

# BOLD CLIMATE ACTION

Fiercely Protecting California's Central Coast Since 1970



Community  
Environmental  
Council

2023  
IMPACT  
REPORT

# A Letter From Our CEO and Board President



Dear Friends,

For more than five decades, the Community Environmental Council has focused on building networks of diverse, engaged activists who champion rigorous climate action. This impact report provides a brief snapshot of how **we are stepping up our investment in collective power to meet the urgency of the climate crisis** and garner significant, lasting change to reverse its impacts.

In July, we opened the California Central Coast's first Environmental Hub, activating it as a collaborative epicenter for community-led climate solutions. We certified our 154th (and counting) CEC Climate Steward, and adapted the program for middle and high school students to empower the next generation of climate leaders. CEC's Electrify Your Life concierge service has consulted with



nearly 1,000 individuals on energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades for their homes and businesses.

In 2023, we engaged **55,000 community members**, expanding a groundswell of climate action that ripples out far beyond our region.

We hope you are inspired to make this report your own call to action. **To stop climate change in its tracks, we need all of us, working together.** We hope you'll join us.

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 'Jon Clark'.

Jon Clark  
Board President

During another year of significant growth, we continued to sharpen our focus and deepen our capacity to respond regionally to the global climate crisis. In 2023 we successfully closed our five-year, 50th Anniversary Campaign and opened an Environmental Hub for the community. We continued to diversify our revenue streams, increasing our billable grants and contract revenue by 55 percent. This allowed us to broaden existing programs, expand our service area, and develop new projects and partnerships. CEC consistently receives high ratings from GuideStar and Charity Navigator for financial health, accountability, and transparency.

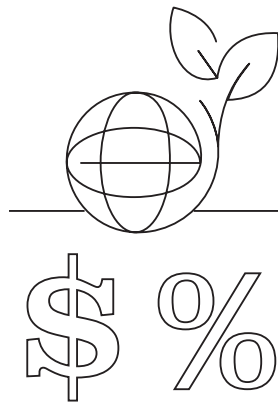
### OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS\*

**\$10.8 MILLION** in assets

**\$4 MILLION** operating budget  
(19% growth)

**32% GROWTH** in program  
investment

\*unaudited



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**OUR IMPACT** ..... 8

### OUR WORK

**Climate Policy** ..... 10

**Climate Justice** ..... 14

**Climate Resilience** ..... 18

**Climate Leadership** ..... 22

**Clean, Efficient Energy** ..... 26

**Climate-Smart Agriculture** ..... 28

**Circular Economy** ..... 30

**OUR PARTNERS**..... 32

**OUR INVESTORS**..... 34

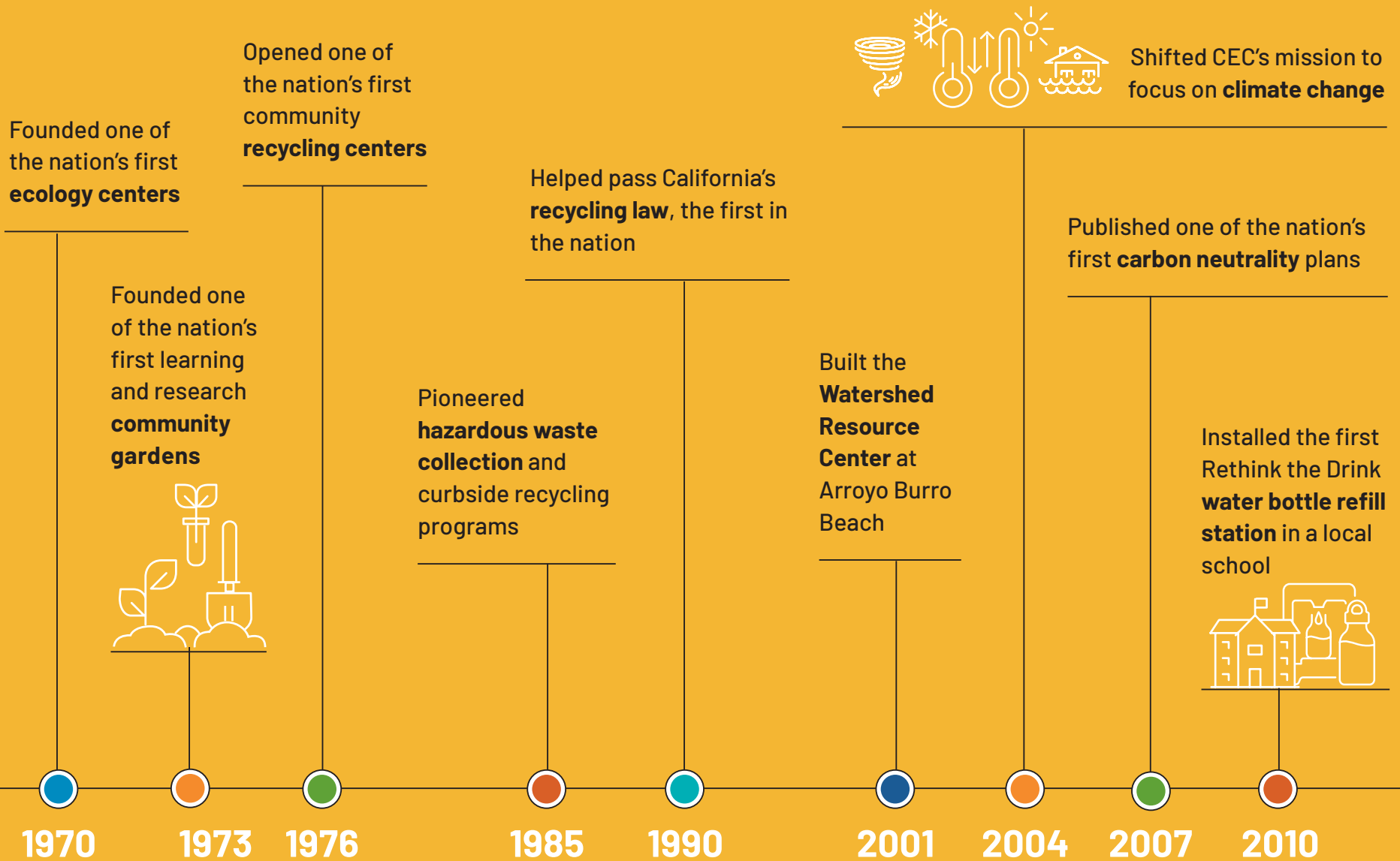
**OUR LEADERSHIP**..... 36

Cover: Photo by Matt Dayka.

