



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | **CCEC FORUM DAY 1**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

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9:00am - 5:00pm	<b>Forum Registration &amp; Check-in</b> • <i>Compass Rose Lobby</i>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<b>Networking Lunch</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>
1:00pm - 2:15pm	<b>OPENING PLENARY: State of Climate and Energy in California in 2024</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>
2:15pm - 2:45pm	<b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies</i>
2:45pm - 4:00pm	<b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b> 1. A Call to Invest in Community Power: Lessons from California Climate Investments and the Community Solar Pilot • <i>Fins Left</i> 2. Equity and Community Engagement Considerations for Gas Decommissioning • <i>Paradise 2</i> 3. We're All in this Together: Building People Power to Achieve Collective Impact • <i>Fins Right</i> 4. Your Past. Their Present. Our Future. • <i>Paradise 1</i>
4:00pm - 4:30pm	<b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies</i>
4:30pm - 5:45pm	<b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b> 1. Bringing the Heat: A Year of Heat Pump Water Heaters • <i>Paradise 1</i> 2. Climate Planning Perspectives from the Original Stewards of the Land • <i>Fins Right</i> 3. Connecting Federal Funders, Developers, and Communities through Virtual Power Plants • <i>Fins Left</i> 4. Driving the Future: Collaborative Strategies for Equitable EV Infrastructure & Workforce Development • <i>Paradise 2</i>
5:45pm - 6:45pm	<b>NETWORKING RECEPTION &amp; POSTER SESSION</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>

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## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | CCEC FORUM DAY 2



**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

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7:30am - 1:00pm	<b>Forum Registration &amp; Check-in</b> • <i>Compass Rose Lobby</i>
7:45am - 8:45am	<b>Networking Breakfast</b> • <i>Desert Conference Center Lobby</i>
8:45am - 9:45am	<b>MORNING PLENARY: Uniting Forces: The Inland Empire's Approach to Energy and Climate Challenges</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>
9:45am - 10:15am	<b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies</i>
10:15am - 12:00pm	<b>CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS (4)</b> <hr/> <b>1. Building Capacity Through Contractor Development Programs</b> • <i>Paraside 1</i> <hr/> <b>2. Climate Action Planning Tools: Empowering Equitable Transitions for CA Communities</b> • <i>Paradise 2</i> <hr/> <b>3. Empowering Local Governments to Tackle Decarbonization with Escalating Energy Rates</b> • <i>Fins Left</i> <hr/> <b>4. Jumpstart Workshop: Scaling Equitable Transition to All-Electric Neighborhoods</b> • <i>Fins Right</i>
12:00pm - 1:15pm	<b>Networking Lunch</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>
1:15pm - 2:30pm	<b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b> <hr/> <b>1. Charging Forward: Collaborating Towards an Equitable Clean Energy Transition</b> • <i>Fins Right</i> <hr/> <b>2. Equity Guardrails for an Emerging California Hydrogen Market</b> • <i>Fins left</i> <hr/> <b>3. Making Metered Energy Savings Programs Work for Your Community</b> • <i>Paradise 1</i> <hr/> <b>4. Panoramic Policymaking: Equitable Community Engagement for Existing Building Decarbonization</b> • <i>Paradise 2</i>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	<b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>
2:45pm - 4:00pm	<b>CLOSING PLENARY: Cultivating Collaboration for Equitable Climate Action</b> • <i>Compass Rose Ballroom</i>

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# FULL FORUM PROGRAM | **CCEC FORUM DAY 1**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

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9:00am - **Forum Registration & Check-in**  
5:00pm *Compass Rose Lobby*

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12:00pm - **Networking Lunch**  
1:00pm *Compass Rose Ballroom*

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1:00pm - **FORUM WELCOME**  
1:20pm *Compass Rose Ballroom*

- **Bernadette Austin** | CEO, CivicWell
  - **Jeffrey Bernstein** | Mayor, City of Palm Springs
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1:20pm - **OPENING PLENARY: State of Climate and Energy in California in 2024**  
2:15pm *Compass Rose Ballroom*

Join us for the opening plenary of the 15th Annual California Climate and Energy Forum, where we'll delve into the collective innovation and collaboration vital for equitable climate action. Kicking off with a comprehensive overview of the state of climate and energy in California for 2024, we'll lay the groundwork for two days of immersive learning. Our focus will be on examining key policies, trends, and upcoming opportunities in both state and federal landscapes. With a particular emphasis on providing timely updates relevant to local governments, attendees will gain the knowledge necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities. Through insights shared by our panel of state and federal leaders, we'll reflect on progress toward crucial climate goals, identify challenges to overcome and explore emerging opportunities for a carbon-free, climate-resilient future. Together, we'll pave the way for collaborative solutions that benefit all Californians.

