

2024 California Climate & Energy Collaborative Annual Report

Prepared by Kelsey Wolf-Cloud, Senior Program Manager | Jan 10, 2025



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.

2024 Highlights

Organizing and hosting the 15th Annual CCEC Forum in Palm Springs, California bringing in a record-breaking number of breakout session proposals and number of attendees.



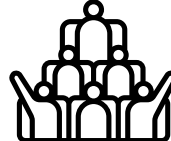
15 poster presentations



16 sessions, 3 plenaries



66 speakers



418 attendees



157 cities represented



Creation of a legislative tracker and tracking of 45 pieces of legislation through to their conclusions.

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.



Continuation of the State/ Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC) Meeting Series which brings together the state agencies with the over 300 local government representatives who have signed up to participate in quarterly calls. Increased engagement and coordination with now 9 state agencies across dozens of active plans, policies, and programs, including the formalization of co-facilitation by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC).



Submitting 4 comment letters to 4 different California State Agencies.



The first meeting of the Regional Energy and Climate Hub (REACH) Inland Empire connecting 100 Inland Empire locals with over 30 state agency representatives. Invited to co-produce regional convenings with LCI/SGC.

CCEC helped elevate the network's concerns and ideas on funding access by signing onto the "Better Funding" report and developing a working group of thought leaders.



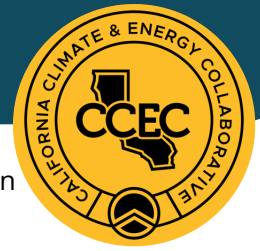
Made Possible By



TRI-COUNTY
REGIONAL ENERGY
NETWORK



CCEC Forum



The **15th Annual California Climate and Energy Forum** was held June 25-26, 2024 in Palm Springs, California. The forum theme was **Collective Innovation: Cultivating Collaboration for Equitable Climate Action**.

This year saw our audience grow to over **415**, representing **157 cities** across California.

The forum featured **66 different speakers** across **3 plenary sessions**, **16 breakout sessions**, and **15 posters** presented during an evening 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!

We heard excellent feedback from participants:



CCEC is great for networking and learning! This is the Forum to attend to meet the movers and shakers in the energy efficiency, decarbonization, energy equity, and climate action space. This is a place where innovative and passionate minds from local government, not-for-profits, utilities, state government, and more come to discuss solutions to our most pressing problems.

- Aisha Cervantes-Cissna, San Diego Community Power

The CCEC Forum brings together an extraordinary group of leaders from very diverse backgrounds to collaborate and innovate on the next phase of climate solutions for California and beyond!

- Spencer Rosen, Home Energy Academy

I look forward to this Forum every year. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers and leaders across the state on locally focused energy and climate solutions.

- Laurel Rothschild, The Energy Coalition



Participants rated the
breakouts on average:
4.1 out of 5 stars.



96% Rated Forum Highly

More information - slide decks, posters, and other resources - is available [here](#).

Informational Hub



CURRENTS Quarterly



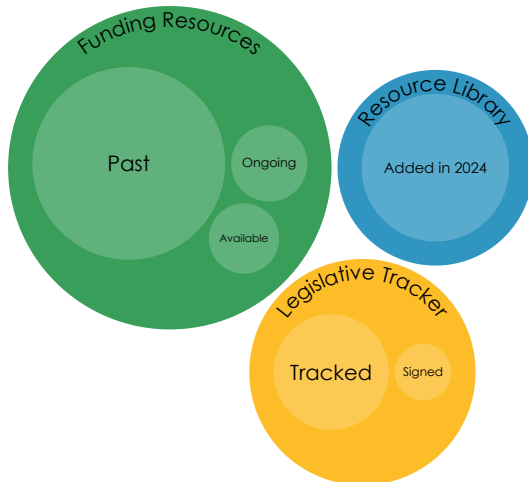
CURRENTS Quarterly is CCEC's flagship publication, featuring original articles from the Best Practices Coordinator, updates from the RENS, and other original articles of interest to the local governments we serve. In 2024 CURRENTS reached 958 people and had an average open rate of 26%. Our archive of 2024 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. This weekly newsletter has a reach of 1,698 and had an average click rate of 13.2% in 2024.



