



State-Funded Climate and Energy Program Updates

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Happy New Year, locals! You have probably been seeing a flurry of requests for input from State Agencies on the development or modification of new climate and energy programs. With major movement in federal funding and State budgets last year (and promising priorities in the Governor's [2022-2023 budget](#)), 2022 is shaping up to be a big year for investments into local and regional climate and energy initiatives! Below are brief updates on just some key programs that local governments are eligible for that are worth your time and attention. If you plan on taking advantage of these opportunities, the time to start engaging and planning is now!

Strategic Growth Council (SGC)

Transformative Climate Communities (TCC): With a recent State budget infusion of \$420M, the [TCC Program](#) is preparing to continue empowering the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution. SGC opened a 30-day public comment period for its Draft Round 4 TCC Guidelines on November 15, 2021 and held webinars on November 19, 2021. The notice of funding availability (NOFA) is anticipated to be released on [February 14, 2022](#).

Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC): SGC will receive \$20 million over the next two years to implement the [RCC program](#), which will assist under-resourced communities in accessing State funding for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency projects. In December, SGC concluded a series of listening sessions to help inform the RCC program guidelines development. You can view the [SGC kick-off webinar](#) and the [special session hosted by CCEC's LERN](#). The public will be asked to comment on draft guidelines in February 2022. The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the first round of funding is anticipated to be released in [Spring 2022](#).



Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC): The [AHSC](#) makes it easier for Californians to drive less by providing funding for affordable housing developments (new construction or renovation) and transportation infrastructure. Since receiving a recent State budget infusion of \$780M, AHSC Guidelines are being significantly updated for Round 7 and beyond to align the AHSC program with recently adopted legislation and emerging policy discussions. SCG is soliciting participation in a [survey](#) for individuals who are familiar with the guidelines and application and would like to provide feedback followed by listening sessions over the next few months. The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the first round of funding is anticipated to be released [later this year](#).

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)

Community Economic Resilience Program (CERF): [CERF](#) is a program being developed by OPR and other state partners (with \$600 from the ARPA) to support regional economies with an equitable and sustainable recovery from the economic distress of the COVID-19 pandemic. [CERF Planning Phase Draft Guidelines](#) are currently available for public comment by January 28, 2022. A listening session was held on January 6, 2022. CCEC's LERN will host a discussion with a representative of the CERF program on February 8, 2022. The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the first round of funding is anticipated to be released in [February 2022](#).

California Energy Commission (CEC)

Electric Program Investment Charge (2021-2025) Investment Plan (EPIC 4 Investment Plan): The CEC conducted workshops and outreach in 2021 to inform its [EPIC 4 Investment Plan](#), which outlines how the program will fund research (including demonstration) leading to technological advancements and scientific breakthroughs supporting California's clean energy goals, with a focus on providing ratepayer benefits, including reliability, lower costs, and safety. The [Commission Final Report](#) was released in November 2021, which includes recommended strategic objectives, initiatives, and research and development topics that will guide investment of program funds (an annual budget of \$148 million for the first five years). The CPUC will conduct a formal proceeding to consider this proposed plan with anticipated adoption in the [spring of 2022](#). To track EPIC funding opportunities, [visit or subscribe](#).

For additional information on programs like these, join us for our monthly [Local Energy Resources Network meetings](#) every second Tuesday from 11am-12pm.