- **Rose Dady** | Director of Community Engagement, US Department of Energy
  - **Commissioner Darcie Houck** | California Public Utilities Commission
  - **Commissioner Noemi Gallardo** | California Energy Commission
  - **Samuel Assefa** | Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
  - **Moderator: Angie Hacker** | Statewide Best Practices Coordinator, California Climate & Energy Collaborative (CCEC)
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2:15pm - **Networking Break**  
2:45pm *Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies*

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2:45pm -  
4:00pm

## **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)**

### **1. A Call to Invest in Community Power: Lessons Learned From California Climate Investments and the Community Solar Pilot**

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Since 2013, California Climate Investments (CCI) have implemented over \$11B for projects ranging from clean energy and electric vehicles, to affordable housing and alternative fuel production. What have been the outcomes of these investments and what lessons can be learned? We will share findings from equity analysis of CCI co-produced by the Greenlining Institute and the USC Equity Research Institute. The session will spotlight one case study in particular, on the Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) Community Solar Pilot, which produced the first publicly-funded community solar project on Tribal lands in California. Through a partnership between the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, Anza Electric Cooperative, and GRID Alternatives, the project created a 994-kilowatt system that is providing energy and benefits to ~200 households. The session will share lessons learned on effective partnerships and centering community participation, particularly as funding for projects in low-income, rural, and tribal communities continue to be implemented.

- **Lisa Castilone** | Director of Tribal Programs, Grid Alternatives, Inland Empire
- **Steven Estrada** | Tribal Chairman, Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- **Austin Mendoza** | Data Analyst, USC Equity Research Institute
- **Kevin Short** | General Manager, Anza Electric Cooperative
- **Moderator: Lolly Lim** | Program Manager of Climate Investments, Greenlining Institute

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### **2. Equity and Community Engagement Considerations for Gas Decommissioning**

*Paradise 2*

Join Gridworks, Ava Community Energy, and the City of Albany to learn how local governments can support electrification to prepare neighborhoods for gas decommissioning. Gridworks and Ava Community Energy will share the results of their California Energy Commission (CEC) funded research exploring how targeted building electrification paired with tactical gas decommissioning can provide net gas system savings while promoting equity and meeting the needs of local communities. The research daylights the priorities and concerns of residents regarding electrification and offers recommendations for project implementation. The City of Albany received funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program for their pilot to electrify all buildings on a city block. The City is prioritizing community education and engagement to overcome implementation barriers identified in the CEC research project. The City will share their goals for the pilot, results thus far, and any lessons learned along the way.

- **Allison Lopez** | Sr. Energy Efficiency Analyst, Ava Community Energy
  - **Michelle Plouse** | Community Development Analyst, City of Albany
  - **Moderator: Neha Bazaj** | Director, California & Hawaii, Gridworks
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### 3. We're All in this Together: Building People Power to Achieve Collective Climate Impact

*Fins Right*

Transitioning to clean energy and building climate resilience are complex challenges that cannot be solved in silos. We need a variety of perspectives, skillsets, and constituencies to tackle climate change and foment a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient future. A growing number of state and federal grant programs are requiring cross-sectoral cooperation and robust partnerships, which leaves those without strong community relationships at a disadvantage. Yet meaningful collaboration is not easy, especially for organizations that are under-staffed, with limited time to build partnerships. This session will uplift successful examples of robust climate collaboration in California, providing practical insights into how these efforts were able to gain momentum and access funding. The speakers will also share useful tips for practitioners who are struggling to get meaningful partnerships off the ground. The session will be highly interactive, with opportunities for attendees to dialogue with speakers and learn from each other's experiences.