Page 2: Photos by Sarita Relis Photography  
and J Andrew Hill.

OUR WORK

# CEC'S LEGACY: 50+ Years of Environmental



# Leadership

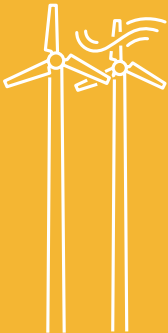
For more than 50 years, CEC has strategically catalyzed change on the Central Coast, influencing California and beyond.

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



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

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



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

Achieved **Community Choice Energy** for most of the region

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

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



Opened our region's first **Environmental Hub** in downtown Santa Barbara

Launched an **Electrify Your Life** service to help individuals and businesses switch to renewable energy and energy-efficient solutions

Trained and certified our **154th CEC Climate Steward**, and counting



2011

2016

2017

2018


2019

2020

2022

2023

2024

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a forest of tall, thin trees with light-colored, peeling bark. The person is wearing a black puffer jacket, shorts, and a hat. The ground is covered in dry leaves and twigs. The trees are densely packed, and the lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**“ CEC is impressive: it recognized early on that we need to move beyond fossil fuel dependence. Their solutions can open a robust pathway for the global climate resilience we so desperately need instead.”**

**Sara Miller McCune**

# 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.



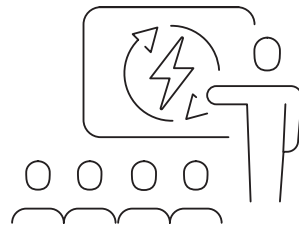
**PROTECT** vulnerable populations from extreme weather and other climate impacts by deploying bold, community-led solutions rooted in climate justice.

# 2023 | CEC'S IMPACT AT A GLANCE

## 55,000

Community members were **INFORMED, ACTIVATED, AND GUIDED ON CLIMATE ACTION**

by CEC through events, meetings, and webinars in 2023.



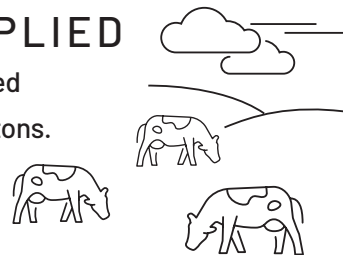
## 961

Residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations **ACCESSED INCENTIVES** for EVs, EV chargers, solar, energy efficiency, and renewable energy through CEC's Electrify Your Life concierge service in 2023.



## 300

**TONS OF COMPOST APPLIED** on Gaviota Coast rangelands in 2023 reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 1,303 metric tons.



## 17,160

Residents will have access to **CENTRALIZED DISASTER SERVICES, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION** at our region's first three climate resilience hubs, launched in 2023.

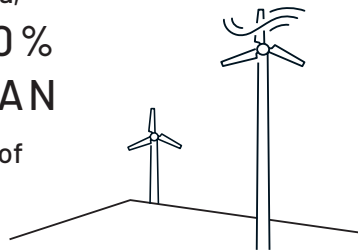




**50+** Years of proven success leading locally designed solutions to our region's most pressing environmental challenges.

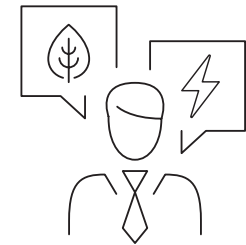
# 1.5 million

Residents in 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.



# 114

**CEC CLIMATE ACTIVISTS** in 17 cities across the Central Coast region are helping advance strong policies that bring equitable climate solutions to scale.



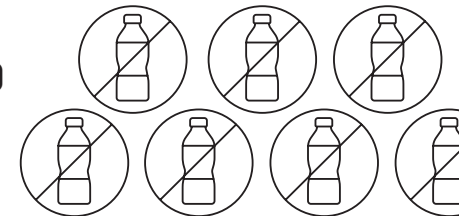
# 154

Community members are **CERTIFIED CEC CLIMATE STEWARDS**, equipped to play an active role in the statewide effort to advance rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis.



# 7.5 million

**SINGLE-USE WATER BOTTLES WERE NOT USED** because of 125 community water refill stations installed as a direct result of CEC's Waste Reduction program.



## OUR WORK

# Climate Policy

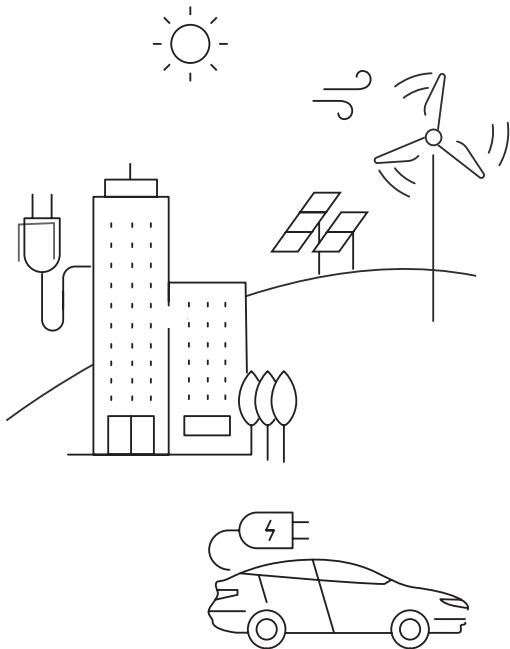
CEC spent 10-plus years tracking, helping improve, and advocating for the Strauss Wind Farm, which opened near Lompoc this year with 27 wind turbines, generating enough electricity for 36,000 homes. Photo by BayWa r.e.