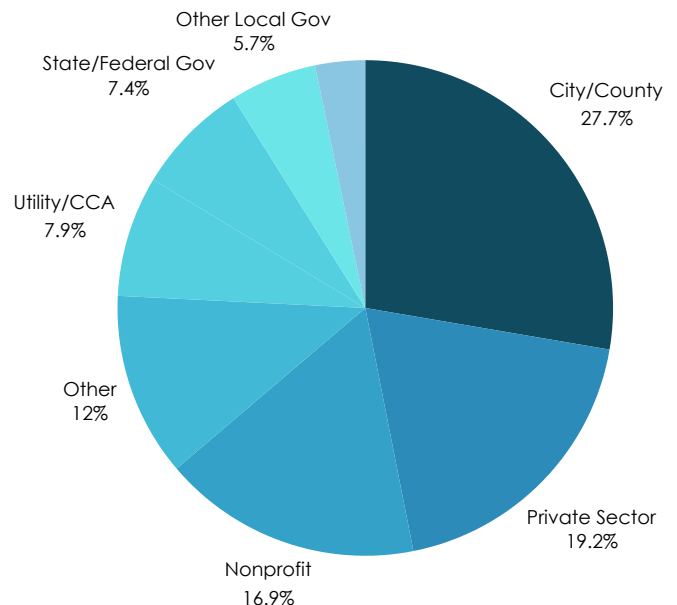
Resources



CCEC continued to focus on providing easy-to-find, useful resources to local governments and their partners. The CCEC website now features a filterable [resource library](#) with 486 distinct resources (viewed 1,797 times in 2024), a database of [funding resources](#) updated wEEKly with new funding opportunities available (viewed 3,559 times in 2024), and in 2024 we added a [legislative tracker](#) (viewed 1,132 times in 2024) that kept our network updated on relevant legislative action taken and discarded during the 2024 legislative season. After the legislative season ended, CCEC published its [2024 legislative update](#) that featured 42 new laws signed by the Governor regarding climate mitigation issues in 2024.

Customer Relationship Management

In 2024 CCEC created a CRM system to better understand our audience and connect in a more streamlined way. As of the end of the year, the CCEC audience consisted of 3805 individual contacts with the breakdown by organization type shown to the right.



Local Energy Resources Network



CCEC continued the Local Energy Resource Network (LERN) initiative with the assistance of the BPC. In 2024 the monthly meetings averaged 98 and 615 people had signed up to be part of LERN by the end of the year. Our monthly meetings featured:

January

Jeffery Liang, Energy Solutions/TECH Clean CA proposed and searched for more collaboration opportunities and spotlighted two current input opportunities. (115 attendees)

February

Lauren Symore, The Energy Coalition, Lowell Chu, BayREN Business Program, April Price, County of Santa Barbara, and Lujuana Medina, SoCalREN shared information on NMEC. (104 attendees)

March

Taylor Carnevale, Climate Finance Associate, IBank presentation on IBank's Climate Financing Program and open RFI. (67 attendees)

April

Vanessa Durant, CEC Shared information on CEC's EECBG Program & Deidre Zoll/ Jose Lopez, CARB shared strategic 5 Year Research Plan. (175 attendees)

May

Lisa Hu, U.S. Department of Energy & Sika Gadzanku, NREL shared information on DOE State & Community Energy Programs (SCEP) and the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Program. (93 attendees)

July

Taylor Carnevale, IBank, Andrew Reyes and Julie Cooper, CARB and Niki Okuk, CalStart shared information on Climate Financing Products and clean fleet electrification programs. (90 attendees)

August

Cynthia McCoy, Urban Sustainability Directors Network shared information advising attendees on how to navigate and develop applications for currently available grants. (75 attendees)

September

Traci Hukill, CAEATFA shared about an upcoming webinar series, and Jeffery Liang, Energy Solutions shared about Tech Clean California. (87 attendees)

October

The DOE shared information on the EECBG program and BayREN shared on their statewide Home Energy Score. (83 attendees)

November

Tessa Charnofsky, LA County; Heather Allen, Ventura County Sustainability Division; Daniel Hilson, BetterFleet; and Norah Kyassa, GRID Alternatives shared information on their various charging programs around the state. (94 attendees)

December

Tom Does, Municipal Market Analytics shared information on a threat to local municipal bonds for public infrastructure, and Roger Dickinson, CivicWell shared a 2024 legislative roundup. (97 attendees)



State/Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC)



In 2024 CCEC deepened its collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) as co-facilitator of SLECC, and SLECC partners, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI, formerly OPR), the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the California Energy Commission (CEC) through the SLECC series. In addition, the California Public Utilities Commission, Go Green Financing, iBank, and the US Department of Energy joined as SLECC Partners. As of the end of 2024 the SLECC network consisted of 306 members. During 2024 CCEC and SGC hosted 3 virtual workshops and 1 in person workshop.

