing (UCLA) presented progress on our collaborative work to explore the air quality and health impacts of oil refinery retirements and biofuel retrofits in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Welcome to PSE!

We are thrilled to welcome our new team members who will aid in the important work that we do here at PSE!



Meg Dupuy-Todd
Associate Director of
Project Management

John Perkins
CRM Manager

Nick Heath
Air Quality
Modeling Scientist

Learn more about our team [here](#).

Careers at PSE Healthy Energy

PSE Healthy Energy is hiring for a Project Manager and an Air Quality Scientist!
Join our team of public health professionals, scientists, and engineers.

Learn more:

- [Project Manager](#)
- [Air Quality Scientist](#)

In the Media

Explore [comprehensive media coverage](#) of PSE efforts and insights, aimed at bridging the gap between science and energy policy to see how we're driving change in the energy landscape.



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