

# State & Local Energy Climate Coordination (SLECC)

## Meeting #4 | March 14, 2024

*Quarterly coordination meetings between State  
and local leaders across California*

PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF OVER CHAT



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# Welcome to SLECC!

Featured Discussion Topic: ***Improving Funding and Reducing Application Burden***



## TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome, Introductions, Purpose of SLECC
- Roundtable Updates
- Featured Discussion Topic
  - Presentations
    - Sean Kennedy, SGC - *application burden and SGC's workplan*
    - Angie Hacker, CCEC - *local perspectives on better funding*
    - Ena Lupine, SGC - *recent improvements to funding*
  - Breakouts on better funding
  - Takeaways
- Operationalizing Strategic Objectives



# Why SLECC?

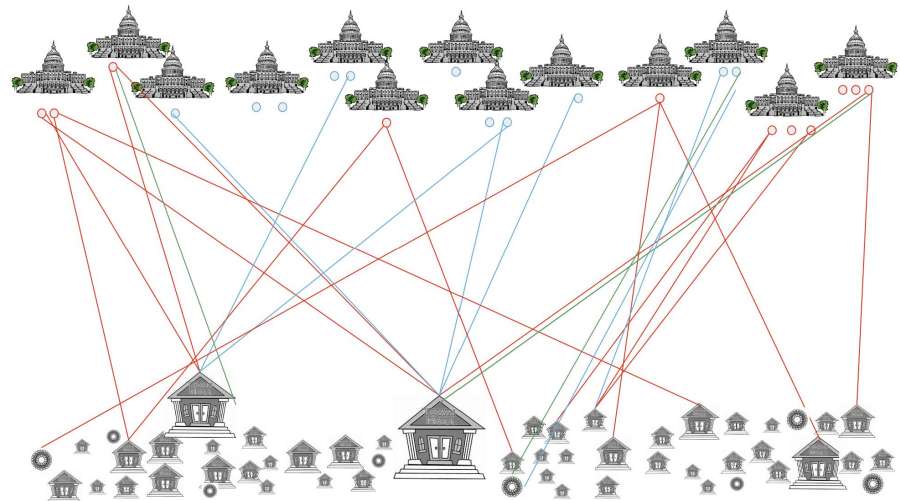
***Build deeper understanding and stronger collaborative relationships between State and local agencies to identify barriers and streamline and improve delivery of energy and climate information, resources, and services.***

## Purpose

The SLECC will serve as a **statewide communication and ideation hub to help State and local leaders improve coordinated efforts** to more rapidly unlock the unique potential of California regions and communities to address energy and climate goals.

The SLECC will **identify priority needs and co-create operational solutions to advance place-based energy and climate action.**

The SLECC will primarily focus on clean energy and climate mitigation issues (including in buildings, transportation, and land use), but will also address aligned issues including energy and climate resilience, workforce and economic development, housing, health, and equity.





# Roundtable Updates

*What does **your** organization want State and local governments to know more about?*

- *Assistance, learning, or engagement opportunities*
- *Recent successes/lessons*
- *Information needs*
- *Invitations to partner*





# California Energy Commission

## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

Vanessa Durant, Decarbonization Incentives Specialist

March 14, 2024



# **Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge**

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- **California formula allocation: \$4.5 million**
- **Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge**
- Local governments – individual or group of jurisdictions
- Planning projects only
  - No construction projects to avoid CEQA & NEPA
  - Building decarbonization measures
  - Statewide goal: decarbonization by 2045



# Local Government Building Decarbonization Challenge

- **Federal requirement:** Minimum of 60% of CA allocation must go to local governments not eligible to receive a direct formula grant
  - Remaining funds will be available to all jurisdictions
- **Federal requirement:** Grant agreements must be signed within 180-days of award
- **Solicitation release date:** Spring 2024
  - Awards by Fall 2024



