



Community  
Environmental  
Council

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## 2022 Impact Report



# **BOLD** Climate Action

**Fiercely Protecting California's Central Coast Since 1970**

# A Letter from our CEO and Board President



Dear Friends,

When the Community Environmental Council was created over 50 years ago, we answered an urgent call to protect and preserve the health and integrity of California's Central Coast. Over time, our unique approach not only shaped this region, but influenced California and beyond.

Today the Community Environmental Council works to **reverse** the climate crisis with a **blend of daring imagination and effective pragmatism—two things the world needs more of**, and quickly. Incremental progress is not an option. That's why we've recently doubled down: doubling our staff, programming, and service areas to bring audacious ideas to scale.

This impact report provides a brief snapshot of our work over the last year, highlighting the ways we are accelerating progress through research, strategy, collaboration, and experimentation.

We encourage you to learn more about the work that inspires you. **We also invite you to join us at our new collaborative community space at 1219 State Street in Santa Barbara.** CEC's first-of-its-kind Environmental Hub is an epicenter for climate action where we can come together to turn inspiration into practical solutions to the climate crisis. Learn more about CEC's Environmental Hub at [envirohubsb.org](http://envirohubsb.org).

More than 50 years after our founding, we remain steadfast in our belief that by embracing fierce hope, taking collective action with urgency, and harnessing a proven blueprint that draws on the best of people and nature, we will ensure the Central Coast remains a treasure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sigrid Wright'.

Sigrid Wright  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara S. Lindemann'.

Barbara S. Lindemann  
Board President

During a year of record growth, we continued to sharpen our focus and deepen our capacity to respond regionally to the global climate crisis. Through a successful **50th Anniversary Campaign**, we raised additional funds and grew our net assets by over \$2 million. This allowed us to **broaden existing programs, expand our service area, develop new projects, and create an Environmental Hub for the community**, which will open this summer.

CEC consistently receives high ratings from GuideStar and Charity Navigator for financial health, accountability, and transparency.

## OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

**\$3 MILLION+ INVESTED** in CEC's new Environmental Hub

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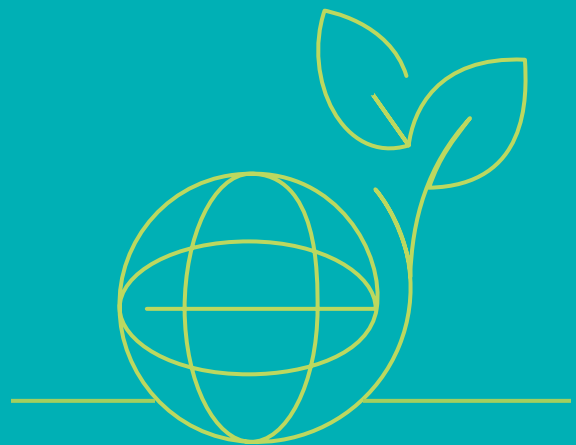
**17% GROWTH** in programs

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**\$2 MILLION INCREASE** in net assets

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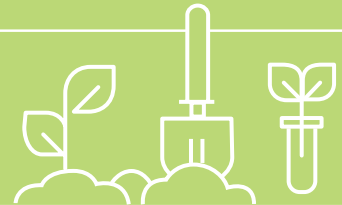
## OUR IMPACT

# CEC'S LEGACY: 50 Years of Environmental Leadership

**1970** Founded one of the nation's first **ecology centers**

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**1973** Founded one of the nation's first learning and research **community gardens**



**1976** Opened one of the nation's first community **recycling centers**

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**1985** Pioneered **hazardous waste collection** and curbside recycling

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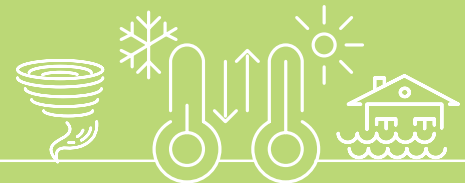
**1990** Helped pass California's **recycling law**, the first in the nation

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**2001** Built the **Watershed Resource Center** at Arroyo Burro Beach

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**2004** Shifted CEC's mission to focus on **climate change**



**2007** Published one of the nation's first **carbon neutrality plans**

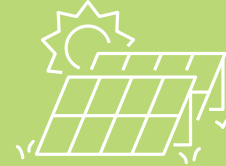
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**2010** Installed the first Rethink the Drink **water bottle refill station** in a local school



For 50 years, CEC has strategically catalyzed change on the Central Coast, influencing California and beyond.

**2011** Launched a solarize program that helped nearly **1,000 homeowners and nonprofits** install solar

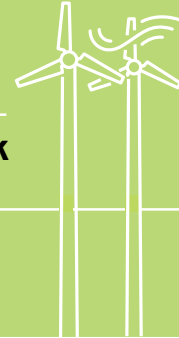


**2016** Published a countywide community-driven food action plan that led to the launch of the **Santa Barbara County Food Action Network**

**2017** Secured city commitments to **100% renewable energy**

**2018** Achieved **Community Choice Energy** for most of the Central Coast

Co-founded the **Central Coast Climate Justice Network**



**2019** Secured our region's first **wind farm**

**2020** Named California **Nonprofit of the Year**



**2022** CEO Sigrid Wright named **Congressional Woman of the Year**

**2023** Trained and certified our **100th (and counting) CEC Climate Steward**





**“ I am grateful to the  
Community Environmental Council  
for bringing us together to strategize  
and take action so we can break  
free from big oil.”**

**Jane Fonda**  
Actor and Climate Activist

# Our Work

CEC builds **on-the-ground** momentum to reverse the threat of the climate crisis. We **transform** the systems that fuel it. We **safeguard** the community from its impacts. We **lead**, we **partner**, we **act**. And every day, we **inspire people** to create a more resilient California Central Coast.

