



Ygrene Energy Fund and Golden State Finance Authority Launch Industry Leading Statewide PACE Financing Program

Every City and County in California Can Now Benefit from Lowest-cost Energy Upgrade Financing Via One-step Opt-in Process

Santa Rosa, CA, January 21, 2015 – Ygrene Energy Fund formally announces the availability of Ygrene Works™, its statewide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program based on its successful Clean Energy financing currently available to more than 3 million Californians. With this announcement, every California city and county can immediately “opt-in” to the PACE financing program making the Ygrene Works program accessible to all residents in the State. Under a unique partnership with Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), formerly known as California Home Finance Authority or CRHMFA Homebuyers Fund (CHF), cities and counties can now approve Ygrene Works in a single step making this ground-breaking financing option effortlessly available for energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades to homes and businesses.

“In coordination with Ygrene, we are excited to utilize our experience with local government to provide an outstanding program for property owners seeking to finance energy upgrades to their properties,” said Greg Norton, Executive Director of GSFA. “Ygrene and GSFA have developed a program that allows property owners to cost effectively finance energy efficiency projects that not only reduce energy costs but also contribute to job creation and improve local economies. We are excited to partner with Ygrene to bring the Ygrene Works PACE financing program to additional cities and counties across the State of California.”

Ygrene Works provides 100 percent financing for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural property owners to deploy energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation projects. Ygrene Works offers the lowest financing rates and fees in the industry. Ygrene is the only existing PACE financing program providing repayment terms of up to 30 years, resulting in lower monthly payments and potentially making even the most expensive upgrades affordable. Since 2013, thousands of home and business owners have utilized this simple and affordable financing mechanism to improve the value of their property and to save millions of dollars on their energy and water bills.

“We designed Ygrene Works to deliver the best financing program on the market with the fastest delivery,” said Stacey Lawson, Ygrene President and CEO. “Ygrene Works allows cities and counties to activate the lowest-cost energy upgrade financing for residents in one simple step. Californians can save money right away while cities and counties can enhance efforts to achieve environmental targets, create local jobs and generate economic growth. We look forward to continuing to lead the efficiency revolution with communities across the state.”

Activating the Ygrene Works financing program is fast and simple. The company streamlines the process ensuring there is virtually no staff time required, zero cost to taxpayers, and no risk of liability for local governments. Communities may activate Ygrene Works by approving a single resolution that will make the financing available to both home and business owners. Ygrene and GSFA provide all of the necessary documents including sample staff reports and resolutions.

If a community already has a PACE program, adding Ygrene Works will provide expanded options for constituents including the lowest rates and fees, longest financing terms, and unique features and benefits that do not currently exist with other PACE programs. Ygrene provides support to get the program up and running, including local contractor training, advertising, marketing support, and a sales or call center staffed with knowledgeable financial sales advisors bringing their expertise to the local program.

All cities and counties in California can join Ygrene Works today by visiting <http://ygreneworks.com/communities>, or calling 707-236-6608 to speak to a program advisor who can walk you through the process of activating the program in your community.

About Ygrene Energy Fund

Ygrene Energy Fund is the leading developer and administrator of clean energy financing programs throughout the United States. The fully funded Ygrene Works program provides immediately accessible financing for renewable generation, energy efficiency and water conservation upgrades to both residential and commercial property owners at no upfront costs. Over the next five years, the Ygrene Works program is projected to create tens of thousands of local jobs and invest hundreds of millions into local economies. Learn more at www.ygreneworks.com.

About Golden State Finance Authority

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), formerly known as California Home Finance Authority and CRHMFA Homebuyers Fund (CHF), is a joint powers authority organized in 1993 to support affordable homeownership in California. GSFA has distinguished itself as a leader in housing finance in California for more than 20 years helping more than 45,000 individuals and families purchase a home. GSFA has gifted over \$49 million in down payment assistance grants and helped over 1,260 homeowners to make energy efficiency upgrades to their properties.

California Home Finance Authority (CHF) is in the process of formally changing its name to Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA).



What is Ygrene Works?

Ygrene Works is the lowest cost PACE financing available to property owners enabling energy efficiency, renewable generation and water conservation improvements to homes and businesses throughout California.

What is PACE financing?

PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) lets residential and commercial building owners finance a wide range of energy or water conserving improvements and renewable energy generation systems. Because payments are made through property taxes, PACE participants enjoy long financing terms, reasonable rates and quick approvals. Only those property owners who wish to use PACE funding to make upgrades to their homes or businesses participate in the program.

What kinds of projects can be financed using the Ygrene Works program?

Ygrene Works provides funding for home or commercial property improvements that save energy or water or generate renewable energy. Literally thousands of products and services, along with associated installation costs, qualify for the program. The most commonly financed projects are solar systems, heating and air conditioning systems, windows, doors, roofing, insulation and duct work, pool pumps, water heaters, and water-saving measures.