# CCEC Updates

- CCEC Forum: *Collective Innovation: Cultivating Collaboration for Equitable Climate Action*
  - 60 session proposals!
- Barriers to Local Climate Action Summary Report (pending)
- Engagement
  - CEC:
    - HOMES + Equitable Building Decarbonization
    - Community Energy Resilience Investment (CERI) Program
  - CARB
    - Research Plan
    - Community Engagement Model
  - Strategic Growth Council
    - Catalyst Conference
    - Priority 3 Workplan



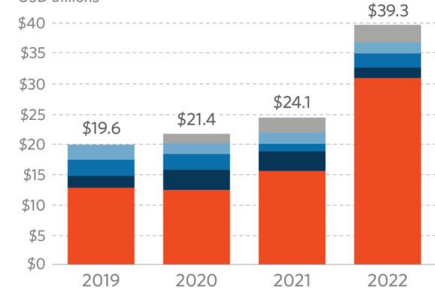


# Featured Discussion



Figure 5: California Climate Finance by Actor Type, 2019-2022

USD billions



Unknown, \$6.9 bn  
Local Government, \$7.9 bn  
State Government, \$8.8 bn  
Federal Government, \$10.2 bn  
Private, \$70.7 bn

Source: Climate Policy Initiative

## Improving Funding and Reducing Application Burden





# *Application Burden & SGC's Workplan*



*Deputy Director, Energy Portfolio*  
**Strategic Growth Council**  
**Sean Kennedy**



# SGC Priority 3: Housing, Climate, and Equity

Sean Kennedy, Deputy Director of Energy Investments



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# Overview: Council Priority 3



- Resolution passed December, 2022
- A shared whole-of-Council vision and commitment to elevate, coordinate, and accelerate progress toward the State's housing, climate, and equity goals.
- Three-tiered approach
  - Alignment across State policies and programs
  - **Coordination between State, regional, and local governments**
  - Public engagement
- Currently collecting input for June, 2024 update to the Strategic Growth Council

# Work Plan

- The Work Plan is organized around three goals, outlined in the resolution.
  1. Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential.
  2. Identify and elevate additional tools and strategies to meet the State's housing, climate, and equity goals in a coordinated way and at the scale and pace necessary to close existing gaps and meet the urgency of current and projected needs.
  3. Improve coordination and information sharing between State, local, federal, and Tribal partners at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity.
- Each goal is supported by 2-3 strategies, each of which includes actions for implementation.
- Each action is associated with a timeline (0-1 year; 1-2 years), and lead and supporting entities.



# Goal 1: Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential.

#	Action	Horizon	Lead Entity	State Partners
<b>Strategy 1.1: Improve internal and external understanding of California's housing and climate policy landscape</b>				
1	Compile an inventory of State policies, programs, and funding opportunities at the nexus of housing, climate, and equity.	Short Term	SGC	
2	Assess the utilization of existing tools, funding opportunities, and other State resources intended to meet the State's housing and climate goals.	Medium Term		Council agencies
<b>Strategy 1.2: Evaluate, prioritize, and develop strategies to implement existing non-budgetary and non-legislative recommendations</b>				
3	Implement selected recommendations contained in the Draft 2022 Progress Report on California's Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (SB 150 Report), the 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix E Sustainable and Equitable Communities, the California Transportation Assessment (AB 285 Report), and other relevant reports	Medium Term	HTC+C	CalEPA, CalSTA, BCSH,
4	Develop implementation strategies for selected recommendations on building electrification and reducing embodied carbon in building materials contained in the 2022 Scoping Plan Appendix F Building Decarbonization, and other relevant reports.	Medium Term	BDWG	CalEPA
5	Understand and develop strategies to address barriers to implementing densification opportunities under existing policies.	Medium Term	HTC+C	BCSH
6	Explore measures to provide greater consistency and alignment between Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA), Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCSs), and regional plans, such as strategic planning that prioritizes green space and conservation and encourages greater integration of state housing and conservation policy priorities.	Medium Term	HTC+C	BCSH, CDFA, CNRA
<b>Strategy 1.3: Identify and remove barriers to accessing and implementing opportunities</b>				
7	Convene implementation workshops with local and regional planners, community-based organizations, and stakeholder groups focused on barriers and opportunities to leveraging existing policies and practices.	Medium Term		CalEPA, BCSH
8	Explore opportunities for more holistic and context-specific accounting of climate and equity benefits of housing development patterns by, for example, assessing benefits and costs at the regional rather than project scale.	Medium Term		
9	Identify opportunities to decrease burdens on individuals and organizations applying for State funds related to housing, climate, and equity.	Medium Term		Council agencies
10	Evaluate and develop implementation strategies for recommendations in the HCD Data Strategy and the Statewide Data Strategy (ODI/GovOps) to address data gaps and streamline existing data and mapping tools.	Medium Term	H+T D	Council agencies
11	Promote and improve access to resources available via the Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Open Data Tools platform, including the CEQA Site Check Tool and HCD's Excess Sites Tool	Short Term	BCSH	OPR

