Next Governor Must Strengthen Cleantech Policies

COMMENTARY

Jason Anderson

This year, California overtook the U.K. to become the fifth-largest economy in the world, while also announcing it had hit its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels four years ahead of schedule. This blend of economic and environmental success is thanks in large part to our state’s pioneering clean energy and climate policies. In cities and towns across California, innovative state policies on clean energy and climate change have attracted investment and talent, encouraged innovation, and created jobs.

Gov. Jerry Brown has been working to keep this momentum going. The other week, he signed a bill pledging 100 percent emissions-free electricity by 2045 and issued an executive order targeting a carbon-neutral economy.

But his term in Sacramento is coming to a close. California’s next governor must continue to advance clean energy and climate policies, which are as important for our economy as they are for our environment. That’s why business associations across California — including Cleantech San Diego, of which Baker Electric Home Energy is a member — have joined forces to launch the #CleanEconomyGovernor campaign. We are asking both gubernatorial candidates, John Cox and Gavin Newsom, to commit to protecting and strengthening policies that enable California’s success as a clean economy leader.

Region a Cleantech Leader

The San Diego region is home to 3,427 cleantech companies employing 45,518 people, for an overall economic impact of $8 billion. The solar energy industry alone is responsible for 22,460 jobs in the metro area.

Clean technology is spurring economic growth across California. The state’s climate and clean energy policies have driven more than $49 billion in public and private clean energy investments into California’s economy. More than 542,000 Californians work in advanced energy, and the industry projects 10 percent job growth this year.

Cleantech Drives Jobs

Business leaders know from experience that moving rapidly away from fossil fuels and toward 100 percent clean energy is an economic opportu-
nity. Take Baker Electric Home Energy as an example. The company entered the residential solar energy business in 2005, and by next year is expected reach the 10,000 milestone for home power system installations.

Cementing our state’s clean energy and climate leadership will ensure a stronger, more resilient economy for decades to come. Clean technology grows the economy and creates jobs, while also cleaning the air, boosting energy independence, and curbing dangerous climate change. It’s working for us in San Diego, and all across California. We’re proud of our growing cleantech economy. And we’re counting on our next governor to set the stage for continued success.

Jason Anderson is president and CEO of Cleantech San Diego, a trade organization. Ted Baker is the CEO of Baker Electric Home Energy and President of CEO of Baker Electric, an electrical contracting firm.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Upcoming events

A Round of Golf with The Money Guys 2018
Organization: ACG
When: 9 am – 1 pm, Oct. 15
Where: Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, 1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach

Private Equity Showcase & Wine Tasting
Organization: ACG
When: 5 – 8 pm, Oct. 15
Where: Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, 1505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach

Content Marketing: Crafting Effective Audience-First Content
Organization: UC San Diego Extension/DeskHub
When: 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Oct. 16
Where: DeskHub, 2159 India St., San Diego

Using Business Analytics to Make Data-Driven Decisions
Organization: Graduate Open House
University of San Diego School of Business
When: 6 – 7:30 pm, Oct. 17
Where: Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, USD Campus
9598 Alcala Park, San Diego

International Trade Financing And Methods of Payment
Organization: San Diego Center for International Trade Development
When: 9:30 am – noon, Oct. 17
Where: Southwestern College Higher Education Center National City, 880 National City Blvd., Suite 7100, National City

Annual Kick Off Event and Networking Party
Organization: HRS Club of San Diego
When: 5:30 – 8 pm, Oct. 17
Where: The Bella Vista Social Club & Cafe, 2808 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla

Tech San Diego Manufacturing Operations Roundtable
Organization: Tech San Diego
When: 8 – 10 am, Oct. 18
Where: UCSD Extension, 6256 Greenwich Drive, San Diego

Making the Right Moves – Professional Development For Military Spouse Attorneys
Organization: Military Spouse JD Network
When: 9 am – 5 pm, Oct. 19
8 am – 2 pm, Oct. 20 (optional day)
Where: San Diego County Bar Association, 401 W. A St., Suite 120, San Diego

Protecting You and Your Business From Harassment Claims By Intersecting Compliance and Culture
Organization: HR Cafe
When: 8 – 10:30 am, Oct. 24
Where: Coastal Payroll Services
9350 Woxie Way, Suite 110, San Diego

Fall Front and Industry Forum: Achieving Velocity, Providing Solutions
Organization: NDIA San Diego, SPAWAR
When: Oct. 23-24
Where: Town and Country Resort And Convention Center,
500 N. Hotel Circle, San Diego

Titans of Military Tech: How Cubic innovates in San Diego’s Legacy Industry
Organization: MIT Enterprise Forum S.D.
When: 5:30 – 8 pm, Oct. 24
Where: MIT Enterprise Forum
Knobbe Martens Davinci Auditorium
12790 El Camino Real

2018 EXPO!
Organization: JEXPO
When: 11 am – 5 pm, Oct. 26, 27
Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar

Veteran & Military Entrepreneur Conference and Awards 2018
Organization: San Diego Business Journal
When: 10 am – 7:30 pm
Conference: 10 am – 4 pm
Networking 4 – 5 pm
Dinner and Awards 5 – 6:30 pm
Networking 6:30 – 7:30
Where: The Westin Gaslamp Quarter
910 Broadway Circle San Diego

Water Technology and the Environment Crisis in San Diego
Organization: MIT Enterprise Forum S.D.
When: 5:30 – 7 pm, Oct. 30
Where: RIO
3570 Carmel Mountain Road, Suite 400, San Diego

To submit an event for possible inclusion, email the following information to Steve Adamek at sadamek@sdbj.com: name, time and location of event; event host, event speaker(s) and/or description of event.