



CAC Item C6
Staff Report Item 13

To:	Ava Community Energy Authority
From:	JP Ross, Vice President Local Development
Subject:	Staff Report updating the Board on the launch of Ava's SmartHome Battery Program
Date:	February 18, 2026

Summary/Recommendation

This Staff Report updates the Board on the launch of Ava's SmartHome Battery Program

Financial Impact

N/A

Analysis and Context

Ava has allocated \$15M to the SmartHome Battery and Resilience Hub initiative. The Board approved the Program Design and Budget at the November 2025 Board meeting. Staff will provide an update on the launch timing and activities of the SmartHome Battery program.

Committee Recommendation

Attachments

Presentation: SmartHome Battery Pre-Launch Update

SmartHome Battery & Resilience Hubs Updates

February 2026

JP Ross, VP Local Development



Agenda

- Program Overview
- Launch Timing
- Installer and Customer Engagement
- Ava's Virtual Power Plant (VPP)
- Resilience Hubs



Program Goals, Audience and Learning

Program Goal

- Deploy \$15M in upfront and ongoing incentives that support community resilience, adding up to 21MW of dependable powered batteries to our community Virtual Power Plant (VPP).

Program Audiences

- Residential Customers – SmartHome Battery
 - ✦ Income qualified (CARE/FERA)
 - ✦ General Market
- Resilience Hubs

Program Learnings

- Enhance our understanding of how to reliably manage and grow battery aggregations
- Understand what is needed to deploy Community Resilience Hubs



SmartHome Battery + Resilience Hubs Launch Timing Attachment Staff Report Item 13A

SmartHome Battery (Residential Customers)

- March 2026: Program opens for newly installed solar and battery systems
- April 2026: Program opens for customers with existing solar and battery storage systems
- Q2/3 2026: Program opens for customers whose batteries are owned by aggregators pending aggregator execution of a participation agreement with Ava.

Resilience Hubs

- January 2026 onward: Resilience hub recruitment for Technical Assistance
- Q2: Technical Assistance available for Resilience Hubs
- 2H 2026: Targeting Resilience Hub Incentive launch



SmartHome Battery Installer and Customer Engagement

Installer Engagement

Ava is engaging with installers to both raise awareness and support installers to learn how to enroll customers in SmartHome Battery.

Activities include:

- Virtual Installer Informational Webinar (January 30)
- In-person Installer Training 1 in Oakland (February 25)
- Two in person additional installer trainings (Forthcoming in 2026, across service area)
- Engagement with California Solar and Storage Association (CALSSA)

Customer Engagement

Ava will announce SmartHome Battery launch across our owned channels and across key stakeholders. Installers will be the main channel.

Activities include:

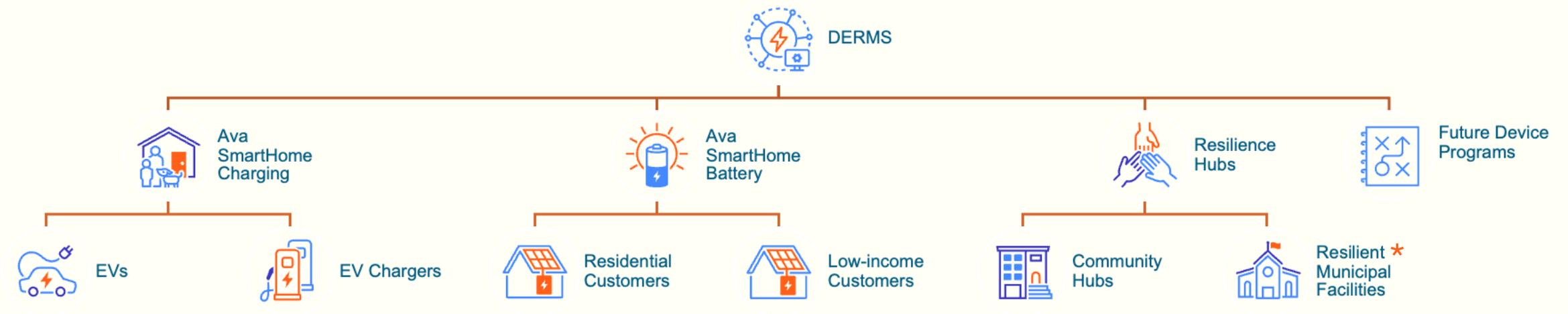
- Posts on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, and LinkedIn
- Inclusion in *Direct Current* Newsletter and *CEO's Desk* Newsletter
- Social/email content to share with Municipals
- Inclusion in the community-based organization newsletter
- Press Release



Solar and Storage as a Part of Ava's VPP

Ava's DERMS allows us to leverage distributed energy resources (DERs) to reduce our carbon footprint and support customer savings from DERs by aggregating these technologies and optimizing them to operate in concert. This is known as a "virtual power plant" (VPP).