Goal 1: Ensure existing opportunities to simultaneously advance the State's housing, climate, and equity objectives are utilized to their full potential.

**Strategy 1.3: Identify and remove barriers to accessing and implementing opportunities**

**A7:** Convene implementation workshops with local and regional planners, community-based organizations, and stakeholder groups focused on barriers and opportunities to leveraging existing policies and practices.

**A9:** Identify opportunities to decrease burdens on individuals and organizations applying for State funds related to housing, climate, and equity.



# ***“Better Funding” themes gathered from communities***

## ***BETTER FUNDING***

57 ideas to tune up traditional funding vehicles by improving ...

- Pre-Application Engagement
  - Funding Program Design
  - Applications from State on Behalf of Tribal and Local Governments

- Applications
  - Solicitation Processes & Technical Assistance
  - Program Eligibility
  - Application & Administrative Requirements

- Post-Award Processes

“I spend 50% of my time pursuing grant funding.”

“We can’t meet our energy or climate goals without funding, but I’m already working 60 hours a week on my regular job. I don’t have time to find grants, let alone apply for them.”

### **A MISSING METRIC: APPLICATION BURDEN**

***The invisible and unintended costs to communities of applying for grants.***

### **Available for Review**

[Working Draft of Report](#)

[Corresponding Summary Table of Ideas and Best Practices](#)

Email thoughts to: [ahacker@prosper sustainably.com](mailto:ahacker@prosper sustainably.com)