As the modern environmental movement broadens to better reflect the racial, economic, political, and age diversity of our region, we are **building networks** of diverse, engaged activists who champion rigorous climate action.

By focusing our efforts, together **we are making progress to:**



**REVERSE** the trajectory of climate change by propelling a rapid, equitable transition to zero emissions and zero waste in the Central Coast's energy, transportation, food, agriculture, construction, and waste sectors.



**REPAIR** the disrupted carbon cycle by accelerating and bringing to scale climate-smart agriculture practices that draw down excess carbon from the atmosphere.

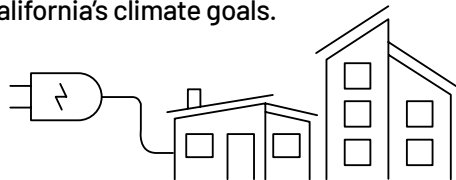


**PROTECT** vulnerable populations from extreme weather and other climate impacts by deploying bold, community-led solutions rooted in climate justice.

# 2022 | CEC'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE

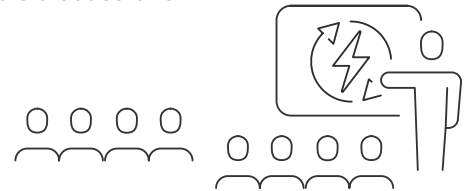
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**JURISDICTIONS PASSED ENERGY CODES ON THE CENTRAL COAST** (with 3 more not far behind) that ensure new construction is built all-electric with no natural gas, accelerating progress toward California's climate goals.



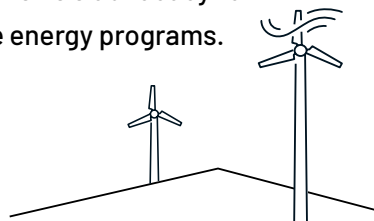
## 27,000+

Community members were **INFORMED, ACTIVATED, AND GUIDED ON CLIMATE ACTION** by CEC through webinars, meetings, events, and roundtable discussions.



## 1.4 million

Residents in 22 cities and counties across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties **HAVE ACCESS TO 100% RENEWABLE AND CLEAN ELECTRICITY** sooner because of CEC's advocacy for community choice energy programs.



## 5

**AIR QUALITY MONITORS WERE INSTALLED** in Northern Santa Barbara County to track wildfire smoke, pesticides, and other airborne toxins so impacted communities can better understand air pollution and its health effects.

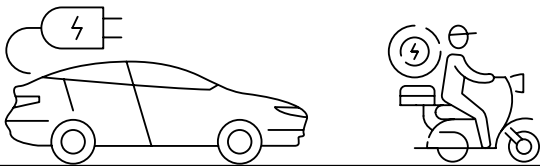




**50+** Years of proven success leading locally designed solutions to our region's most pressing environmental challenges.

**15,000+**

EV curious community members **LEARNED ABOUT AND TEST DROVE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND E-BIKES** at outreach events put on by CEC and our Electric Drive 805 collaborative.



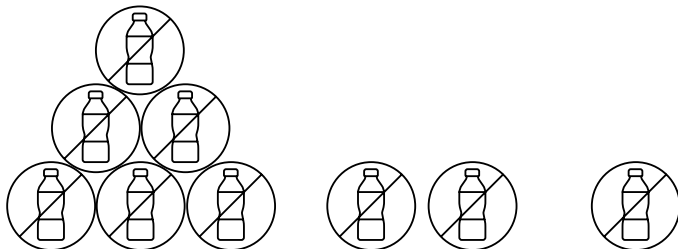
**100+**

Community members were certified as **CEC CLIMATE STEWARDS**, equipping them to play an active role in the statewide effort to advance rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.