## OUR VISION

**CEC collaborates with a diverse group of passionate and committed community members and partners to enact bold policies that bring equitable climate solutions to scale.**

When the California Central Coast advances ambitious climate goals and solutions, we illuminate a path for more aggressive policies across the state.



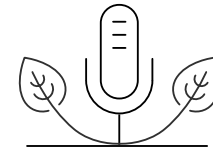
## IN 2023, CEC:

**Scaled up environmental advocacy** across city councils, boards of supervisors, and legislative bodies **by engaging CEC Climate Activists** to support climate policies in their communities.

Successfully campaigned for the City of Port Hueneme and County of San Luis Obispo to join community choice energy programs, **bringing the total number of Central Coast residents who have access to clean energy to nearly 1.5 million.** CEC is part of a coalition that pushed Central Coast Community Energy to adopt project selection criteria that incorporates strong labor and environmental justice standards that serve as a model for other community choice energy programs.

Introduced **an ecological framework** for revitalizing downtown Santa Barbara to guide future development and ensure the well-being of residents and our environment.

Took **58** policy actions.



Spoke at **15** city council and board of supervisor meetings throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

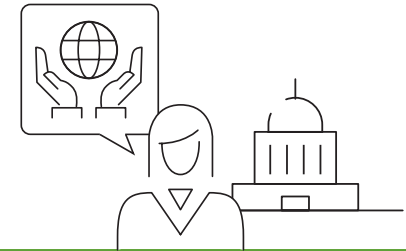
Advocate for the City and County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Guadalupe and Camarillo to adopt **ambitious climate action plans** that accelerate state mandates and timelines for reaching zero-carbon goals.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: Enacting Bold Climate Policies, Together

The Community Environmental Council's Climate Activists are **spurring a groundswell of grassroots policy action across California's Central Coast**. Since early 2023, more than 100 residents from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties have asked to be notified of opportunities to take action in their communities. When a climate policy item is presented to a city council or board of supervisors, CEC Climate Activists in that region are alerted with details about the meeting and guidance on how to participate.

In 2023, activists spoke at city council meetings, submitted public comments, and rallied their communities in support of issues like building electrification and 100% clean electricity. The collaborative efforts of CEC, partner organizations, and **community members play a crucial role in driving bold climate policies forward** and building momentum for a just, resilient Central Coast.



## CEC Climate Activist

**A community member who, alongside CEC's Climate Policy team, participates in public meetings, sends emails to elected officials, and shares opportunities for action with friends, family, and neighbors.**

## A groundswell of climate action

**CEC is building a network of climate activists in cities across our region who are helping advance strong policies that bring equitable climate solutions to scale.**



“Collective efforts create a meaningful impact that can effect change in the community.”

—Rodney Smith  
CEC Climate Activist & Student Fellow,  
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas



CEC Climate Activist Rodney Smith provided public comment in support of a building electrification ordinance in the City of Ventura. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR WORK

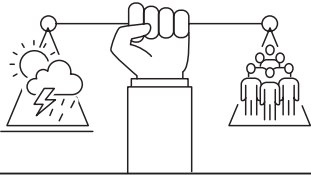
# Climate Justice



City of Guadalupe residents are especially impacted by air pollution from pesticides, dust, and other agricultural inputs. Photo by Mar y Sol Productions.

## 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 action rooted in climate justice to protect our most vulnerable populations against climate impacts.** We engage frontline communities and create spaces where underrepresented voices can directly participate in solutions.



“Air quality monitors tell us what the air contains, how it affects us, and gives us information so we are able to protect ourselves.”

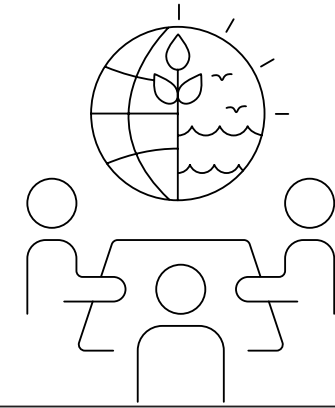
—Ranulfo Morales  
Field Worker

## IN 2023, CEC:

Through the Guadalupe Community Air Project, collected and analyzed local air quality data and **created bilingual resources and opportunities for community discourse** on air pollution, pesticide exposure, and health.

Hosted 19 meetings with presenters from 15 partner organizations for *Nuestro Tiempo* (Our Time), **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.

Partnered with the County of Santa Barbara to deliver a Spanish-language electric vehicle (EV) training for 33 peer educators to help enroll low-income or disadvantaged households in CEC’s free EV purchase guidance services. The partnership more than **tripled CEC’s capacity to conduct Spanish-language EV outreach and education** in the region.



