



2023 California Climate & Energy Collaborative Annual Report

Prepared by Kelsey Wolf-Cloud, Project Manager | January 23rd, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of the [California Climate and Energy Collaborative](#) (CCEC) is to support local governments to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerate climate action by building knowledge and networks amongst local government practitioners. This annual report summarizes and reviews the progress we've made in doing so over the last year.

2023 Highlights

Organizing and hosting the 14th Annual CCEC Forum in person in Santa Rosa, California, bringing in a record-breaking number of breakout session proposals and number of attendees.



8 Poster Presentations



20 Breakouts, 3 Plenaries



88 Speakers



402 Attendees



141 Cities Represented



Continued expansion of the Local Energy Resources Network (LERN) series - interactive monthly meetings where [local practitioners engage](#) with elected leaders and state agencies, and exchange knowledge, resources, and best practices.

Creating and sharing resources through our [Resource Library](#) and creation of a searchable [funding resource database](#).



Responding to CEC's Contractor Training for Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs RFI.

Creating the State/ Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC) Meeting Series which brings together the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the California Energy Commission (CEC) with the 118 local government representatives who have signed up to participate in quarterly calls.



Made Possible By





CCEC Events

CCEC Forum

The **14th Annual California Climate and Energy Forum** was held on June 13 & 14, 2023 in Santa Rosa, California. The theme of the forum was **Investment, Innovation, and Inclusion: Locals Leading a Clean Energy, Climate-Stable Future for All**, which CCEC aimed to embody throughout the planning process by engaging multiple perspectives in the conversation, amplifying community voices in the advisory committee, and providing attendance scholarships.

This highly successful event saw **402 participants** representing **141 cities** across California.

The forum featured **88 different speakers** across **3 plenary** sessions, **20 breakout** sessions and **8 posters** presented during a poster session held during the evening networking reception. Throughout the program, breakout sessions and plenaries alike sought to highlight and foster conversations on the equity concerns of the energy transition in California by engaging a diverse audience working on multiple fronts in the climate & energy space. Topics covered include electrification, energy efficiency, clean energy, equitable decarbonization, environmental justice, community engagement and community driven-action, electric vehicles, building codes and standards, and more!

Additional activities included a pre-forum meeting with State Agencies, and a mentorship program where **30 people participated** as either mentors or mentees, and a policymakers lunch.

We heard excellent feedback from participants:

“

The CCEC Forum fills a crucial need for local governments, community organizations and local leaders of all kinds to share experience and wisdom toward creating a more just, resilient and sustainable future. The future is being built today from the bottom up, through the efforts of local leaders focused on meeting the real needs and priorities of their communities. But we can't just work in isolation. We need effective, inclusive venues to come together, share strategies and learnings, and support one another. The CCEC Forum facilitates both valuable networking and great fun. - **Lorenzo Kristov, Electric System Policy**

The CCEC Forum is an inspiring and engaging conference to learn from local leaders driving the clean energy transition in California. This is where climate and energy champions connect on the most pressing issues of our time, providing insights into what it takes to move the needle to a low-carbon economy. - **Hannah Kornfeld, Ascent**

”



Rated the breakouts on
average:
4.3 of 5



98% Rated
Forum Highly



CCEC Informational Hub

Informational Hub

CURRENTS Quarterly

CURRENTS Quarterly is CCEC's flagship publication, featuring original articles from the Best Practices Coordinator, updates from the RENs, and other original articles of interest to the local governments we serve. Our archive of 2023 editions - and prior years, too - is [hosted online](#).



wEEKly Update



Our weekly energy efficiency newsletter - known as the **wEEKly update** - assembles news, technical resources, funding opportunities, events, job listings, and more into a single convenient email, [delivered straight to the inbox](#) of two thousand local government professionals across California.

Resources

During 2023, CCEC continued expanding its [Resource Library](#) to house **414 distinct resources**. The resources are filterable by resource types, general topic areas, regions served, organization type, and sectors targeted. It is an ongoing project to continue to update and add new resources to the library.

In addition, we created a searchable database of [funding resources](#) updated weekly, which, at the end of 2023, contained **120 opportunities**, 35 of which are currently available, 19 ongoing opportunities, 12 future opportunities, 6 input opportunities, and 55 past opportunities.

After the California legislative season ended, CCEC put out a [legislative update](#) that shared synopses of **24 new California energy laws** signed by the Governor in 2023.



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**SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY COALITION**

2023 Legislative Update

California's New Energy-Related Laws

Visit leginfo.legislature.ca.gov for full additional information.