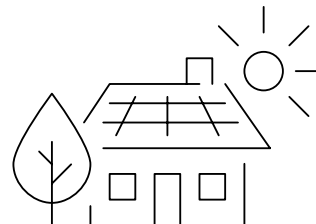
**7 million**

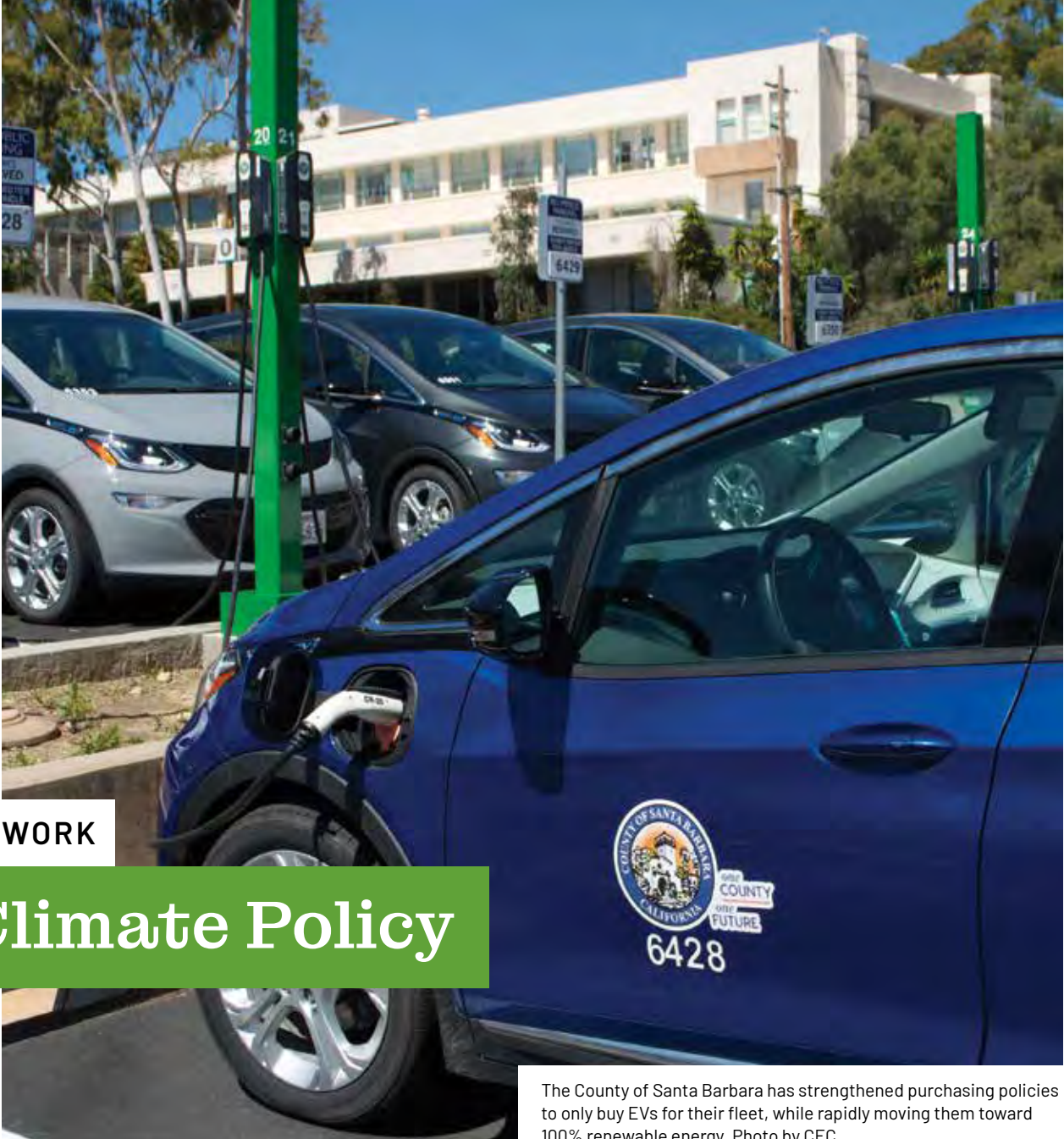
**SINGLE-USE WATER BOTTLES WERE NOT USED** because of 121 community water refill stations installed as a direct result of CEC's Waste Reduction program.



**1,600**

Tenants at 937 units across 22 properties in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties **TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ENERGY UPGRADE INCENTIVES** through CEC's clean energy outreach programs.





## OUR WORK

# Climate Policy

The County of Santa Barbara has strengthened purchasing policies to only buy EVs for their fleet, while rapidly moving them toward 100% renewable energy. Photo by CEC.

## OUR VISION

When the Central Coast advances ambitious goals and solutions like 100% renewable energy or plastic bag bans, we illuminate a path that gives the state and other regions confidence to set more aggressive policies.

**CEC's Climate Policy team is collaborating with a diverse group of passionate and committed community members and partners across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties to enact bold policies that will bring equitable climate solutions to scale.**


Current policy priorities include reversing climate pollution and reducing waste, repairing lands and sequestering carbon, building climate resilience and advancing climate justice, and accelerating funding for climate action.


# In 2022, CEC:


## Published a climate policy platform

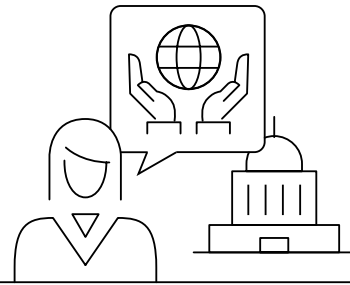
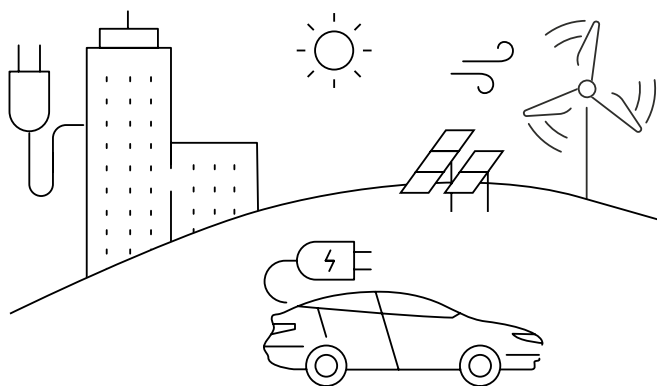


that guides CEC's advocacy for climate-safe and climate-smart policies.

 Campaigned for the City of Santa Paula to join the Clean Power Alliance, giving more than **30,000 residents a quicker path to 100% renewable electricity.**

 Following successes in the cities of Santa Barbara and Ojai, advocated for and helped pass an **all-electric ordinance for new construction** in the County of Ventura.

 Encouraged the County of Santa Barbara to fund an **Electric Vehicle (EV) Action Plan**, hire an EV-focused position, and strengthen fleet purchasing policies to mandate EV sedans, SUVs, and trucks. CEC's advocacy led to the addition of hundreds of EVs and charging stations for fleet, workplace, and public use.



## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Advocate for carbon neutrality and associated targets that go beyond state goals in six local city and county climate action plans.
- Pass all-electric ordinances in the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta and the County of Santa Barbara, and continue to promote voluntary incentive programs to help people ditch gas appliances and switch to heat pumps and other highly efficient electric technologies.
- Push Port Hueneme and Fillmore, the last remaining cities in our region, to join community choice energy programs and move more quickly toward 100% renewable electricity.
- Continue to advocate for 100% electric vehicle purchasing policies and programs that make electric vehicle ownership more accessible to all.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: Moving Toward All-Electric in New Construction

All-electric buildings are more affordable to construct, healthier for those who live in them, and more sustainable, as they can be powered with 100% renewable electricity and no natural gas. They also conserve energy with high-efficiency heat pumps, solar power, energy storage, and other advanced electric technologies.