## WHAT’S AHEAD

Through a new collaboration with Dignity Health, expand the Guadalupe Community Air Project to communities in the City of Santa Maria and Southern San Luis Obispo County that are disproportionately affected by air quality and more likely to have existing medical conditions. The project will bring together multilingual groups to **share knowledge and learn how to protect themselves from health issues caused by intersecting climate impacts** tied to agriculture, wildfire smoke, and heat.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: Expanding Language Access

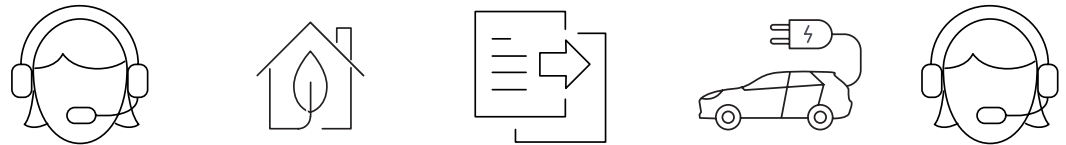
**Language access:** The use of language assistance (i.e., interpretation and translation) so that people who speak non-dominant languages can have access to information, public services, and civic engagement.

**Language justice:** The just systematic treatment of people from all linguistic communities and respect for the fundamental language rights of all people.

**200+ hours**  
OF  
**INTERPRETATION  
& TRANSLATION**  
INCLUDING NEARLY  
**73,000**  
**WORDS TRANSLATED**

In order to build a climate-resilient future, **we must involve everyone who is impacted, including frontline communities that speak many languages.** One way CEC is working to ensure all stakeholders are involved is by deepening our partnership with Rooted Language Justice (RLJ), an immigrant women-led enterprise that provides Spanish-English language interpretation and translation services.

In 2023, RLJ provided over 200 hours of language services to facilitate live interpretation at 11 CEC events, translation for 125 educational materials, and consultation and training on best practices for integrating language justice in multilingual spaces. As a result, CEC has been able to **more deeply engage Spanish-speaking communities in climate action** – and inspire our partners to make language access a priority.



“Providing language services is one way we make this movement accessible to the communities most affected by climate change.”

—Javi Infante Varas  
Co-founder, Rooted Language Justice





Nayra Pacheco Guzman and Javi Infante Varas of Rooted Language Justice help organizations like CEC integrate language justice into their work through language access. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR  
INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT  
HERE



POR FAVOR OBTENGA SU EQUIPO  
DE INTERPRETACIÓN AQUÍ



OUR WORK

# Climate Resilience



CEC, the Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network, and the Society of Fearless Grandmothers Santa Barbara hosted a forum for seniors to address how they can prepare for extreme heat and play a more direct role in building community resilience. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR VISION

Building resilience requires a whole community approach that considers socioeconomic inequities and structural racism, and prioritizes community-led solutions that support a broad range of needs. **CEC is pioneering climate adaptation and resilience efforts that are rooted in equity, catalyzed by place-based innovation, and integrated into long-term planning** so that our approach evolves with our changing world.

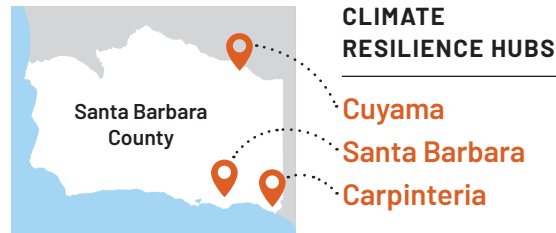
“Extreme heat causes more deaths annually than any other climate impact in California. The combination of an extreme heat wave and power outages could present a large-scale tragedy for our most vulnerable residents.”

—Em Johnson  
Director of Climate Resilience, CEC

## IN 2023, CEC:

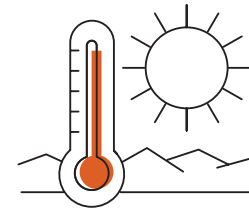
Through the Santa Barbara County Wildfire Resilience Collaborative, prioritized 10 sites in the City of Goleta and surrounding areas for **habitat restoration and wildfire resilience** projects, and updated plans to accelerate the implementation of more than 50 projects identified by the Regional Priority Plan to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Improve Forest Health in Santa Barbara County.

Led community engagement, developed tools, and provided technical assistance for **the California Central Coast’s first three climate resilience hubs**. A Resilience Hubs Accelerator program was designed so that we can activate more resilience hubs throughout our region, more quickly.



Community-designed and led centers for resilience that offer centralized disaster services, support, and education to residents who are most vulnerable, or at high risk, during disasters.

Joined the global Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance (EHRA) and collaborated with regional partners to raise awareness about **the increasing threat of extreme heat events** in our



region. Together, we are identifying solutions that support our most at-risk populations.

## WHAT’S AHEAD

Continue to lead and participate in regional and statewide adaptation networks, including the Central Coast Climate Collaborative, the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation, and EHRA. These networks help us **track, advocate for, and be ready to unlock significant state funding and investment for climate resilience**, building capacity across the nexus of community-based organizations doing the work.

## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: Building Resilience for the Future

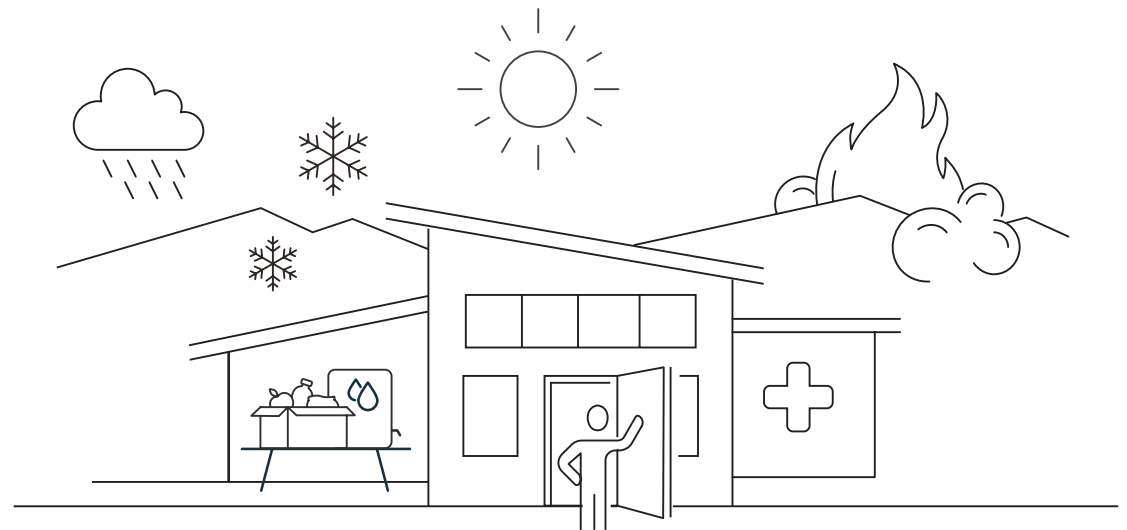
In an effort to build community resilience to extreme weather impacts, the Community Environmental Council is partnering with the County of Santa Barbara and several area non-profit organizations to establish our region's first three climate resilience hubs. Having seen firsthand the traumatic effects of natural disasters on families in her community, Executive Director Jamie Collins was thrilled that Girls Inc. of Carpinteria was selected as a hub. She sees it as an opportunity to **provide shelter and resources to community members during climate-related disasters** and teach children how to talk about these events.