- **Karalee Brown** | Assistant Executive Director, Institute for Local Government
- **Emi Wang** | Director for Capacity Building, The Greenlining Institute
- **Wilma Franco** | Executive Director, SELA Collaborative
- **Ian Gabriel** | Director of Data, Policy & Planning, Lift to Rise
- **Moderator: Ena Lupine** | Program Manager, Community Assistance for Climate Equity, Strategic Growth Council

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### 4. Your Past. Their Present. Our Future

*Paradise 1*

Join us for an insightful break-out session on the critical role of workforce development in advancing energy efficiency initiatives within municipalities across California. With cities striving to fulfill energy efficiency projects and meet local and statewide energy targets, the need for a skilled workforce has never been more pressing. Come and learn how a new partnership, between CivicSpark and I-REN, has opened up the opportunity for 52 municipalities across Riverside and San Bernardino counties, to receive the energy staffing support they have historically not been able to receive, while also keeping the local talent local. Learn about how this partnership, which is replicable anywhere, resulted in a 450% increase in participation of an energy fellowship in a subregion where energy is normally not seen as a top priority. This session will include discussion from past and present fellows and a City whose existing fellowship support is providing future benefits.

- **Parker Friederich** | I-REN Fellow, City of Canyon Lake
- **Jarrod Manuel** | Capital Projects and Facilities Superintendent, City of Chino Hills
- **Kate Rathbun** | Program Manager, Frontier Energy, I-REN
- **Moderator: Tyler Masters** | Program Manager, I-REN/WRCOG

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4:00pm -  
4:30pm

#### ***Networking Break***

*Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies*

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4:30pm -  
5:45pm

## **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)**

### **1. Bringing the Heat: A Year of Heat Pump Water Heaters**

*Paradise 1*

This session will take participants on a behind-the-scenes journey of a 2023 heat pump water heater (HPWH) initiative designed to help agencies through HPWH procurement and installation assistance and rebates for either 80% or 100% of eligible project costs. We will highlight the teamwork and coordination as we identified the need for HPWH technology, conducted community outreach, supported procurement and installation, identified complementary funding support through TECH Clean California, and completed program reporting. The presentation will conclude with program successes, lessons learned, and sharing what is next for the HPWH initiative. Attendees will leave the session with a blueprint for collaborating with partners on program design and will have a deeper understanding of the benefits of HPWHs. The HPWH initiative is an offering of Southern California Regional Energy Network's (SoCalREN) incentive program. The incentive program (launched in 2022) helps public agencies achieve long-term energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Code Bruder** | Senior Technical Program Manager, The Energy Coalition
- **Fernanda Craig** | Regulatory, Policy and Reporting Lead, Los Angeles County
- **Victor Ferrer** | General Manager/Principal Analyst, City of Pico Rivera
- **Moderator: Alina Bonto** | Project Manager, SoCalREN (The Energy Coalition)

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### **2. Climate Planning Perspectives from the Original Stewards of the Land**

*Fins Right*

During this panel, three Tribes in the San Diego region will discuss their unique experiences as they each developed priority and comprehensive climate action plans funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. The Tribes are the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and the Jamul Indian Village. Their climate action plans will help improve Tribal quality of life and create a healthy environment for future generations. This session will highlight barriers and challenges faced by each Tribe, community engagement activities, implementation projects the Tribes plan to move forward with, the estimated community and climate impacts of these activities, and best practices and lessons learned. Session attendees will also learn about the potential for partnerships as the Tribes plan for the implementation of the projects identified in their priority climate action plans.

- **John Flores** | Environmental Director & Domestic Water Manager, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
  - **Shasta Gaughen** | Environmental Director, Pala Band of Mission Indians
  - **Syndi Smallwood** | Environmental Director, Jamul Indian Village of California
  - **Moderator: Lauri Walker** | Director, Equity Engagement, Center for Sustainable Energy
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### 3. Connecting Federal Funders, Developers, and Communities through Virtual Power Plants

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In April 2024, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) entered an agreement with King Energy to leverage federal funding through the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office to implement Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) as Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) at sites and facilities supported by SGC-member programs. Through this effort, SGC seeks to enhance site- and grid-level energy resilience while extending benefits such as reduced energy costs and rental income to participating entities and their communities. In this session, the SGC and its implementing partners will provide an applied overview of its effort to connect communities to federal funding opportunities through virtual power plants. An opening presentation will focus on specific strategies SGC and its partners have employed to access and utilize federal funding opportunities for community benefit. In the breakout discussion, participants will share project proposals and engage in cross-sectoral dialog to identify funding and project deployment opportunities.