“Our transition away from gas has been surprisingly easy. All-electric is definitely the future, and we’re stoked to be on the front end of positive change.”

Casey and Hunter Turpin  
All-Electric Homeowners



The Community Environmental Council leads a coalition with the Sierra Club, Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG), and other partners to push local cities and counties to adopt all-electric ordinances for new construction. In recent years, **our coalition has successfully campaigned for the cities of Ojai and Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura to pass all-electric ordinances**, and we expect three more local governments to pass similar laws in the coming months.



Carpenteria couple Casey and Hunter Turpin utilized Santa Barbara County's Smart Build green building program to go all-electric in their new home. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

CEC's coalition is responsible for a large percentage of the all-electric local ordinances passed in Southern California—contributing to the more than 74 all-electric codes that have been adopted throughout the state. Local government action will likely lead to the State of California adopting an all-electric state building code in 2025, steering the nation toward a more sustainable and fossil-free future.

CEC has previously been successful with many similar local policies that gained support to become state laws, such as 100% renewable electricity goals, 100% electric bus goals, plastic bag bans, and carbon neutrality goals. **Ripple effects continue as many other cities and states follow California's lead by passing similar legislation and regulations.**

## OUR WORK

# Climate Justice




Air quality monitors installed in Northern Santa Barbara County are empowering our communities to understand climate impacts—and take action to safeguard their health. Photo by CEC.

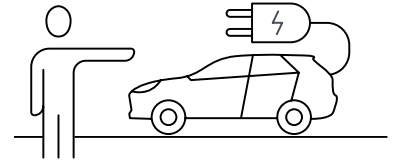
## OUR VISION


In a region with extreme wealth disparity and some of the highest poverty rates in the state, **CEC is deploying bold, community-led solutions rooted in climate justice that protect our most vulnerable populations against extreme weather and climate impacts.** We engage frontline communities that are additionally impacted by fossil fuel infrastructure, legacy pollution, extreme weather, and other intersecting injustices to ensure that everyone has a say in how to protect against climate risks.


By actively creating spaces where underrepresented voices can share their vision and directly influence the planning and implementation of community-led solutions, we can catalyze and sustain investment in communities most vulnerable to climate change.

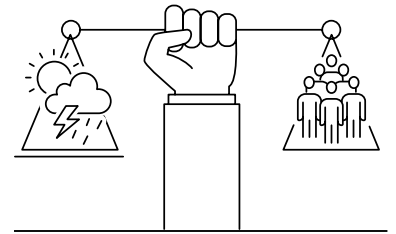
# In 2022, CEC:


 Partnered with Visión y Compromiso to provide **electric vehicle training to Spanish-speaking community ambassadors**. Through grassroots peer-to-peer education, these ambassadors helped more people access clean vehicles.



 Expanded translation, interpretation, and consultation with our partner Rooted Language Justice to **build Spanish language capacity and deepen CEC's language justice work**, helping ensure greater access by a broader community.

 Expanded the capacity of the Central Coast Climate Justice Network to extend a regional, grassroots Green New Deal for Ventura County, launch a labor policy council, and continue to advance **social, economic, racial, and environmental justice** for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.



 Developed Nuestro Tiempo, **a space for Spanish-speaking community members** to learn more about how climate change intersects with key issues, share ideas and concerns, and design ways to take action.

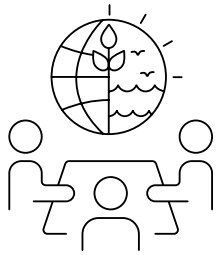
## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Expand and deepen opportunities, especially through language-accessible civic engagement, for underrepresented communities across the Central Coast to play a key role in planning and implementing climate solutions.
- Partner with the County of Santa Barbara to bring regional funding that supports strong stakeholder collaborations and community partnerships, making climate justice and allyship with frontline community leaders the status quo.
- Using data gathered from five air quality monitors installed in partnership with Blue Tomorrow via the Guadalupe Community Air Project, expand our understanding of regional air quality and its impacts on local communities, and develop a Community Action Plan to advance local air protection.
- Continue to recruit and retain a more diverse staff that better reflects the community we work with and serve, with a commitment by all to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ).

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: **Nuestro Tiempo**

An initiative of the Community Environmental Council, **Nuestro Tiempo (Our Time) empowers Spanish-speaking community members to learn more about climate change, share ideas and concerns, and design ways to take action.**



“ Because of my participation in Nuestro Tiempo, I know that my voice matters. I now have the resources to know who to go to about things and I have confidence and feel empowered to be part of decision-making that affects my community.”

Eneeden  
Member, Nuestro Tiempo

Held in Spanish, these meetings cover topics such as single-use plastics reduction, electric vehicles, and natural disaster planning, providing a safe space to discuss climate impacts with peers who also want to learn and see positive change. One member, Mayra, shared that since joining Nuestro Tiempo, she and her family have been **inspired to take small, but impactful actions**, like switching to reusable water bottles, taking shorter showers, and not overwatering their garden. In 2022, CEC helped her navigate the purchase of a hybrid vehicle, saving her family money on gas and providing an opportunity to make an even bigger impact.

Until Eneeden joined Nuestro Tiempo, she felt unheard and powerless when it came to decisions that impact her community. Learning about extreme heat—and seeing how it affects her family and her neighbors firsthand—reminded her that her voice matters and is critical to influencing how our communities prepare for climate disasters. She credits the information and resources she now has access to through Nuestro Tiempo for empowering her with the **confidence to speak up and engage in local politics**.