Local Government Engagement & Technical Assistance

Monthly LERN Calls

CCEC continued the **Local Energy Resource Network (LERN)** initiative with the assistance of the BPC. Our monthly meetings featured:

January

Odemi Ibrahim & Priscilla Martinez-Velez of Caltrans, and Odette Mucha of Department Of Energy's State and Community Energy Programs Office (**64 attendees**)

February

Jerry Rivero & Jess Ison of Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Program, and Murtaza Baxamusa of County of San Diego (**85 attendees**)

March

Misty Brucero of Statewide Reach Codes Program, and Jody London of County of Contra Costa (**68 attendees**)

April

Emily Dalecki of National Renewable Energy Lab; & Cassandra Grimes of Department of Energy (**61 attendees**)

May

Tina Hendrex of Wildan; and Andrea Denny of Environmental Protection Agency (**96 attendees**)

July

Ena Lupine of Strategic Growth Council (**74 attendees**)

August

Rachel Good of CalMTA; and Nikia Sinha and Hanna Stelmakhovich of Institute of Local Government (**81 attendees**)

September

Carol Schmitt of California Energy Commission (**93 attendees**)

October

Anne Kelsey Lamb of Public Health Institute, & Bianca Hutner of BluePoint Planning (**78 attendees**)

November

Lillian Ross of Energy Solutions, & Caelie Fish of Environmental Protection Network (**88 attendees**)

December

Steven Moss from M.Cubed and Roger Dickinson from Civicwell (**84 attendees**)





Local Government Engagement & Technical Assistance, Cont.

Additionally, all LERN calls featured a review of timely opportunities by the BPC; a deeper dive into a specific opportunity relevant to local governments; roundtable peer announcements; and time for attendees to ask questions. Beginning in May, they also featured an additional, optional breakout session at the end of the call for attendees to share resources, ask questions, and connect. This has made them a unique and interactive space to share [knowledge, resources, and opportunities](#), which is the purpose CCEC is designed to serve.

Webinars

In November, [CCEC organized a webinar in conjunction with the Local Government Sustainability Energy Coalition \(LGSEC\)](#) to connect local governments with useful resources, with informative speakers, and with each other. The webinar focused on “**Grid**

Modernization: Global Insights & Local Solutions” and featured Mark Paterson, Managing Director/Lead Systems Architect, Energy Catalyst Pty Ltd, Barry Hooper, Senior Green Building Coordinator, SF Department of the Environment, Melanie Johnson, Electrical Engineering Researcher, US Army Corps of Engineers and Stephen Honikman, Vice President of Business Development, Electriq Power.

158 attendees participated in this event.

Grid Modernization: Global Insights & Local Solutions

Wednesday, November 29 | 3:00-4:30 PM PT



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lgsec.org | lecoordinator@civicwell.org

Technical Assistance

During 2023 the Best Practices Coordinator and CCEC staff provided Technical Assistance to **8 different stakeholders** across California.



Do you need answers, resources, and examples?

[Request Technical Assistance!](#)



State Engagement and Policy Advancement

State/ Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC) Meeting Series

In 2023 CCEC deepened its commitment to facilitating comprehensive and meaningful coordination between California local governments and State agencies. CCEC established a new framework for this coordination through the formation of the **State/ Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC) Meeting Series**. This quarterly meeting series is hosted by CCEC in partnership with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the California Energy Commission (CEC). This meeting series currently has 118 local government representatives signed up to participate in quarterly calls.

The [SLECC Meeting Series](#) initially launched in June of 2023 with a session co-hosted by CCEC and the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC) preceding the 14th Annual CCEC Forum in Santa Rosa, California. This session was facilitated by CCEC's Statewide Best Practices Coordinator in collaboration with staff from CEC, CARB, and SGC. This initial convening brought together eighty local government representatives for a targeted discussion on specific practices and programs such as CEC's Equitable Building Decarbonization Direct Install Program as well as a conversation on what effective coordination between locals and State agencies might look like at a higher level. Presentation slides from this session can be found [here](#). Meeting notes can be found [here](#).

In light of the success of this initial meeting, CCEC, alongside the previously listed state agency partners, formalized this partnership and officially launched the SLECC Meeting Series with the first virtual meeting taking place in September of 2023. This second meeting convened 62 local government representatives to discuss the issues of energy reliability, load constraints, and constituent communications featuring key presentations from representatives of SGC, CEC, CAISO, The City of Berkeley, and LGSEC. Presentation slides from this session can be found [here](#).