- **Yakov Feygin** | Director of Public Finance, Center for Public Enterprise
- **Jared Genova** | Senior Planner, Civix
- **Jared Snelson** | Enterprise Account Executive, King Energy
- **Moderator: Sean Kennedy** | Deputy Director of Energy Investments, Strategic Growth Council

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### 4. Driving the Future: Collaborative Strategies for Equitable EV Infrastructure & Workforce Empowerment

*Paradise 2*

In the face of climate change and the urgent need for sustainable transportation solutions, expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is a pivotal challenge. This panel discussion will explore a holistic approach to building a nationwide model for EV charging infrastructure, emphasizing equity, workforce development, and innovative financing. By sharing insights from our collaborative efforts starting in California involving public and private entities, we aim to shed light on high-level strategies that address infrastructure development's technical and financial aspects and ensure inclusivity and accessibility. Our discussion will provide a roadmap for other regions and stakeholders interested in fostering similar partnerships, highlighting the potential for creating resilient, sustainable, and equitable communities through shared visions and goals.

- **Donnel Baird** | CEO, BlocPower
- **Lujana Medina** | Energy Initiatives Division Manager, County of Los Angeles
- **Ben Stapleton** | Executive Director, USGBC California
- **Moderator: Ariel Fan** | Founder and CEO, GreenWealth Energy

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5:45pm -  
6:45pm

### **NETWORKING RECEPTION AND POSTER SESSION**

*Compass Rose Ballroom*

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**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

7:30am - **Forum Registration & Check-in**  
1:00pm *Compass Rose Lobby*

7:45am - **Networking Breakfast**  
8:45am *Desert Conference Center Lobby*

8:45am - **MORNING PLENARY: Uniting Forces: The Inland Empire’s Approach to Energy and Climate Challenges**  
9:45am *Compass Rose Ballroom*

Join us for a deep dive into the energy and climate landscape of the Inland Empire. This session brings together local and regional leaders to discuss their visions, stories, and strategies for tackling the unique challenges of clean energy adoption, emission reductions, equity, and environmental justice. Through candid conversations, speakers will share both progress and obstacles, offering insights into the innovative approaches and collaborative efforts driving meaningful change throughout the region. From navigating complexities to fostering partnerships, participants will gain valuable perspectives on how unified action can pave the way for a more sustainable future in the Inland Empire.

- **Casey Dailey** | Director of Energy & Environment , Western Riverside Council of Governments
- **Julianne Emmons Allison** | Associate Professor, Director of Sustainability, UC Riverside
- **Silvia Paz** | Executive Director, Alianza Coachella Valley
- **Karen Woodard** | Realty/Planning Administrator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Moderator: **Karina Camacho** | Senior Analyst, I-REN

9:45am - **Networking Break**  
10:15am *Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies*



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10:15am -  
12:00pm

## **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS (4)**

### **1. Building Capacity Through Contractor Development Programs**

#### *Paradise 1*

Contractor Development Programs (CDPs) have been designed to increase the capabilities and capacity of small, local, diverse, and disadvantaged contractors through the various services they provide. When barriers are removed, contractors are given the opportunity to participate in meaningful public construction projects. It has been proven that contractors can be highly successful when provided with the right tools, support, and guidance. In addition, when public agencies require the utilization of small, local, diverse, and disadvantaged firms on their projects, it can be a win-win for all. As businesses grow their capacity, they transition into a position to hire from their communities, becoming a catalyst for workforce development. In this interactive workshop, we will use real-life challenges and barriers contractors face and together we will create solutions for a comprehensive Contractor Development Program Plan in which participants can take back to their respective marketplaces and implement with support from local implementors.

- **Shanette Anderson** | Senior Program Manager, Emerald Cities Collaborative
- **Anabel Barragan** | Construction and Labor Relations Specialist, Touchstone Project Solutions
- **Maria Quiroz** | Program Manager, City of San Diego
- **Kevin Ramsey** | President, Alameda Construction Services, Inc.
- **Veronica Soto** | Senior Advisor for Workforce Development and Economic Impacts, Los Angeles World Airports
- **Moderator: Traci Watson** | Vice President, Alameda Construction Services, Inc.