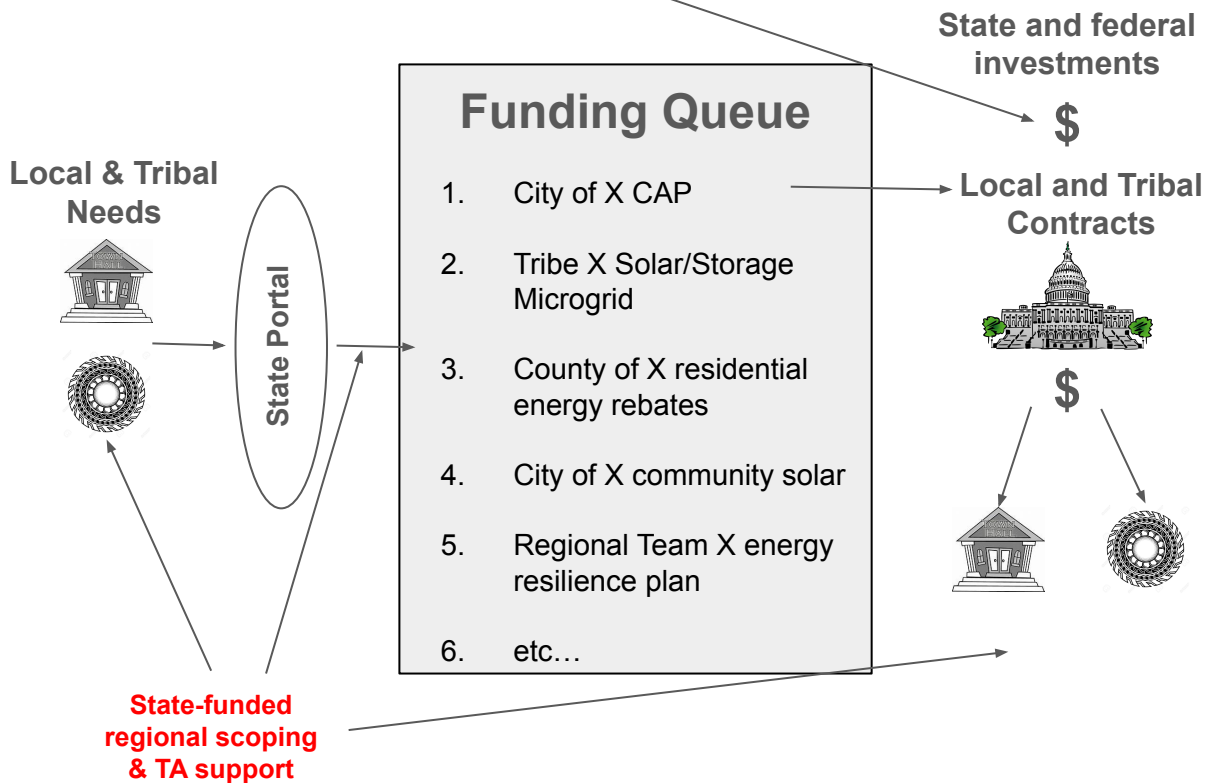
# Thinking bigger

## IDEAL FUNDING

One big idea to design a new, user-oriented funding vehicle that...

- Fund real, real-time community needs without excessive engagement
- Give more than one chance to projects through a flexible, rolling "queue"
- Uses State and federal capacity to collect, evaluate, and help develop investible projects, and match across sources
- Standardize, minimize, and streamline front-end proposal, contracting, and reporting requirements

### Pilot: Investible Climate Communities





*IDEAL*  
FUNDING

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## Pilot: Regional Energy and Climate Hubs (REACH CA)

## State-funded regional scoping & TA support







# *Recent Improvements to Funding*



Program Manager for SGC's Community  
Assistance for Climate Equity Program

**Ena Lupine**



# Improving Grant Accessibility

SLEEC Partner Meeting | March 14, 2024

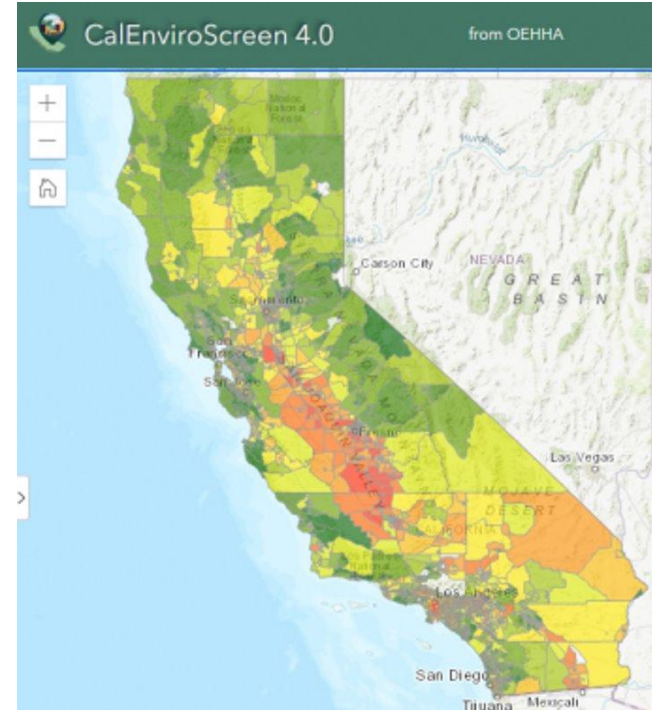


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# Common Barriers to Grant Access

1. Finding the right grant can be a challenge
2. Public grants can be overly onerous and complex
3. Under-resourced communities may lack the capacity or technical skills to apply