What is the Golden State Finance Authority?

The Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) is a California public entity and agency formerly known as California Home Finance Authority (CHF). As a joint powers authority formed under California state law, GSFA has the power to form districts consisting of member counties and cities that unite to fulfill authority goals. By the unanimous vote of its 33 member counties the GSFA Board of Directors formed the statewide PACE district through which YgreneWorks operates.

What is Ygrene Energy Fund?

Ygrene is a private company based in Santa Rosa, California. The firm operates in several states, offering property tax secured financing that allows owners to fund environmentally beneficial improvements to homes, commercial and agricultural properties.

Why are GSFA and YEF offering the Ygrene Works program?

There are many advantages that accrue from the statewide scope of Ygrene Works. With GSFA as the sponsor, cities and counties can achieve the many benefits of PACE – economic development, job creation, sustainability goals – without taking on the district formation and administration oversight associated with operating a PACE district. For property owners, especially larger commercial participants, the potential for improving their facilities throughout the state while utilizing a single financing program is very attractive. Contractors appreciate the ability to bring YgreneWorks financing to customers throughout their operating territories. The structure is a win-win for all.

How does the Ygrene Works PACE program benefit my community?

Ygrene Works allows your city or county to bring best-in-class PACE financing to its constituents by providing 100 percent, no money down, tax-deductible project funding with the lowest rates and fees to residential and commercial property owners.

Why should my city or county join the Ygrene Works program?

Joining Ygrene Works is simple, with no costs, no ongoing staff time, and no legal or financial risks to your community. By offering Ygrene Works to your constituency, you make available the most flexible and affordable PACE program in California. The community will benefit from new jobs, increased economic activity, reduced energy and water use and achieved sustainability goals.

My community already has PACE financing, so why should we add the Ygrene Works program?

Activating Ygrene Works will expand the options available and ensure that your constituents have access to the lowest rates and fees available, the longest financing terms, and other unique features and benefits unavailable from other PACE programs. Ygrene is the only PACE program offering 100% financing for all eligible property types - residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural.



My jurisdiction is not a member of GSFA, so do we have to join GSFA to participate in Ygrene Works?

If your county is not a member or associate member of GSFA, the opt-in resolutions passed by your Board of Supervisors will include associate membership in GSFA. Similarly, for cities that are not already members of GSFA, the opt-in resolutions passed by your City Council will include associate membership in GSFA. There is no cost in either case.

What is the process for my community to join the Ygrene Works program?

Joining Ygrene Works is fast and simple. The resolutions necessary to opt-in to the program can be approved at a single City Council or Board of Supervisors meeting and, if desired, included on your consent agenda. GSFA and Ygrene will provide samples of all required documents including sample staff reports and resolutions. Call 707-236-6608 to speak with a Ygrene Works advisor who will walk you through the process.

Is Ygrene Works an AB 811 or SB 555 PACE financing program? Does my community need to join both?

Ygrene Works is structured with maximum flexibility in mind for GSFA, its members and all communities throughout California. The program is comprised of both AB 811 and SB 555 districts; however, the goal is to offer PACE financing utilizing a single, statewide district. A final determination will be made once judicial validation is completed. By approving the program with both districts included, your community will be able to make Ygrene financing available immediately following validation.

Is taxpayer money used to fund the Ygrene Works?

Ygrene Works does not rely on or use any public funding. Ygrene's financial partners provide all project funding for the program. The funding is repaid through the annual property tax payments made by participating property owners.

When will the Ygrene Works program begin operations in my community?

The earliest that Ygrene Works will be available in your community is approximately May 1. If your Board or Council approves the program after that date, then Ygrene Works can launch within 30 days of your approval.

Can our city or county work with Ygrene Works to develop a program tailored to our community?

Yes, Ygrene Works with our local partners to understand how your community is unique and welcomes your suggestions for how we can best reach your constituents. Program materials can be co-branded with your city or county, and communities can include program information on their websites and other pertinent materials. The Ygrene Works program is easily integrated with other energy efficiency and water conservation programs and utility rebate programs.

Are there any costs or risks to my community from Ygrene Works participation?

No. There is zero cost and no legal or financial risk to your city or county as a result of offering the Ygrene Works program in your community. Ygrene pays all costs of program administration, staffing, and marketing, and provides all project funding. No taxpayer funds of any kind are involved. Only those owners who voluntarily elect to utilize Ygrene Works to finance improvements to their property incur any costs.

How much staff time is required for my community to join the program, and what are our obligations after the program launches?

Ygrene Works is designed to provide a true turnkey operation with no ongoing administrative responsibilities for your city or county staff. GSFA and Ygrene provide sample reports and opt in resolutions for use by staff in putting the item before your City Council or Board of Supervisors. Once Ygrene Works is operating in your community, Ygrene administers all aspects of the program.

For more information call 707.236.6608 or email info@Ygrene.us