

Prop H: The San Francisco Clean Energy Act – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) *How will we get all that clean energy? How will it work?*

In its first decade, Prop H will build a comprehensive, financially stable mix of solar, wind power, and efficiency projects, so that we will reach 51% clean electricity sources by 2017. Then Prop H will build on that secure foundation to reach its other mandates, and eventually bring us 100% clean electricity by 2040.

2) *What is defined as ‘clean’ electricity? (I heard that Prop H allows coal and other fossil fuels to be considered clean.)*

The City has already established by law that clean energy technologies cannot include fossil fuel, nuclear energy, waste incineration, or any other technologies that are detrimental to human health. Prop H will follow this existing law. (The strange rumors that Prop H allows fossil fuel electricity are completely false.)

3) *What will it cost?*

The projects created by Prop H will be built with self funding revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are required to be paid back only with the profits and savings made from what they build. Under Prop H, the profits and savings brought in by solar, wind power and efficiency will be used to pay off the bonds. So Prop H will give us clean electricity with no added cost at all to taxpayers or ratepayers.

4) *I heard Prop H forces us to buy PG&E’s system?*

Not at all. Prop H simply mandates that the City review all possible ways to get to 100% clean electricity, and then create a plan to make it happen. Prop H very wisely allows the City to build out its own community renewable energy and electricity projects and incorporate some of PG&E’s systems, if PG&E can’t deliver low cost clean energy soon enough.

5) *I saw an ad that says Prop H will raise electricity rates?*

The ad you saw is completely false and was paid for by PG&E. The projects created by Prop H will be built with self funding revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are required to be paid back only with the profits and savings made from what they build. Under Prop H, the profits and savings brought in by solar, wind power and efficiency will be used to pay off the bonds. So Prop H will give us clean electricity with no added cost at all to taxpayers or ratepayers.

6) *I heard that Prop H will give too much authority to the Board of Supervisors?*

Prop H cannot move forward without the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), the City Controller, the Board of Supervisors, and the Mayor, all approving a plan together. So there are totally secure checks and balances in Prop H.

7) *I heard that Prop H will take away our rights as voters to approve bonds for utility projects?*

Prop H simply expands self funding revenue bonds already approved by voters in 2001 for *individual* renewable energy projects, so that they will apply to bigger projects covering the entire City. Prop H does this to ensure that a full 100% renewable energy network can be built for all of San Francisco. Prop H allows the City to use *only* revenue bonds, which are required to be paid back with the profits and savings made from the solar, wind power and efficiency projects that will be built.

8) *I saw a TV ad that says environmental groups are opposed to one of the energy measures?*

The ad you saw is talking about the *statewide* Proposition number 7.

Prop H is on the *local* ballot and was written by Sierra Club, The San Francisco Green Party, and many other environmental and consumer groups - as well as local Supervisors like Ross Mirkarimi and Aaron Peskin. Prop H is fully supported by Environmental groups. Remember to tell everyone to vote YES on H!