**“** My job is to prepare kids for the future, and that includes climate change.”

—Jamie Collins  
Executive Director, Girls Inc. of Carpinteria

To further her organization's impact, Jamie enrolled in CEC's Climate Stewards certification program. She gained a deeper understanding of how climate change is impacting our region, how to communicate about these impacts, and how to take action. Jamie plans to incorporate this knowledge into future programming for the 1,000 girls her organization serves each year – and continue building strong collaborations with local nonprofits, including CEC, to **support youth advocacy and foster climate resilience.**

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria doubles as a climate resilience hub that can host up to **500 individuals** during a disaster and offer **3 days of solar power** during grid outages.





Girls, Inc. Carpinteria, led by CEC Climate Steward alumna Jamie Collins, is one of three climate resilience hubs that CEC is helping launch in Santa Barbara County. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

OUR WORK

# Climate Leadership



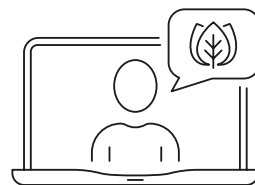
CEC Climate Stewards attended a field trip at the UC Santa Barbara North Campus Open Space to learn about restoration and the protective barrier wetlands provide against sea level rise and other climate impacts. Photo by Kristen Weiss.

## OUR VISION

With the increase in catastrophic climate events, we need more people to take an active role in protecting our communities. **CEC is building networks of diverse, engaged activists who are equipped to champion rigorous climate action in their neighborhoods, businesses, and homes.** Together, we can move at the unprecedented pace required to reverse, repair, and protect against climate threats.

“CEC’s youth climate workshops are an amazing way to learn about new ways to help in your community and meet new people who are passionate about the environment.”

—Valentina, 10th Grade  
San Marcos High School



## IN 2023, CEC:

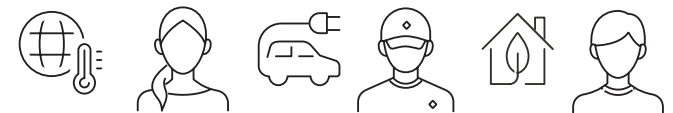
**Opened the Environmental Hub,** a 10,000-square-foot epicenter for community activism, education, entrepreneurship, media, and art, located in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara. Since opening in July, the Hub has hosted more than 200 meetings and events.

Piloted our first youth climate workshop, adapting CEC’s Climate Stewards certification program for middle and high school students so they learn about climate change and feel **empowered to take immediate climate action.**

**Informed, activated, and guided more than 55,000** individuals on climate action through events, meetings, and webinars.



Certified **55** more  
CEC Climate Stewards



Empowered **37** middle  
and high school students

## WHAT'S AHEAD

Continue to **grow the network of 154 CEC Climate Steward alumni, and counting,** to provide ongoing support and resources, and to evaluate the impact of their grassroots leadership in communities across our region.

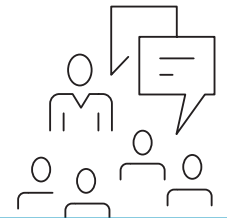
## OUR WORK

# Spotlight: CEC's Environmental Hub

In July 2023, CEC opened the California Central Coast's first Environmental Hub as a **nexus for advocacy, innovation, and community empowerment** in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara. Since then, the Hub has engaged more than 6,000 community members in dozens of events focused on climate action.

The 10,000-square-foot space boasts energy-saving technologies and sustainable building materials. It includes CEC staff offices, two meeting and event venues, and five mission-aligned non-profit tenants. Non-profit organizations have priority use of the space, and a handful of pre-selected volunteer-driven and BIPOC-led partner organizations are offered free and deeply discounted use of the Hub for meetings, workshops, and networking events. By  **catalyzing collective action**  and fostering a sense of community ownership, the Hub embodies the spirit of environmental stewardship and serves as a driving force for positive change.

**228** Events **6,480** Attendees



### Top Users

League of Women Voters Santa Barbara

White Buffalo Land Trust

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

CAUSE

Citizen's Climate Lobby

Central Coast

Climate Justice Network

FUND FOR

Future Leaders of America

SANTA BARBARA

“CEC's Environmental Hub is galvanizing downtown Santa Barbara as an epicenter of bold community-led climate action.”