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### **2. Climate Action Planning Tools: Empowering Equitable Transitions for CA Communities**

#### *Paradise 2*

The CoolClimate Network at UC Berkeley is developing a new set of tools for local government climate action. Participants in this workshop session will learn about the project, which aims to develop GHG inventories for every California local government along with planning tools that take into account equity and other non-GHG benefits that are critical for informed policymaking. Through a moderated discussion focusing on local government needs, participants will be invited to provide input to shape the tools that will be publicly available in 2025. The workshop speakers will share their reflections on the state of climate action planning based on their progress to date on this project, and welcome participants to also share their observations and insights about the future of the practice.

- **Daniel Kammen** | Professor, UC Berkeley
  - **Moderator: Chris Jones** | Director, CoolClimate Network
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### 3. Empowering Local Governments to Tackle Decarbonization with Escalating Energy Rates

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In 2022, building decarbonization saw progress with record-high solar installations and supportive policies like the Inflation Reduction Act. Yet, challenges arose with soaring electricity rates, plummeting solar installations, and widespread unemployment among solar contractors. Despite these hurdles, decarbonization remains vital amidst rising gas costs and environmental concerns. This session aims to empower participants to address electricity affordability in their communities. We'll explore reasons for price hikes, strategies for affording electrification, and actions to mitigate customer energy costs. Additionally, we'll have a group discussion on how collective power can be harnessed to drive change, hearing insights from entities like the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition, RENs as well as local governments on advocacy options and program design to tackle rising costs. Participants will engage in group discussions on affording electrification, curbing energy costs and collective advocacy. Join us as we navigate the complexities of energy affordability.

- **Marc Costa** | Director of Policy & Planning, The Energy Coalition
- **Jane Elias** | Director, Energy Programs, BayREN
- **Lucia Pohlman** | Sustainability Analyst, City of San Luis Obispo
- **Moderator: Steven Moss** | Partner, M.Cubed

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### 4. Jumpstart Workshop: Scaling Equitable Transition to All-Electric Neighborhoods

*Fins Right*

Local governments are tasked with achieving aggressive climate goals, and one of the key areas to address is our building stock and making homes all electric and efficient. Local governments are called to do so responsibly without displacing or burdening communities that have historically been underserved. This workshop will explore barriers and opportunities to electrify neighborhoods equitably through a collaborative and interactive workshop. Local government and community-based organization collaboration is the first step in approaching building decarb equitably. Staff from San Mateo and Contra Costa Counties along with local community-based organizations, El Concilio and South Coast Sustainable, will introduce the session, and present their work and vision for equitable neighborhood electrification in two very different neighborhood contexts. The remainder of the workshop will be dedicated to small group and whole group dialogue about opportunities, barriers, and pathways forward.

- **Aurelio Huizar** | Program Manager, El Concilio of San Mateo County
- **Jody London** | Sustainability Coordinator, Contra Costa County
- **Alero Moju** | Sustainability Specialist, County of San Mateo Office of Sustainability
- **Irma Rodriguez Mitton** | Executive Director, South Coast Sustainable
- **Susan Wright** | Program Manager, San Mateo County Sustainability Department
- **Moderator: Avana Andrade** | Senior Sustainability Specialist, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

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12:00pm - **Networking Lunch**  
1:15pm *Compass Rose Ballroom*

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1:15pm -  
2:30pm

## **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)**

### **1. Charging Forward: Collaborating Towards and Equitable Clean Energy Transition**

*Fins Right*

An Investor-Owned Utility, a faith-based community development corporation empowering Black communities, an energy-focused nonprofit in rural Central California, and other community-minded organizations gather. Southern California Edison has convened diverse community-based organizations for the Clean Energy Access Working Group. Environmental, faith-based, and vulnerable population leaders participate, ensuring comprehensive dialogue and consideration of community concerns for future energy policies. The group exchanges best practices and prioritizes outreach to diverse populations. Their community improvement efforts extend beyond volunteerism, focusing on tangible project development and implementation. A web-based platform offers educational resources, fostering connection and inspiring action. This panel showcases practical examples of multi-sector collaboration, demonstrating how it enhances community well-being.