June

120 individuals registered for this in person SLECC event in Palm Springs which featured an activity focused on identifying the ideal roles local governments can play in meeting the state's climate and energy goals, an overview of the State Adaptation Strategy from Ben McMahan of OPR and Mindy Craig of BluePoint Planning, and a discussion on accessing tax credits from the Strategic Growth Council. Other agencies in attendance included DOE, CEC, and CPUC. This meeting represented the one year anniversary of SLECC.

March

This meeting featured a discussion with the Strategic Growth Council on improving funding and reducing application burden, which will help inform their upcoming Priority 3 Work Plan progress update in April. Following from this meeting on funding access and application burden, Angie Hacker, CCEC BPC gathered additional feedback and ideas to inform the [Better Funding Report](#), a collaborative report published in June through Prosper Sustainably, the California Climate & Energy Collaborative, and the Tribal Energy & Climate Collaborative.

September

This meeting featured roundtable updates from State and local representatives, including BayREN and CARB. The main discussion into [planning for the next phase of SLECC](#) including discussing state and local coordination and engagement needs and regional convening brainstorm breakout groups for 2025.

December

This meeting featured a recap of the progress made on Barriers to Local Climate Action as discussed across three listening sessions had in 2023 between CCEC's local government network and the California Air Resources Board. Breakouts featured discussions on climate action planning Technical Advisory group and general plan guidelines, GH data inventory access and load capacity constraints.

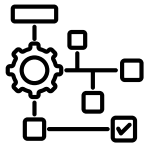
As part of SLECC, CCEC continues to track strategic opportunities for State engagement and policy advancement through the [active state agency energy and climate initiatives with opportunities for local participation](#) with the CCEC Network.

Regional Energy and Climate Hub



The Regional Energy and Climate Hub (REACH) is an extension of the State and Local Energy and Climate Coordination (SLECC) effort led by CCEC and the Strategic Growth Council. REACH Inland Empire offers a streamlined communication and ideation hub for key state and regional stakeholders to work together more closely to elevate and catalyze place-based energy, land use, and climate progress.

Goals of REACH



Help identify, document, and map a comprehensive and cumulative understanding of the region's priorities, needs, challenges, and landscape of stakeholders and assistance providers that can be used guide effective State and regional efforts (through discussions and activities).

More easily access and inform specific, active State input opportunities on relevant policy, programs and projects, ensuring more inclusive, actionable and participatory decision-making (through State-led breakouts)



Exchange knowledge, best practices, and successes about community-driven efforts through Region-led breakouts.

Gain awareness of and access to available State and regional funding, incentive, or technical opportunities – or suitable participants for your programs and services (through our assistance lounge and guide).

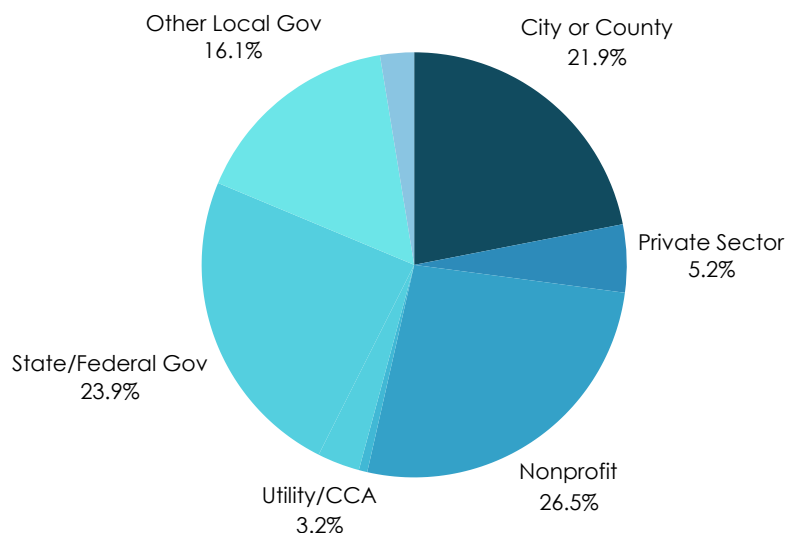


Help develop a bold statewide solution that addresses challenges communities face in accessing sustained funding and assistance for priority projects with less capacity extracted away from action (through discussions and activities)