—Robin Elander  
Downtown Santa Barbara

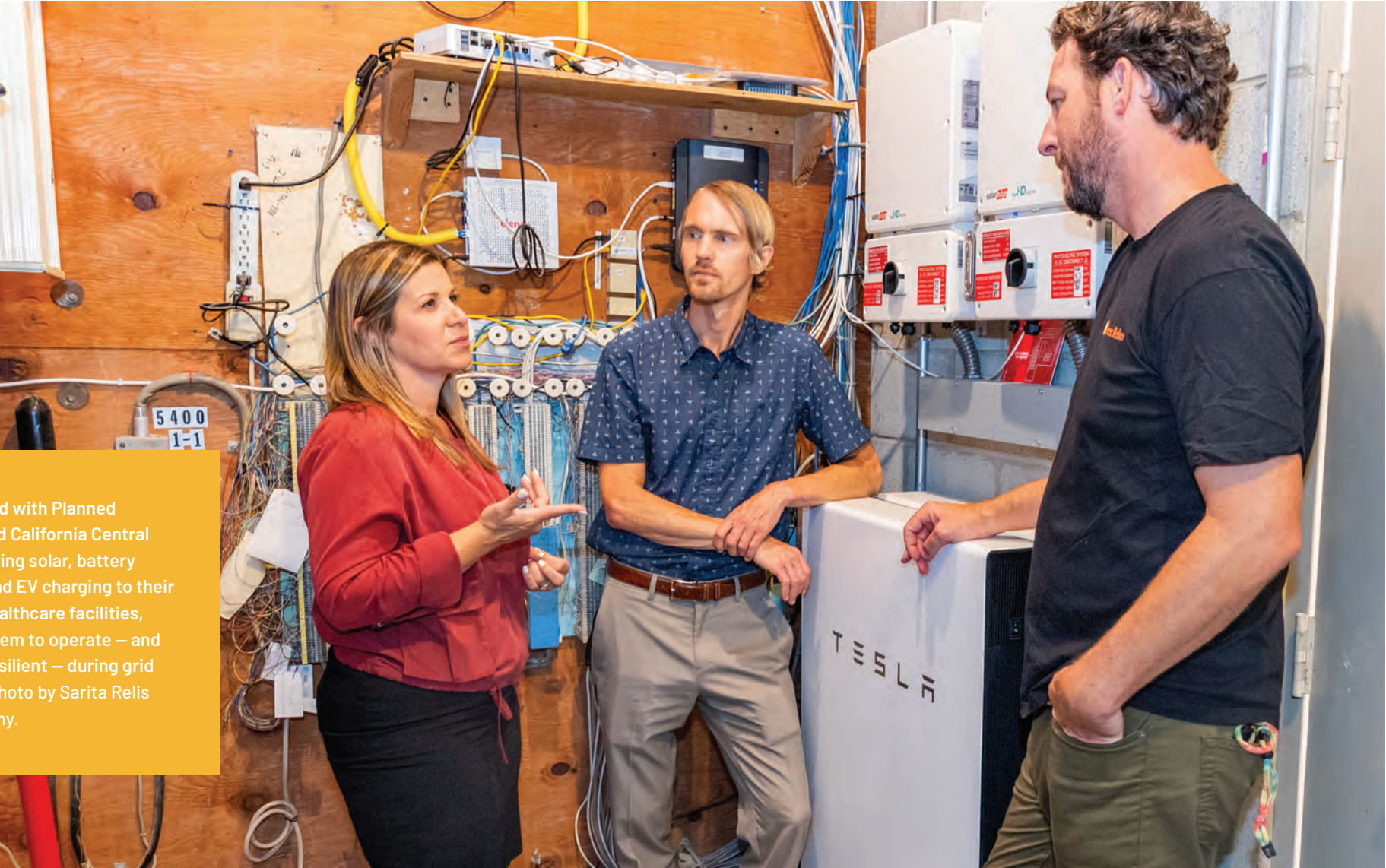




CEC's state-of-the-art Environmental Hub was designed to provide innovative and collaborative space for gatherings of all kinds. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

OUR WORK

# Clean, Efficient Energy

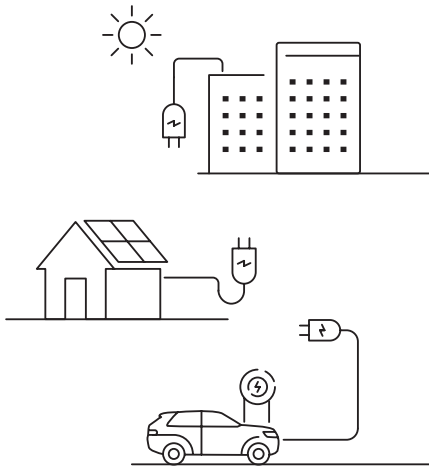


CEC worked with Planned Parenthood California Central Coast to bring solar, battery storage, and EV charging to their Ventura healthcare facilities, allowing them to operate – and be more resilient – during grid outages. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR VISION

By transitioning completely to renewables and electrifying our vehicles and buildings, we can leverage clean electricity to get fossil fuels out of our region for good, while developing innovative, equitable, and replicable programs.

**CEC is working to rapidly move the California Central Coast to use 100% of the electricity that powers our homes, businesses, and cars from efficient, clean, and renewable sources.**



## IN 2023, CEC:

**Established Electrify Your Life, a free concierge service** offering one-on-one support in Spanish and English to residents, businesses, and nonprofits that want to access incentives or information on energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades.

**961** inquiries resulted in

**91** HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

**15** EV CHARGING STATION INSTALLS

**59** EV PURCHASES OR LEASES

In collaboration with Communities in Charge, provided technical assistance to potential electric vehicle (EV) charging sites in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties. Because of our support, 20 sites are expected to make upgrades in 2024, **ensuring reliable, energy efficient chargers for Central Coast EV drivers.**

Through our EVs for Everyone/EVs Para Todos program, **helped low- to moderate-income individuals** use the best available incentives and rebates.