- **Anuj Desai** | Senior Advisor, Southern California Edison
- **Frank Jackson** | Chairman & CEO, Village Solutions Foundation
- **Courtney Blore Kalashian** | Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
- **Moderator: Pam Close Bold** | Executive Director, High Sierra Energy Foundation

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### **2. Equity Guardrails for an Emerging California Hydrogen Market**

*Fins Left*

Implementing a full-fledged hydrogen system in California will take considerable investments that could fall back on ratepayers, perpetuate pollution in environmental justice communities, and coopt necessary energy and water resources from Californians. These are top-of-mind concerns for communities who have experienced these impacts before and are calling for the state not to repeat the energy system's history of profit over people and planet. Hydrogen should only be produced and deployed where it is an affordable climate solution with environmental and equity guardrails that ensure the financial and emissions burden does not land on those who can least afford it. Join our session to hear from environmental justice, equity, and community-based organizations about the impacts and guardrails needed for the emerging hydrogen industry in California. It is time for communities to lead the way on hydrogen for California's just transition to clean energy.

- **Nile Malloy** | Climate Justice Director, California Environmental Justice Alliance
  - **Jay Parepally** | Federal Climate Justice Legal Fellow, Communities for a Better Environment
  - **Michael Rincon** | Research and Policy Manager, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
  - **Moderator: Fatima Abdul-Khabir** | Senior Program Manager of Energy Equity, The Greenlining Institute
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### 3. Making Metered Energy Savings Program Work for Your Community

#### *Paradise 1*

Are metered energy savings programs working in California? Do the programs successfully serve their target populations? Four program administrators will discuss the challenges and successes in implementing residential and commercial metered energy savings programs in their communities. Speakers will address questions surrounding equity and serving hard-to-reach customers, incentive design, workforce development, achieving electrification goals, reducing peak load, and driving comprehensive upgrades. Join the session to discuss findings from these regional programs, the broader state context for the shift to metered energy savings programs, and their future role in supporting the state's energy efficiency and electrification goals.

- **Cara Bautista-Rao** | Senior Energy Specialist, San Francisco Environment Department
- **Peter Levitt** | Manager, DER Programs, Peninsula Clean Energy
- **Alex Valenti** | Manager of Customer Programs, Marin Clean Energy
- **Moderator: April Price** | Energy Portfolio Manager, 3C-REN/County of Santa Barbara

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### 4. Panoramic Policymaking: Equitable Community Engagement for Existing Building Decarbonization

#### *Paradise 2*

Join us for an insightful break-out session on the critical role of workforce development in advancing energy efficiency initiatives within municipalities across California. With cities striving to fulfill energy efficiency projects and meet local and statewide energy targets, the need for a skilled workforce has never been more pressing. Come and learn how a new partnership, between CivicSpark and I-REN, has opened up the opportunity for 52 municipalities across Riverside and San Bernardino counties, to receive the energy staffing support they have historically not been able to receive, while also keeping the local talent local. Learn about how this partnership, which is replicable anywhere, resulted in a 450% increase in participation of an energy fellowship in a subregion where energy is normally not seen as a top priority. This session will include discussion from past and present fellows and a City whose existing fellowship support is providing future benefits.

- **Christian Cruz** | Senior Community Outreach Manager, Clean Power Alliance
- **Chelsea Kirk** | Director of Policy and Advocacy, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
- **Nico Predock** | Sustainability Analyst, City of Santa Monica
- **Moderator: Mayra Vega** | Senior Project Manager, TRC

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2:30pm -  
2:45pm

#### ***Networking Break***

*Compass Rose and Desert Conference Center Lobbies*

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2:45pm -  
4:00pm

## **CLOSING PLENARY: Cultivating Collaboration for Equitable Climate Adaptation**

*Compass Rose Ballroom*

To close out the forum, we turn our attention squarely to this year's theme: *Cultivating Collaboration for Equitable Climate Action*. In order to create a more just future, effective climate action must center the needs of the communities most directly impacted by the effects of climate change. This will require co-developing new means of collaboration to achieve greater collective impact. Collaboration across industries, sectors, and communities is increasingly important to the development of applications to state and federal funding opportunities, and these core partnerships will continue to be a driving force behind the most impactful climate action efforts. In this closing plenary we will hear from the private sector, non profit stakeholders, state agencies and local government leaders on how they are working to build a collaborative and inclusive future as we work to meet our climate and energy goals.

- **Donnel Baird** | CEO, BlocPower
  - **Courtney Blore Kalashian** | Executive Director, San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
  - **Lujana Medina** | Environmental Initiatives Division Manager, County of Los Angeles
  - **Moderator: Emi Wang** | Director for Capacity Building, The Greenlining Institute
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