Our responsibilities to our customers and the environment will always be connected. From how we operate today to how we plan for the future, we are committed to protecting the environment while keeping our rates affordable for our customers. We have engaged millions of Californians in conserving electricity through our energy efficiency programs — resulting in lower emissions and improved air quality. In addition, we’re now delivering more renewable power than ever — in fact, more than any other utility nationwide.

Our commitment to operational and service excellence extends to environmental performance. Individual organizations within the company have accountability for environmental compliance, and they are supported by a centralized environmental support organization. We also are committed to working with stakeholders to pursue sustainable energy policies that keep power reliable and affordable for everyone while minimizing its environmental impact.

Air & Water Quality

State and federal policies are driving change in California’s generation fleet. We are concerned that the convergence of energy and environmental policies could threaten the reliability of the electrical system in Southern California. Electricity generated in the Los Angeles basin is vital to maintaining reliability for the nearly 14 million Californians we serve, and to integrating the increasing use of renewable energy resources.

Before new plants can begin operating, they are required to offset projected emissions. Today, there are not enough emissions offsets available in the region to license needed new power plants, when the California Independent System Operator estimates four or five new plants will be needed by 2022.

Southern California continues to face serious air quality issues. Most of the area's emissions—80 percent—come from mobile sources such as cars, trucks and trains. The rest comes from stationary sources such as refineries, power plants and factories. We believe continued collaboration among Southern California stakeholders is essential to resolve these issues for a sustainable energy future.

One of the Nation's Leading Utilities for Renewable Energy

We are one of the nation’s leaders in renewable energy procurement. In 2015, 24.3% of the electricity we procured came from renewable power sources. We provided 18 billion kilowatt hours of electricity generated from geothermal, wind, solar, small hydropower, and biomass resources. While public policies on renewables and other energy and environmental priorities can help to shape a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future for California, policymakers should understand the implications of trying to achieve these objectives concurrently and affordably, while keeping electricity reliable for ratepayers.

In 2016, the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) named Southern California Edison the No. 1 U.S. solar utility of the year in terms of added capacity. SCE added 1,258 MW of solar power to the grid in 2015, more than any other utility in the U.S.

Global Climate Change

An important issue in the power industry is how to address global climate change and electricity demand while maintaining power supplies, reliable service and affordable rates. Our responsibilities to our customers and the environment have spurred us to prepare for a carbon-constrained future and to actively engage in shaping effective policies to address the issue.
In 2014, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from facilities we own totaled approximately 2.4 million metric tons.

We recently initiated an effort to produce a comprehensive accounting of all of our GHG emissions. Currently, we report all mandatory GHG data such as utility-owned generation emissions, but we are not required to report emissions from other sources such as vehicles, buildings, purchased power, or transmission line losses. As part of our commitment to environmental stewardship, we will aggregate our GHG emissions in accordance with The Climate Registry’s General Reporting Protocol.

Conservation at Work: Reduce, Re-Use & Recycle

In 2012, we increased enrollment in our online billing program by 21%. Customers save on stamps, and we have reduced our paper consumption by 272 tons over the past three years.

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