Doña Tere looks forward to Nuestro Tiempo meetings where she can learn about climate issues and explore things the group can do together, like planting new trees in neighborhoods where existing ones are disappearing. Like Eneeden, she feels empowered through her Nuestro Tiempo community to **ask questions, seek information, and take action** on environmental issues that matter to her.





Nuestro Tiempo members Eneden and Doña Tere discuss how to build climate resilience in their community with CEC Community Ambassador Ana Rico. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR WORK

# Climate Resilience



CEC and the California Climate & Agriculture Network co-host a field day in Santa Barbara County with stakeholder agencies and representatives to discuss how prescribed grazing can build fire resilience. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR VISION

Climate resilience is community resilience—a whole community approach that ensures everyone’s well-being is considered. Achieving resilience requires deep thinking around issues such as social and economic inequities and structural racism, as well as long-term integrated planning among agencies and jurisdictions.

To build true community-wide resilience, **CEC is pioneering climate adaptation and resilience efforts that are rooted in equity and catalyzed by place-based innovation.** We elevate solutions that are community-led, ready to activate, and intersectional, supporting a broad range of community needs.

# In 2022, CEC:

Published **the region's first Climate Resilience Action Plan**, synthesizing over 700 climate resilience and adaptation solutions from a series of five community roundtables on our region's greatest climate threats: extreme heat, wildfire and smoke, sea level rise, drought, and intense storms. The plan identifies **11 key actions to make our region safer** and more prepared for climate disruptions.

In conjunction with the Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council's Regional Wildfire Mitigation Planning program, piloted a climate planning process that **engaged frontline communities to define wildfire resilience solutions** that are iterative, collaborative, and replicable.

In partnership with the Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative, identified three community resilience hubs that will provide **centralized disaster services, support, and education** to residents who are most vulnerable, or at high risk, during disasters.



## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Launch three community-designed resilience hubs in Santa Barbara County that provide refuge and resources for community members to not only survive disasters but recover, adapt, and continue to thrive in the face of future climate threats.
- Work with the Santa Barbara County Wildfire Resilience Collaborative to develop and execute wildfire resilience and habitat restoration projects, including in the Goleta Riparian Corridor.
- Formalize an Extreme Heat Resilience Coalition of public and private partners to develop and launch solutions for vulnerable communities who face one of the region's deadliest climate impacts.
- Align climate resilience goals with public health goals by piloting community resilience solutions to reduce the economic and health disparities related to the prevalence of extreme heat.

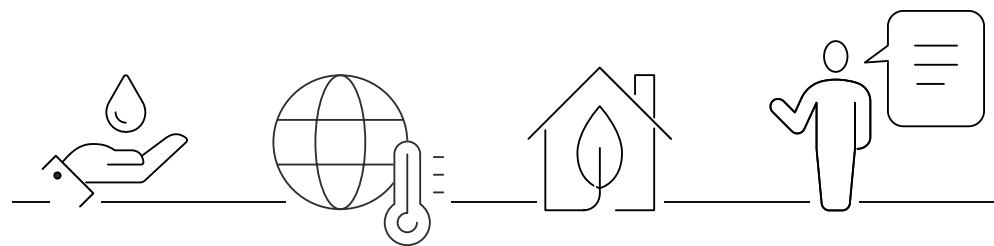
# Climate Leadership



CEC Climate Stewards attend a field trip with the UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute to learn about native plant restoration and marine protected areas along our region's coastline. Photo by CEC.




## OUR VISION

With the increase in catastrophic climate events, we need more people to take an active role in protecting our communities. By working to educate, unite, and activate a broad range of Central Coast residents, **CEC is building networks of diverse, engaged activists who champion authentic, rigorous climate action in their neighborhoods, businesses, and homes.** The trained activists and grassroots leaders join a web of deeply-networked organizations so that together, we can move at the unprecedented pace required to reverse, repair, and protect against climate threats.





## In 2022, CEC:

-  **Increased the number of certified CEC Climate Stewards to over 100**, growing the on-the-ground network of leaders now equipped to play a more proactive role in the statewide effort to advance rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.
-  Through CEC Climate Steward capstone projects, developed curricula for four public museums and conservations centers along the Central Coast. These groups are now educating more than 3,000 individuals each year on how to take action, creating **powerful ripple effects of grassroots climate leadership**.
-  **Informed, activated, and guided more than 27,000** individuals on climate action through webinars, meetings, events, and roundtable discussions.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Train 100+ more climate leaders who are equipped to spur a wave of grassroots climate action across the California Central Coast and beyond.
- Increase the number of CEC Climate Steward capstone projects focused on climate action making a direct impact in communities throughout our region—from public education and nonprofit spaces to neighborhoods and community gardens.
- Continue to partner with the growing statewide California Climate Action Corps to create and launch college and post-college level professional development for young people starting out in climate careers.
- Activate CEC's new Environmental Hub to host our Climate Action Summit and community education events, and provide a space for activists to network, collaborate, and access resources.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: The Powerful Ripple Effect of Grassroots Climate Leadership

As **the first and only nonprofit on the Central Coast to deliver the Climate Stewards certification program**, the Community Environmental Council equips everyday community members with the knowledge and tools to lead grassroots climate action that extends far beyond our region. One of the ways graduates are demonstrating this is through capstone projects being deployed at regional museums and conservation centers.

“I want to show youth that they too can be biologists, botanists, environmentalists, or museum leaders who work in their own backyard preserving our delicate ecosystem.”

Christina Hernandez  
Alum, CEC Climate Stewards Program  
Community Outreach Coordinator,  
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center

At the Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation (MOXI), CEC Climate Steward Vicky Phan curated a Thinking Green curriculum in the museum's Innovation Workshop. Using materials that would otherwise end up in the landfill, participants create wind-powered vehicles to learn about renewable energy, make eco-bricks to deepen their awareness of single-use plastics, and sort trash to see first-hand why reuse is critical to waste reduction. Meanwhile, facilitators share information and pose questions that encourage participants to take climate action at home and in their communities.

