Through its gas stations and convenience stores, BP serves hundreds of California communities with a retail footprint that includes more than 290 ARCO-licensed and -branded stations and the franchise for more than 740 ampm convenience stores.

A leader in renewable energy
BP is the largest supplier of renewable natural gas (RNG) to the California transportation sector. Produced entirely from organic waste, RNG — or “biogas” — can reduce emissions by around 70 percent compared with gasoline or diesel. Additionally, BP and Clean Energy signed a 10-year margin sharing agreement whereby BP will provide RNG to Clean’s California fueling network — the largest RNG dispensing network in the state.

BP’s global partnership with Lightsource, Europe’s largest solar development company, has its U.S. headquarters in San Francisco. The company will invest $200 million in Lightsource BP over three years.

In November 2018, Lightsource BP signed a Power Purchase Agreement with the Sacramento Municipal Utilities Division (SMUD), one of the largest publicly owned utility companies in the U.S. This agreement will allow SMUD to power northern California communities with clean, renewable electricity for the next 25 years. With its expected commissioning in 2020, the site — known as Wildflower Solar I— will generate enough sustainable electricity to cover the annual needs of over 2,600 homes.

In coming years, the BSC plans to expand its research into wastewater, remediation and enhanced oil recovery. It also plans to help BP make further progress on converting waste streams to biogas, cleaning legacy industrial sites and producing oil more efficiently from existing resources.

Fast facts

- BP Ventures has invested more than $200 million in California-based companies.
- In 2018, BP announced a $5 million investment in FreeWire, a California-based manufacturer of mobile electric vehicle rapid-charging systems.
- BP’s San Diego Biosciences Center conducts research and manages academic partnerships aimed at accelerating the world’s transition to a lower-carbon future.

In numbers*

$370 million+
Spent with vendors

350+
Vendors supported

700+
Total jobs supported

140+
BP employees

$30 million+
Property, royalties, environmental and state/local income/franchise taxes paid

$1.3 million+
Community spend (2014-2018)

* Vendor and tax paid figures for the year ended December 31, 2018. BP employees and retail station figures as of June 30, 2019. Community spend includes BP Foundation.

Working for a low carbon future
Across the Golden State, BP helps create and support new low-carbon businesses and promising technologies. One example is Fulcrum BioEnergy, which produces low-carbon “biojet” fuel from household waste. Another is Beyond Limits, a Caltech startup commercializing artificial intelligence and cognitive computing software. BP has invested $55 million in Fulcrum and $20 million in Beyond Limits.

As part of the global technology team, BP’s San Diego Biosciences Center (BSC) studies how bioscience can add value and make BP’s businesses more sustainable. Created in 2015, the staff include both scientists and engineers and focuses its research on different aspects of BP operations, including production of renewable energy, oil and natural gas, and development of innovative, efficient fuels and lubricants.

As just one example, the BSC works closely with BP Biofuels, which produces ethanol from sugar cane in Brazil. The lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of this ethanol are 70 percent lower than conventional transportation fuels.

The BSC also provides specialist advice to Butamax, BP’s joint venture with DuPont. Butamax technology converts sugars from corn into an energy-rich biofuel known as bio-isobutanol, which can be blended with gasoline at higher concentrations than ethanol and transported through existing fuel pipelines and infrastructure.