

## Charcoal Is on the Chopping Block

*SCE helps local BBQ restaurant cut greenhouse gas emissions with an electric smoker.*

Joe Borrelli grew up eating most of his meals in restaurants.

“Neither of my parents could cook,” he said. “We’d go out to eat all the time, and from doing that, I realized food is what I wanted to do with my life.”

Borrelli attended Cal Poly Pomona to get his degree in restaurant management but found that back-of-house duties didn't offer enough connection to the food to satisfy his passion. So, he enrolled in Le Cordon Bleu, a culinary arts school, for more hands-on training. His ensuing years with Outback Steakhouse, helping to open locations nationwide, is where he really learned the ins and outs of the food business.

Now, Borrelli runs two of his own restaurants. His most recent venture is Butcher Block BBQ in Irwindale, a pandemic baby born from his craving for brisket. “I love barbecue, and there aren’t a lot of places to get it around here, so I thought, ‘If I want some barbecue, why not make it myself?’” Borrelli said.

While getting the idea off the ground, he reached out to SCE’s Foodservice Technology Center for help in implementing electric appliances.

“We worked with Joe to figure out what equipment best fit his business, and he landed on the Southern Pride Smoker,” said Oliver Ta from the Foodservice Technology Center. “With the technology we have at the Foodservice Technology Center, we were able to show him several different options. He tried them out and tested his recipes with the equipment to ensure satisfaction.”

“The free test ride and flexibility in figuring out if it fits our business and meets our electrical needs is great,” Borrelli said.

“Learning from the people at the Foodservice Technology Center is eye-opening. We are 100% satisfied because we knew exactly what we were getting into without any obligation. We felt like we could really figure out what product was right for us.”



*The Southern Pride appliance now used at Butcher Block BBQ replaces a traditional smoker that produces excessive smoke. The appliance also does not use an open flame and has a self-timer and a continuous fan to ensure all of the meat is cooked evenly. Photo credit: Taylor Hillo*

### Cost Savings on Electric Bills and Labor

The Southern Pride appliance replaces a traditional smoker that produces excessive smoke, violating health codes at Borrelli’s location in Irwindale. Traditional smokers also need to be lit and watched overnight, requiring additional labor costs. The electric smoker does not use an open flame and has a self-timer and a continuous fan to ensure all of the meat is cooked evenly.

“With the self-timing ability, we not only saved a ton of money on our electric bill but also on labor. The product it produces is also so consistent, which is very important for a business,” said Borrelli.

His other restaurant, Bella Sera Trattoria, serves Italian cuisine and also runs on clean energy. In 2019, Borrelli partnered with the Foodservice Technology Center for the first time to electrify appliances there. He continues to look for clean energy opportunities.

“Every year, there's something new. The bells and whistles keep getting better. It's insane how much technology goes into cooking, which is so much of a science now,” Borrelli said.

Ta added, “We’re really proud to partner with Joe every step of the way. It's great to see such a forward-thinking business owner continuously adopting greener practices.”

For more information on SCE’s Foodservice Technology Center, visit [sce.com/ftc](https://sce.com/ftc).

## 2023 Sustainability Report Released by Edison International

*At the core of the company’s drive for expanded electrification is the need to power our economy in a way that supports sustainability for our planet and all its people.*

SCE parent company Edison International (EIX) recently released its 2023 Sustainability Report, which details 2023 performance and related metrics around sustainability. As we accelerate the clean energy transition to address climate change and enable a future where everyone can thrive, we remain focused on modernizing the grid to uphold reliability, resiliency and affordability.

Last year’s accomplishments include:

- Delivered 52% carbon-free power to SCE customers – 55% cleaner than the national average greenhouse gas intensity among utilities.
- Reduced the probability of loss from a catastrophic wildfire linked to SCE equipment by 85%-88% compared to pre-2018 levels.
- Added electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support a total (since program inception) of more than 4,400 light-duty charge ports at 254 sites and 1,540 medium- and heavy-duty vehicles at 65 sites within SCE’s service area, with expansion ongoing.
- Installed approximately 1,220 circuit miles of covered conductor within SCE’s service area, totaling approximately 5,600 circuit miles that cover nearly 60% of overhead distribution lines in high-fire-risk areas.
- Maintained a multi-year record with the lowest system average rate at SCE among California’s large investor-owned utilities.
- A critical priority is advocating for siting and permitting reform, essential to enabling the grid expansion needed to accelerate economy-wide decarbonization.
- We are leveraging many tools to support our strategy, from artificial intelligence and machine learning to strategic collaborations and investments in early-stage companies focused on innovative clean energy technologies and services.



To learn more and read the full EIX Sustainability Report, visit [edison.com/sustainability/sustainability-report](https://edison.com/sustainability/sustainability-report).

## Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Celebrating Business and Community Partnerships

SCE recently held our annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month event to celebrate organizations and companies that advance the efforts and contributions of AAPI communities.

As part of the event – with a theme of “Fostering Thriving Communities” – we proudly honored AAPI businesses and organizations in the categories of Community Partnership, Clean Energy, and Diversity. Congratulations to the highly deserving 2024 award recipients:

- **Community Partnership Award:** Asian Youth Center
- **Clean Energy Champion Award:** Karma Automotive
- **Gwen Moore Diversity Award:** Chinese American Construction Professionals

Learn about all of SCE’s heritage month events at [sceheritageevents.com](https://sceheritageevents.com). To find out more about our business programs and community initiatives, follow us on X @SCE\_Business and @SCE\_Communities, as well as on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages. For additional details on SCE’s diversity commitment, cultural awareness and outreach, visit [sce.com/diversity](https://sce.com/diversity).

## Be Ready When a CPP Event Is Called

With the summer season upon us, the demand for energy is high. As a customer with the Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) rate plan, you are receiving four months of summer bill credits in exchange for paying higher prices during 12-15 annual CPP events. If you do not think your business can participate in CPP events this year, you may have the option of choosing a rate without CPP at [sce.com/ratetool](https://sce.com/ratetool).

### Reduce Usage Between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. During CPP Events

When called, CPP events will take place between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on weekdays, weekends or holidays, usually occurring on the hottest summer days. By reducing your electricity use during CPP events you can minimize incurring higher prices. Plus, your business will earn credits on your electricity bills during the summer season, when your bills are typically the highest.

### Get CPP Event Alerts to Help Prepare and Save

Receiving alerts about upcoming CPP events is one of the best ways to help you prepare to save. We offer two ways to receive alerts:

- Download our SCE Demand Response Alerts mobile app to have alerts sent straight to your smartphone. Get the free app at [sce.com/business/savings-incentives/demand-response/demand-response-mobile-app](https://sce.com/business/savings-incentives/demand-response/demand-response-mobile-app) or download it from the App Store or Google Play.
- Visit [sce.com/ CPP](https://sce.com/ CPP) to set up or update your contact preferences to receive CPP event notifications via phone, text or email.

### Enroll in the Technology Incentive Program to Save More

Receive a \$75 incentive when you enroll a new or existing qualifying smart thermostat in our Technology Incentive Program. During a CPP event, we will notify your smart thermostat provider to remotely adjust the current temperature setting on your thermostat by up to 4 degrees. These small changes add up to big savings.

Visit [sce.com/ CPP](https://sce.com/ CPP) to manage your CPP event preferences, see if you qualify for the smart thermostat incentive, and view additional tips and strategies to help reduce your power usage and maximize your financial rewards for saving energy.