Disaster Preparedness for Stinson Beach:

Why We Need Microgrids (and Why We Need Them Now!)

Where: Stinson Beach Community Center, 32 Belvedere Avenue, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

When: Thursday, October 18th, 7-9 pm

The ever present threat of earthquakes, and recent proposals by utilities to shut off electricity during times of extreme fire danger, highlight the need to invest in greater resiliency in isolated, rural communities such as Stinson Beach. The impacts of global climate change will only increase our vulnerability. One solution is microgrids, islands of power that can keep operating once the utility grid goes down, leveraging existing solar systems that may also go dark in the absence of batteries and other microgrid technologies.

Right now, the Stinson Beach Community Center has a solar system and a propane generator. If PG&E shuts off the grid because of extreme fire danger, the solar will also have to shut down, unless a battery is installed. It is also possible to combine the solar, the generator and a battery into a microgrid which could provide power for the community in the event of a sustained power grid turn-off or outage.

Longer-term, should the entire Stinson Beach community think about a community-wide resiliency plan, where individual homes (with solar and batteries) could also extend emergency services to the elderly, children and others in need of special care?

Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni will be in attendance and will make an opening statement. Local resident and global microgrid expert **Peter Asmus** will lead a discussion among a panel of experts:

- **Darren Malvin**, CEO of American Solar, a solar company that started in Stinson and Bolinas and which is currently designing a microgrid for the Bolinas Community Center.
- **Burton Eubank**, former technical director at the Dance Palace community center in Point Reyes Station and currently with the Inverness Fire Department. The Dance Palace has had a solar-battery microgrid operating for over a decade.
- **Craig Wooster**, lead engineer for the Stone Edge Farm microgrid in City of Sonoma, which successfully operated for 10 days during the Sonoma fires in 2017. He is currently developing seven more microgrids in Sonoma County, all of which feature hydrogen vehicles.
- **Vipul Gore**, CEO of GridScape Solutions, a Fremont-based company that installed microgrids at three fire stations in Fremont and is now developing 12 more microgrids for fire stations in Stockton area.
- **Aleksey Toporkov,** President, ARDA Power of Ontario, Canada, a company specializing in direct current (DC) microgrids which may offer environmental, efficiency and permitting benefits.

Refreshments will be served and there will be plenty of time for Q&A from the attendees. MCE, Marin County's local electricity provider, will also be present. For more information, check out this website: www.peterasmus.com or contact Peter at pthfind@earthlink.net or (415) 868-9866.