In support of the Tri-County Regional Energy Network's (3C-REN) Home Energy Savings programs, CEC guided close to 200 single- and multi-family property owners and managers on how to access rebates for home energy upgrades. As a result, **538 housing units, and counting, across the Central Coast are transitioning to cleaner, more efficient energy.**

## WHAT'S AHEAD

Through a new partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, **exponentially scale up EV adoption** through expanded outreach, education, and one-on-one purchasing guidance to meet and exceed our region's decarbonization goals.

## OUR WORK

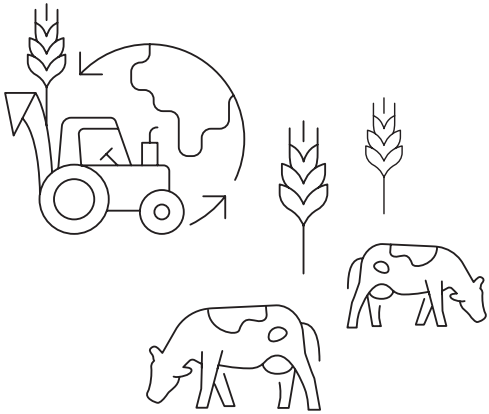
# Climate-Smart Agriculture



CEC's partner White Buffalo Land Trust launched a pilot with Santa Barbara County farmers to scale the cultivation of the Western Blue Elderberry, a promising crop that has the potential to adapt to our warming climate, while expanding market opportunities for growers through increased market share. Photo by Liam Pickhardt.

## OUR VISION

Through collaborations with California Central Coast agricultural operations, we are demonstrating that compost application, cover-cropping, and prescribed grazing practices can increase carbon sequestration, water infiltration, and biodiversity. **CEC is working to bring these climate-smart practices to scale and create a network of land stewards and agricultural stakeholders** so that together, we can adapt to climate change impacts and create stronger, more resilient food systems.



## IN 2023, CEC:

Developed a targeted prescribed grazing plan for a Northern Santa Barbara County homeowners association to **leverage funding and accelerate the adoption of ecological grazing** within the Wildland Urban Interface. The plan will help build wildfire awareness and a deeper understanding of mitigation tactics and serve as a template for other communities across the region.

In partnership with the Gaviota Coast Conservancy and Agromin, spread 300 tons of compost on Gaviota Coast rangelands to **demonstrate how this climate-smart practice increases carbon capture and improves soil health.**

**300** tons of compost

**REDUCES**

green house gas emissions by

**1,303**  
metric tons

**(The equivalent of driving 314 gas-powered passenger vehicles for one year!)**

In collaboration with White Buffalo Land Trust, **supported small-scale and disadvantaged farmers** in cultivating the native, perennial Western Blue Elderberry to demonstrate how climate-adaptive crops can expand pollinator habitat, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance growers' economic viability.



## WHAT'S AHEAD

Collaborate with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the Cachuma and Ventura County Resource Conservation Districts to **support growers in planting pollinator habitat on agricultural lands through financial incentives and technical support.** More than 23,000 linear feet of pollinator hedgerows have been planned so far.

## OUR WORK

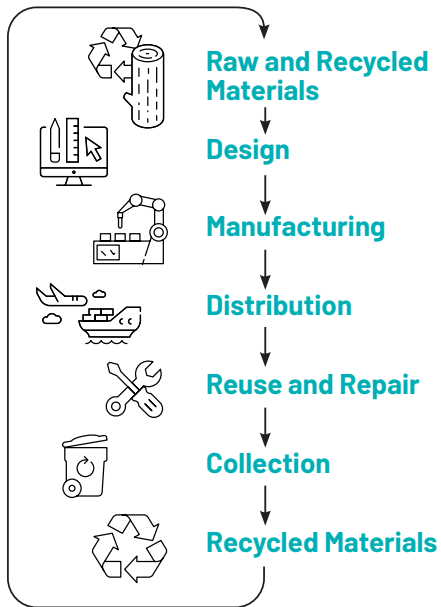
# Circular Economy



CEC's Plastic Free July Expo offered the community an opportunity to learn about the impacts of plastic pollution and how to reduce reliance on single-use plastics. Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

## OUR VISION

Recycling has been a landfill diversion solution for several decades – but it's not enough to mitigate climate emissions. **CEC is driving progress towards a zero-waste society with circular economy models** that transition our waste stream to a closed-loop system of reuse and turn hard-to-recycle waste streams into reusable resources that reduce pollution.



## IN 2023, CEC:

Provided resources, equipment, and funding to CEC's Santa Barbara County Food Rescue partner, Veggie Rescue. This support resulted in the **recovery of 955,265 pounds of high-quality food** that was distributed to local organizations that feed community members experiencing food insecurity.

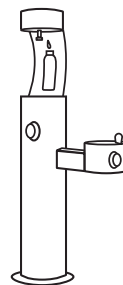
Installed four new public water stations in the City of Santa Barbara, bringing the total to **125 bottle-filling hydration stations** in schools, parks, and public spaces throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Established an annual Plastic Free July Expo at CEC's Environmental Hub,

featuring more than a dozen community partners that shared **solutions to plastic pollution** and opportunities to advocate for plastic reduction regulations.

## WHAT'S AHEAD

Push the City and County of 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. Due to CEC's advocacy, the City of Carpinteria updated their regulations to match the City of Goleta's in January of 2024.



**125 = 7.5M fewer**  
WATER STATIONS SINGLE-USE BOTTLES USED



# Our Partners

125+ 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 truly resilient community.