At the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, CEC Climate Steward Christina Hernandez saw a need for equitable opportunities for Spanish-speaking youth and families to learn about nature and climate change. To meet this need, Christina leads community hikes and field trips in Spanish, and developed bilingual resources that connect what participants see on these excursions to our changing climate, offering steps they can take to support the conservation of native species.

Similar curricula will launch at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Ty Warner Sea Center in the year ahead. **Combined, these programs will touch tens of thousands of visitors from around the world each year.** As CEC looks ahead to training up more Climate Stewards, we are well on our way to creating the groundswell of climate action needed to stop climate change.



CEC Climate Steward alum Vicky Phan teaches MOXI museum patrons of all ages about climate change and steps they can take to mitigate the impacts. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR WORK

# Clean, Efficient Energy




CEC's Green Car Show at Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival is just one example of how our team is connecting one-on-one with the public about how to drive and ride electric. Photo by J Andrew Hill.


## OUR VISION


**CEC is rapidly moving the South Central Coast region to all-electric homes, businesses, and vehicles that can be powered with 100% renewable energy.** By powering our vehicles and buildings with clean electricity, we can get fossil fuels out of our region for good, while developing innovative, equitable, and replicable programs to help other areas of California and the nation reach bolder goals. The quicker we collectively get there, the greater chance we have of avoiding climate disasters.




# In 2022, CEC:

 Partnered with the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program to provide financial incentives to property managers, **delivering long-term direct financial benefits to low-income residents, catalyzing the market for solar on multifamily housing, and creating local jobs** through solar workforce training partnerships.

 Building on the thousands of individuals we've helped with EV education through webinars and events, expanded **one-on-one support in Spanish and English** to 65 low- to moderate-income drivers on how to utilize incentives and other benefits—making the switch to an electric vehicle easier.

 Worked with the Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN) and the Association for Energy Affordability to expand outreach for energy efficiency and building electrification improvements at multifamily residential housing, resulting in **home energy upgrades for 1,600 tenants at 937 units across 22 properties** in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

 Completed **three Solarize Nonprofit projects** (11 to date), including Clinicas Fillmore and Planned Parenthood Ventura, whose buildings now have solar panels paired with battery storage, stabilizing the facility's energy costs and enabling them to provide critical affordable healthcare to underserved residents during grid outages.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Expand efforts to help Central Coast residents move away from gasoline and natural gas, including through our new Electrify Your Life service that provides one-on-one support to affordably transition to high efficiency electric appliances and clean vehicles.
- Expand access to bilingual EV purchase guidance, with priority to low- to moderate-income drivers with longer commutes so we can achieve the highest emissions reductions and deliver greater financial benefits to the households that need relief from high gas and housing costs.
- Provide technical assistance to small businesses, community kitchens, and food banks so they can access incentives for new, energy-efficient refrigeration units that will expand access to healthy, culturally-appropriate foods in underserved communities.
- Help other nonprofits access Inflation Reduction Act benefits to acquire the greatest financial benefits from the photovoltaic systems they install with CEC's Solarize Nonprofit program.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: Electrify Your Life

From electric vehicles and solar power to home heat pumps and all-electric appliances, the Community Environmental Council's Electrify Your Life service provides **one-on-one assistance to single-family homeowners, property managers, businesses, and nonprofits to help make going electric affordable.**

“Our monthly bill is cheaper, and we're able to share the savings with our renters. And it's one more way to move away from oil.”

Alice Maxon  
Homeowner and Landlord

Although online tools are available, most people don't have the time needed to track down, research, and apply to all the federal, state, and local programs that offer incentives and support for electrification. The barriers to access these programs are even greater for low-income households and businesses in underserved communities that are often eligible for the largest incentives and financial benefits. Enter CEC's Electrify Your Life service, specifically designed to assist residents and businesses of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties to ensure that everyone has the best chance to be part of a clean energy future.

Alice Maxon of Guadalupe received valuable purchase guidance from CEC's team that helped her purchase her first fully electric vehicle. By walking Alice through the different incentives, it became clear that pairing solar and battery storage with her EV would save her even more money. Through what she learned and the incentives she was able to take advantage of, **Alice's entire property, which houses multiple families, now runs on solar power.**

Over the next year, CEC hopes to bring this service to scale to help more people like Alice take advantage of the many incentives and benefits of going all-electric.





Alice Maxon's 2022 Hyundai Kona EV runs on 100% renewable electricity produced by her home's solar panels. Photo by Meghan Woodbury.

## OUR WORK

# Climate-Smart Agriculture





Prescribed grazing is one climate-smart agriculture practice that offers proven strategies for climate threat mitigation. Photo by Shepherdess Land & Livestock.

## OUR VISION

Climate-smart agriculture can help mitigate and reverse compounding climate threats such as extended drought, extreme heat, and flood. Through collaborations on small- and large-scale carbon farming projects, we are demonstrating that practices such as prescribed grazing, compost application, and cover-cropping can increase carbon sequestration, water infiltration, and biodiversity. **CEC is working to accelerate and bring these climate-smart agriculture practices to scale** so we can reduce the impacts of climate change, increase the resiliency of our natural and working lands, and create stronger, more resilient food systems in the Central Coast region.