In October of 2023, CCEC, alongside SGC, co-hosted an in-person workshop for local government practitioners to discuss strategies on how to effectively advance housing, climate, and equity goals through state-led coordination. Presentation slides from this session can be found [here](#).

For its final convening of 2023, in early December the SLECC Meeting Series featured a listening session with the California Air Resources Board on the topic of Co-Creating Solutions to Barriers to Local Climate Action. This session was attended by 82 local government representatives and featured a panel discussion on the essential elements in a solution for local GHG inventories with representatives from SLO County APCD, Environmental Science Associates, Michael Boswell from California Polytechnic State University. Presentation slides from this session can be found [here](#).



State Engagement and Policy Advancement, Cont.

Listening Sessions

Throughout 2023 CCEC co-hosted a 3-part series of listening sessions in collaboration with CARB intended to connect practitioners responsible for developing and implementing local climate action plans and strategies with representatives from CARB's Sustainable Transportation and Communities Division. Together participants will identify the most pressing barriers and needs facing local governments in implementing emission reduction measures and explore possible State-led supports and solutions.

May

The first of these listening sessions took place on May 24th and featured a discussion on local barriers to climate action with 116 local government representatives. Participants discussed ways in which the state can more effectively support locally implemented GHG reduction measures to advance carbon neutrality throughout California.

June

The second of these listening sessions took place alongside the CCEC and LGSEC-hosted session prior to the start of the 14th Annual CCEC Forum in Santa Rosa. This session built upon input received from the first listening session in May. CCEC and CARB presented initial thoughts on the key needs and possible solutions to help local governments overcome barriers to climate action. Attendees were asked to provide feedback to modify or add to state agencies' understanding of needs and possible solutions, including those that could be led by CARB. The identified local barriers included a lack of planning capacity, lack of access to source data, legal hurdles to developing and implementing CAPs, and other budgetary and structural constraints to advance climate action.

December

The third and final of these listening sessions took place at the previously mentioned December SLECC Meeting and featured a panel discussion on the essential elements in a solution for local GHG inventories with representatives from SLO County APCD, Environmental Science Associates, Michael Boswell from California Polytechnic State University.

Comment Letters

In September of 2023 CCEC responded to CEC's Contractor Training for Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs RFI. Comments were compiled primarily from a discussion that took place during the CCEC's Local Energy Resources Network (LERN) meeting on September 12, 2023 (meeting recording and slides can be accessed [here](#)). This meeting was attended by almost 80 members of our network consisting primarily of staff from local governments, regional & State agencies, and their partners in nonprofit and private sector companies. This meeting featured an interactive input session which followed a presentation by Carol Schmitt, Rebates & Incentives Supervisor with the Reliability, Renewable Energy & Decarbonization Incentives (RREDI) Division of the CEC. Comments shared during this input session were captured directly in this [Jamboard](#), as well as in the chat and verbally. The full submitted comment letter can be found [here](#).



Collaboration, Marketing, & Final Notes

Collaboration

This year, CCEC attended 38 external meetings, including 12 of the **California Reach Codes** calls hosted by Misti Bruceri. Our Best Practices Coordinator, Angie Hacker, attended 12 **Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC)** Monthly Regulatory Engagement calls; helped organized and attended a number of **Reach Codes Newcomers Meetings**; and coordinated 3 State and Local Energy & Climate Coordination Quarterly Calls, including 1 in-person meeting at the CCEC Forum, and 2 virtual calls.

Marketing

Aside from the Forum, CCEC's [website](#) was the main engagement point for local governments and the public, and it received over 24,000 users and 55,000 pageviews throughout 2023. The **Forum Program webpage**, in particular, attracted a lot of traffic.

This year our **Statewide Peer-to-Peer Networking Group** on LinkedIn added just over 100 members increasing to 479 participants by the end of the year!

Final Notes

The idea behind CCEC is simple. By sharing knowledge, resources, ideas and inspiration, local governments can do more to achieve their climate and energy goals; they can do so faster; and they can do so better. That's the gap CCEC is designed to fill, and we're proud of the progress we made in 2023. If you'd like to join our network, you can do so by:

Attending Our

15th Annual
California Climate and
Energy Forum
June 25 -26, 2024 • Palm Springs, California

Finally, you can reach us anytime at
eeccordinator@civicwell.org.

Signing Up
for the

Local
Energy
Resources
Network

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Listserv



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Thank You!