## In 2023, CEC partnered with:

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 350.org Santa Barbara                                      | California Department of Food and Agriculture                   | City of Port Hueneme                         | Environmental Defense Center                                |
| Access Clean California                                    | CalRecycle  | City of Santa Barbara                        | EV Advocates of Ventura County                              |
| Adams Elementary School Ocean Guardian Ambassadors         | CarpEvents  | City of Santa Maria                          | Explore Ecology   |
| Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation | Center for Sustainable Energy                                   | City of Santa Paula                          | Franklin Neighborhood Center                                |
| Arsht-Rock Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance                | Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) | City of Ventura                              | FRESA (Food Resilience, Equity, Sustainability, and Action) |
| Association for Energy Affordability                       | Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition                            | Clean Power Alliance                         | The Fund for Santa Barbara                                  |
| Asteri Solar   | Central Coast Climate Collaborative                             | The Climate Center                           | Ganna Walska Lotusland                                      |
| Be The Change Consulting                                   | Central Coast Climate Justice Network                           | Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG) | Gaviota Agriculture Project                                 |
| Blue Sky Center  | Channel Islands Restoration                                     | County of San Luis Obispo                    | Gaviota Coast Conservancy                                   |
| Blue Tomorrow  | ChowMatch   | County of Santa Barbara                      | Gaviota Givings / Orella Ranch                              |
| Bristol Farms  | Citizens' Climate Lobby   | County of Ventura                            | Girls Inc. of Carpinteria                                   |
| Cachuma Resource Conservation District                     | City of Carpinteria   | Cultivate Events                             | Gray Panthers Santa Barbara Network                         |
| California Climate & Agriculture Network                   | City of Fillmore  | Cuyama Lamb                                  | Green Light Labs  |
| California Coastal Conservancy                             | City of Goleta  | Direct Relief International                  | GRID Alternatives   |
|  | City of Guadalupe   | Downtown Santa Barbara                       | Guadalupe Union School District                             |
|  | City of Ojai  | Ecology Action                               | Independent Living Resource Center                          |
|  |   | Electric Drive 805                           | Kermit McKenzie Intermediate School, Guadalupe              |



La Purísima Concepción Catholic School, Lompoc  
 Last Chance Alliance  
 Lazy Acres Natural Market  
 League of Women Voters Santa Barbara  
 LegacyWorks Group  
 Mary Buren Elementary  
 Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)  
 MOVE Santa Barbara County  
 The Notre Dame School, Santa Barbara  
 Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council  
 Ojai Valley Land Conservancy  
 Oniracom  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Oxnard  
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 r.Cup  
 Recurve  
 Regeneración - Pájaro Valley  
 Regional Priority Plan, Santa Barbara County  
 Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program  
 Resilient Central Coast  
 Rewiring America  
 Rooted Language Justice

Route One Farmers Market  
 San Luis Obispo Climate Coalition  
 Santa Barbara Botanic Garden  
 Santa Barbara Channelkeeper  
 Santa Barbara Committee of Human Rights Watch  
 Santa Barbara County Association of Governments  
 Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
 Santa Barbara County Food Action Network  
 Santa Barbara County Green Business Program  
 Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative  
 Santa Barbara Independent  
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
 Santa Barbara Permaculture Network  
 Santa Barbara Public Library  
 Santa Paula Latino Town Hall  
 Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office  
 Sierra Club, Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter  
 Society of Fearless Grandmothers Santa Barbara  
 Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH)  
 Southern California Edison

St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church & Preschool  
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 Toad&Co  
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 White Buffalo Land Trust  
 Wild Farmlands Foundation



Photo by Andrew Peacock.

# 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 by the generosity and support of investors.

**Thank you to the following donors who gave generously in 2023 and/or through major gifts to CEC's 50th Anniversary Protect Our Climate Campaign:**

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*\*Indicates all, or part, was an in-kind gift*  
*\*\*Indicates 2023 Earth Day*

# 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.



Photo by Sarita Relis Photography.

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**Jon Clark**

President, James S. Bower Foundation

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Photos by Sarita Relis Photography and Maxx Hennard.

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**Darlene Snow**, Director of Development

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## 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 to reverse climate change, accelerate our progress through their engagement, and protect our communities for future generations.

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

**Diane Boss**, Retired, Community Volunteer

**Catherine Brozowski**, Audacious Foundation

**Laura Capps**, Santa Barbara County, Board of Supervisors

**Dave Davis**, Past CEC Executive Director (retired)

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

**Brian Fahnestock**, Santa Barbara City College

**Laura Francis**, Sea Forward Fund

**Carla Frisk**, Consultant (retired)

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**Paul Relis**, Founding CEC Executive Director, Advisor to CR&R Inc., Writer

**Michel Saint-Sulpice**, Architect (retired)

**John Steed**, Law Professional (retired)

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**Susan Van Atta**, FASLA, Landscape Architect

**Elizabeth Wagner**, Village Properties

**Sally Warner-Arnett**, Community Leader



Photo by Maxx Hennard.



**“ The Community Environmental Council is rapidly flipping the script from fossil fuel dependence and legacy pollution to climate innovation.”**

**Monique Limón**  
California Senate District 19

# To change everything, we need everyone. Are you with us?

**1**  
**VISIT**

## VISIT CEC'S ENVIRONMENTAL HUB

Join us for an exciting line up of climate-centric lectures, workshops, and special events. View our calendar and learn more at [envirohubsb.org](http://envirohubsb.org).

**2**  
**ENGAGE**

## ENGAGE IN CLIMATE ACTION

The climate crisis is daunting. But together, we can solve it. Find out all the ways you can engage by visiting [cecsb.org/takeclimateaction](http://cecsb.org/takeclimateaction).

**3**  
**INVEST**

## INVEST IN A CLIMATE-SAFE FUTURE

Your support is critical. Join us in this urgent work by donating today and help ensure a climate-safe future. Give at [cecsb.org/donate](http://cecsb.org/donate).

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Following the spirit of our work, please keep this report out of a landfill by passing it on to a colleague, friend, or family member to read. See the online version at [cecsb.org/impact](http://cecsb.org/impact).