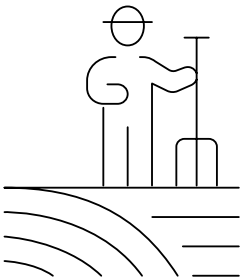


## In 2022, CEC:

-  In partnership with White Buffalo Land Trust, was awarded a climate-smart commodities grant to launch a pilot project that will **measure the climate impacts and market viability** of the native Western Blue Elderberry.
-  Collaborated with the California Climate & Agriculture Network, local fire professionals, prescribed grazing practitioners, and rangeland ecologists across California to **create a statewide prescribed grazing policy platform** that laid the groundwork for California State Senator Monique Limón to introduce **SB 675**, ensuring prescribed grazing is better integrated into existing wildfire resilience programs and strategies.

### WHAT'S AHEAD

- Continue to work across our region's agricultural communities to accelerate the adoption and scaling up of nature-based strategies aimed at drawing down legacy greenhouse gasses.
- Establish pollinator habitat across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to increase beneficial insect populations and decrease pesticide use.
- Scale up compost application on agricultural lands to boost carbon capture and soil health by increasing access to affordable compost and spreading options.
- Develop innovative financing models that strengthen collaborations and provide technical assistance and other critical resources to those who are implementing nature-based climate solutions.



## OUR WORK

# Circular Economy



Encouraging the public to refill bulk items at shops like Sunkissed Pantry in Santa Barbara is one way CEC is promoting a circular economy model. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR VISION

Our region has looked to recycling as a landfill diversion solution for several decades—but it's not enough. **CEC is driving progress towards a zero-waste society with circular economy models** that turn hard-to-reach waste streams into valuable resources that further reduce climate emissions. Transitioning our take-make-waste system to a closed-loop system of reuse is complex, demanding that we look at how we manage resources, how we make and use products, and what we do with the materials afterward. In order to get there, our focus is on expanding regional food waste reduction efforts and educating and activating the public to support policies that demand reusable, refillable, and legitimately recyclable packing models.

# In 2022, CEC:

☀️ Successfully advocated for a **comprehensive plastic reduction law** in the City of Goleta and supported SB 54, a landmark regulation that requires manufacturers to take responsibility for their packaging and to significantly increase recycling percentages by 2032.

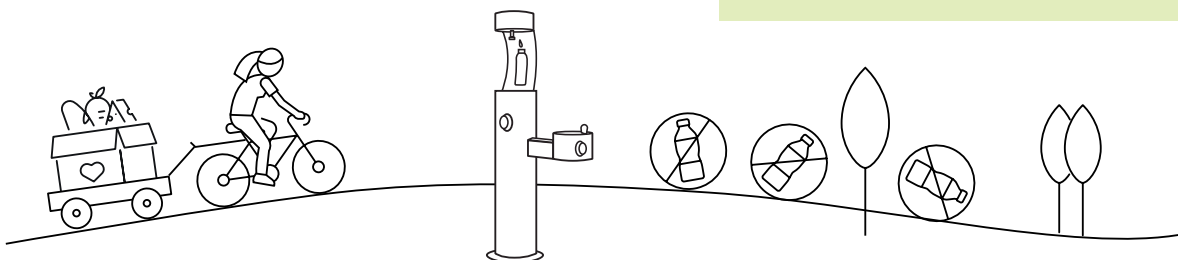
🌐 Installed six public water stations in the City of Santa Barbara, bringing the total to 121 bottle-filling hydration stations in schools, parks, and public spaces throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Through these efforts, CEC has accelerated behavior change and **reduced single-use bottle consumption by more than seven million.**

🌿 Partnered with CalRecycle to provide resources, equipment, and funding to CEC's Santa Barbara County Food Rescue partner, Veggie Rescue, resulting in the **recovery of 663,128 pounds of high-quality food** that was distributed to local organizations that feed community members experiencing food insecurity.

🌱 Engaged industry **re-use solutions** leader r.Cup at the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival—its first event in Santa Barbara County—to implement a closed-loop reusable cup system in the beer and wine garden, eliminating more than 5,000 disposable cups.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

- Push the cities of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara to follow the City of Goleta's lead and pass laws that promote comprehensive single-use plastics reduction and circular economy policies, providing a model for other jurisdictions in our region and beyond.
- Continue to develop closed-loop systems with our climate-smart agriculture partners to turn food that would have gone to the landfill and create greenhouse gas emissions into a valuable resource that is captured, composted, and used in carbon-negative land management.
- Continue to fledge the tools and resources CEC developed for our Santa Barbara County Food Rescue program to local government partners now mandated to rescue food and divert organic waste streams from landfills so they can facilitate donations of high-quality, healthy food to organizations that feed our most vulnerable community members.



# Our Partners

120+ Active Partnerships

The Community Environmental Council believes that it will take all of us, working together in new ways, to solve the climate crisis. Bound together by a shared sense of urgency and accountability, we are partnering with businesses, organizations, schools, and governments on specific climate action outcomes to accelerate progress and build a community of true resilience.