Residential solar/battery projects will be part of Ava's Virtual Power Plant (VPP).

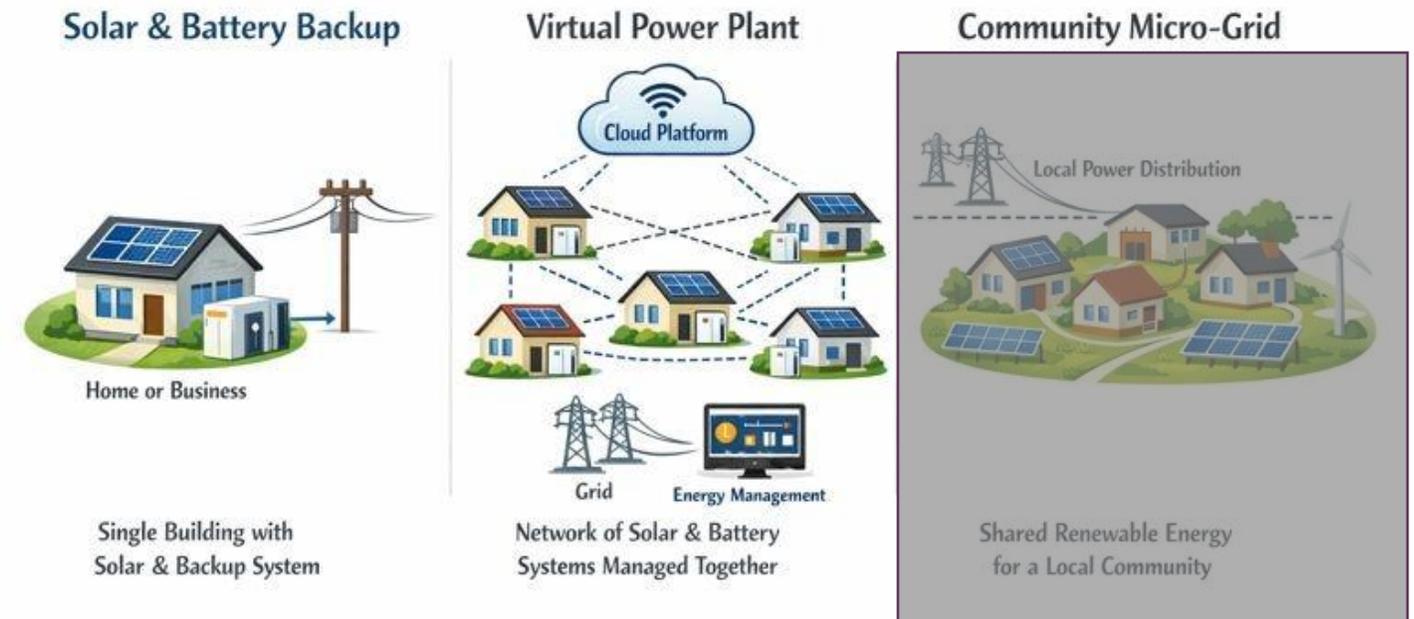


*Eight CMF projects not eligible for incentives



Ava's Virtual Power Plant

- Ava is working to add as many options as possible for customers to choose equipment.
- Initially Resilience Hubs will not be required to enroll in Ava's VPP based on lack of participation from commercial battery and inverter OEMs
- The SmartHome Battery program will launch with Tesla and Lunar batteries. Agreements with several other OEMs are underway and expected to be available within a quarter of program launch.
- Integrating batteries with a DERMs requires work from OEMs, can take up to 2 months, and requires extensive testing.
- Once operational maintaining battery connectivity requires constant reporting.



*Ava's VPP and Resilience Hubs will not be Community Micro-Grids



Community Resilience Hub Initiative Review

Objective: Understand the unique needs of community sites and provide them with resources, technical assistance, and incentives to develop local Resilience Hubs.

Community Outreach and Site Identification (\$300k)

Underway:

- ✓ Case Studies
- ✓ Resilience Readiness Tool
- ✓ Held 3 workshops with >150 registered participants and 26 CBOs to gather feedback
- ☐ Will lead 3 Community outreach to identify interested sites
 - ✓ One session complete 1/26



Technical Assistance (\$2M)

Forthcoming Q2:

- Resilience project sizing and feasibility assessment
- Contactor bid reviews
- Available grants and incentives
- Additional services as needed include: site visits, technical contract agreement review, EV charging assessment



Incentives (\$3.75M)

Forthcoming 2H 2026:

- Upfront incentive
- Waitlist for projects as they install equipment
- Incentive payment
- Potential for Ongoing VPP incentives with battery OEM integrations



Thank you!



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