# CACE Programs & Initiatives

## Community Assistance for Climate Equity

**BOOST  
Program**

**Partners  
Advancing  
Climate Equity  
Program**

**Regional  
Climate  
Collaboratives  
Program**

**Tribal Capacity  
Building Pilot  
Program**

**Technical  
Assistance  
Toolkit**



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# SGC Council Priority 2

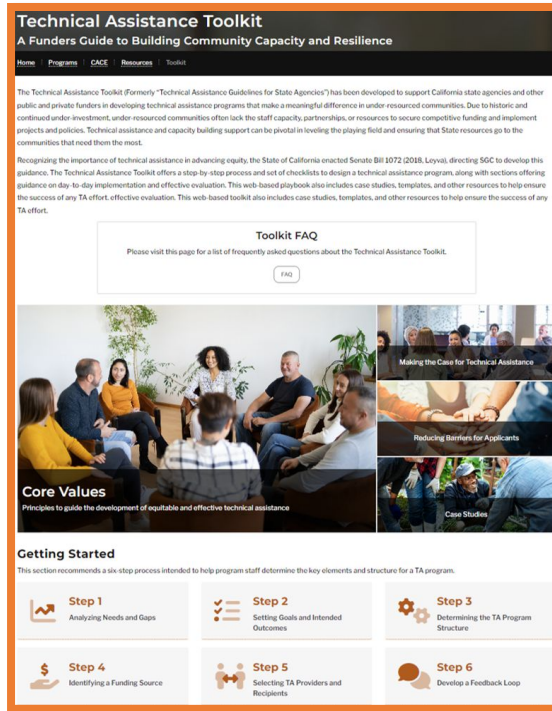
## Resolution to Advance Capacity Building as a Key Equity Strategy

In 2022, SGC's Council committed to:

- Integrate capacity building and technical assistance strategies into Agencies' programs, policies, and practices;
- Identify and implement concrete and measurable actions to advance capacity building, particularly for California Native American tribes and under-resourced communities;
- Work with State Boards, Departments, and Offices to align and advance capacity building efforts.



# Technical Assistance Toolkit



## New Section: Increasing Grant Accessibility

- Prioritize clarity and design programs to maximize accessibility
- Reach out to new audiences
- Streamline application processes
- Simplify and add flexibility to reporting requirements
- Provide comprehensive and flexible technical assistance



## CONTACT

**ENA LUPINE**

**PROGRAM MANAGER**

**COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FOR CLIMATE EQUITY**

**[ena.lupine@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:ena.lupine@sgc.ca.gov)**



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# Q&A / Discussion

***Please virtually raise your hand or add your question or comment to the chat***

*Reminders: be brief, be curious, be respectful, & be constructive*



# Breakouts

Join us on Jamboard:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/17OLepV4rKgrCKdQDPWLflraxdtGOTxiEI2NgkNO3r2s/viewer?f=0>

Participants will have a chance to suggest ideas and best practices for the following areas:

- **Pre-application engagement** - Facilitated by John V (CCEC)
- **Solicitation processes and TA** - Facilitated by Ena Lupine (SGC)
- **Program eligibility and application requirements** - Facilitated by Sean Kennedy (SGC)
- **Post award processes** - Facilitated by Tiela Combs (CCEC)
- **Big ideas for better funding** - Angie Hacker (CCEC)

Two 15 minute rounds (self-selected).

Report out.



# Q&A, Discussion, & Takeaways

***Please virtually raise your hand or add your question or comment to the chat***

*Reminders: be brief, be curious, be respectful, & be constructive*



# Operationalizing Strategic Objectives

We'd love your help making this effort as valuable and constructive as possible

- Please review the [Charter](#) and [Needs and Solutions Tracker](#) and feel free to add comment
- **Discussion:**
  - What are major barriers your organization is experiencing that are not already on the list?

## Current Barrier Categories

- Climate Action
- Inclusive/Effective Local Assistance Program Design and Deployment
- Communications and Messaging
- Statewide Policy and Utility Coordination



***Have a topic you'd  
like to see discussed  
at an upcoming  
SLECC?***

Contact  
[ahacker@civicwell.org](mailto:ahacker@civicwell.org)

## ***What's Next?***

- Provide feedback
  - Better Funding report
- Next meeting date: **June 25, 2024**
  - Topic: **TBD (please feel free to suggest)**

*Thank you for sharing  
your insights!*