## In 2022, CEC partnered with:

350.org Santa Barbara	ChowMatch	Gaviota Agriculture Project
Ablitt's Fine Cleaners & Tailors	Chumash Casino	Gaviota Coast Conservancy
Access Clean California	Citizens Climate Lobby	Girls Inc., Carpinteria
Adams Elementary School Ocean Guardian Ambassadors	City of Carpinteria	GRID Alternatives
Association for Energy Affordability	City of Goleta	Guadalupe Union School District
Asteri Solar	City of Guadalupe	Holy Cross School, Ventura
Be The Change Consulting	City of Santa Barbara	Independent Living Resource Center
Blue Sky Center	City of Santa Maria	Isla Vista Community Services District
Blue Tomorrow	City of Solvang	Kermit McKenzie Intermediate School, Guadalupe
Brave New Us	Clean Power Alliance	La Purisima Concepción
Brighten Solar	Climate First, Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG)	Lazy Acres Natural Market
Bristol Farms	Clinicas del Camino Real, Fillmore	League of Women Voters Santa Barbara
Cachuma Resource Conservation District	Cultivate Events	LegacyWorks Group
California Climate & Agriculture Network	Domestic Violence Solutions	LOACOM
California Coastal Conservancy	Ecology Action	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
California Department of Food and Agriculture	Electric Drive 805	Los Padres Forest Watch
California Solar Electric	Environmental Alliance of Santa Barbara County Museums	Mercury Press International
CalRecycle	Environmental Coalition	Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
CarpEvents	Environmental Defense Center	MOVE Santa Barbara County
Carpinteria Children's Project	EV Advocates of Ventura County	National Stewardship Action Council
Casa Serena	Explore Ecology	New House II and III
Center for Sustainable Energy	Father Virgil Cordano Center	Notre Dame School, Santa Barbara
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)	Food & Water Watch	Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council
Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition	Foodbank of Santa Barbara County	Oniracom
Central Coast Climate Collaborative	Franklin Neighborhood Center	Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Oxnard
Central Coast Climate Justice Network	FRESA (Food Resilience, Equity, Sustainability, and Action)	Planned Parenthood California Central Coast
Central Coast Community Energy	Future Leaders of America	Port of Hueneme
	Gardens on Hope	



Recurve	Santa Barbara County Food Action Network	Ted Chamberlin Ranch
Regeneración - Pájaro Valley	Santa Barbara County Green Business Program	The Climate Center
Regional Priority Plan, Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District	The EZBike Project
Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program	Santa Barbara Permaculture Network	The Fund for Santa Barbara
Rewiring America	Santa Barbara Public Library, Eastside	Traffic Solutions
Rooted Language Justice	Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter of the Sierra Club	Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN)
Route One Farmers Market	Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office	UC Office of Agriculture and Natural Resources
San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District	Sarah House	UC Santa Barbara
San Luis Obispo Climate Coalition	Society of Fearless Grandmothers	UC Santa Barbara Central Coast Sustainability Summit
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden	Solar for Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH)	Veggie Rescue
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper	Southern California Edison	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
Santa Barbara Clean Energy	St. Anthony's School, Oxnard	Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance
Santa Barbara County	St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District	St. Mary's School, Santa Maria	Visión y Compromiso
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments	St. Raphael School, Goleta	White Buffalo Land Trust
Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative	Sustainable Change Alliance	Wild Farmlands Foundation
Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council		Wildling Museum of Art and Nature



Photo by CEC.

# Our Investors

CEC makes an impact on the long-term health of our region by taking specific actions on the ground, while also working to transform a web of systems to reverse, repair, and protect our climate. Our work is made possible in part by the generosity and support of investors.

## Thank you to the following donors who gave generously in 2022 and/or through the 50th Anniversary Protect Our Climate Campaign:

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# Our Leadership

## Board of Directors

CEC's Board of Directors represents a diverse cross-section of our community who demonstrate a deep commitment to nurturing local solutions to climate change impacts. As the official governance body of the organization, the Board oversees the Chief Executive Officer, establishes the operational budget and audit, and provides strategic input to ensure we fulfill our mission.



### **PRESIDENT**

**Barbara S. Lindemann**  
Emerita Professor, Santa Barbara City College

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**Charles Newman**  
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Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## President's Council

CEC's President's Council includes CEC founders, past directors, and esteemed friends who have devoted a significant amount of time, talent, and treasure over decades, working to protect our communities for generations to come.

**Dennis Allen**, Dennis Allen Construction (retired)

**Diane Boss**, Retired, Community Volunteer

**Laura Capps**, Santa Barbara County  
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**Dave Davis**, Past CEC Executive Director (retired)

**Katie Davis**, Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura  
Chapter

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**Sally Warner-Arnett**, Community Leader

## Partnership Council

CEC's Partnership Council is made up of community leaders from across the region who act as ambassadors to collectively advocate, network, and promote the work and impact of the organization.

### CO-CHAIRS

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**Cooper Matthieson**, Community Volunteer

**Jessica McLernon**, Randy Solakian Estates Group

**Michelle L. Pickett**, Yardi Systems, Inc.

**Wendy Read**, Wendy Kilbourne Read Consulting

**Stan Roden**, Documentary Filmmaker

**Holly Sherwin**, Community Leader

**Bret A. Stone**, Paladin Law Group LLP

**Jacob Tell**, Oniracom

**Sally Terrell**, Community Leader

**Deborah Williams**, University of California,  
Santa Barbara

“CEC thinks big and thinks long-term,  
and demonstrates results over and over again.”

Jon Clark

President, James S. Bower Foundation



Photo by Matt Dayka.

# To change everything, we need everyone.

## Are you with us?

The climate crisis is daunting and destructive. But **together, we can solve it.** Join us in taking courageous action to put a stop to climate chaos, and reimagine how we live on our planet.

### 1 VISIT

#### VISIT CEC'S ENVIRONMENTAL HUB

Join us at our new 10,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art collaborative space at 1219 State Street in Santa Barbara, designed to be an epicenter for community activism, education, entrepreneurship, media, and art. Learn more at [www.envirohubsb.org](http://www.envirohubsb.org).

### 2 ENGAGE

#### ENGAGE IN CLIMATE ACTION

Become a CEC Climate Steward or attend our Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival, Climate Action Summit, and the dozens of webinars, speaking engagements, and collaborative community events we organize each year. Subscribe to our email list at [cecsb.org](http://cecsb.org) and follow us on social media to stay updated on event dates and details.

### 3 INVEST

#### INVEST IN A CLIMATE-SAFE FUTURE

Your support is critical. Join us in this urgent work by donating today. When you invest in CEC's proven track record and award-winning team, you help ensure a climate safe future for your children, grandchildren, and neighbors. Give at [cecsb.org/donate](http://cecsb.org/donate).

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