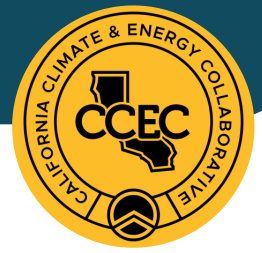
Build or deepen collaborative relationships among State and community-serving organizations that can innovate, replicate, or scale up the region's promising efforts (through networking and ongoing communication opportunities)



The first regional convening of REACH was held in the Inland Empire on December 5, 2024. 137 people registered for REACH IE with the following breakdown by organization type.



Comment Letters



CCEC provided comment letters on the following opportunities in 2024:

- CNRA Draft California Climate Adaptation Strategy - The comments responded to CNRA's Draft California Climate Adaptation Strategy. CCEC supports most positions reflected in the Climate Adaptation Strategy and highlights a few of the priorities of particular interest to our network to relay initial comments and suggestions. The full submitted comment letter can be found [here](#).
- CARB California Climate Investments - The comments responded to CARB's Draft Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investment. CCEC's key recommendations encourage California Climate Investment (CCI) administrators to take advantage of its strategic position and these Funding Guidelines to streamline processes for applicants and coordinate among 20+ agencies to reduce excessive engagement and application burden on local and tribal communities. The full submitted comment letter can be found [here](#).
- SB-100 Joint Agency Report - The comments responded to the demand scenarios and assumptions used in the Senate Bill (SB) 100 analysis presented on August 7th for the 2025 SB 100 Joint Agency Report. In these comments CCEC highlights key barriers expressed by its network of local governments as they relate to advancing their clean energy goals. The full submitted comment letter can be found [here](#).
- CPUC Climate Adaptation Community Engagement and Equity Workshops - The comments responded to the California Public Utility Commission's Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment Community Engagement and Equity Workshops on September 19th and October 25th, 2024. In these comments CCEC highlights concerns expressed by its network of local governments as they relate to the scope and objective of the workshops- and the CAVA in general. The full submitted comment letter can be found [here](#).

Additional State Engagement

CCEC staff host a bi-monthly meeting with CEC staff and local government stakeholders on the development of CEC programs throughout 2024. CCEC meets with several state and federal agencies as needed to coordinate on opportunities important to the network. A contact list of agency staff has grown to over 100 contacts.

The best practices coordinator participated in the CEC's Transportation Fuels Transition Plan Working Group in quarter 2, as well as the CPUC Data Access Working Group and the CPUC's Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment (CAVA) Workshop in Sacramento and Los Angeles. She also coordinated with CARB and LCI staff on a new Climate Action Plan Technical Advisory group, and connected with local representatives in the CCEC network to provide information [previously gathered via SLECC](#) and offer support for ongoing dialogue on key priorities (e.g. GHG inventories), including through SLECC and the CPUC Data Access Working group.

Collaboration & Marketing



This year, CCEC participated in recurring external calls such as LGSEC Board and regulatory calls, monthly reach code calls and CalREN strategy calls. In addition, the best practices coordinator presented at or participated in the following events:

February

SGC's Catalyst Conference
Session: "Choosing the Right Grant"

March

I-REN 2024 Energy and
Infrastructure Sector Showcase

April

Energize SoCal 2024
Sustainable Energy & Mobility

May

Central Coast Climate
Collaborative on funding

June

IRA Accelerator in the Inland
Empire (alongside IREN)

August

SoCalREN Advisory Committee
Meeting

September

I-REN Public Sector Working
Group (including activity
preparation)

October

CalREN's 1st Annual
Stakeholder Forum

Marketing

Aside from the Forum, CCEC's website was the main engagement point for local governments and the public, and it received 22k users and 56k pageviews throughout 2024. The Forum Program webpage, in particular, attracted a lot of traffic.

This year our Statewide Peer-to-Peer Networking Group on LinkedIn added 60 members increasing to 539 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 2025. If you'd like to join our network, you can do so by:

- Attending our 2025 Annual Forum
- Signing up for the Local Energy Resources Network
- Signing up for the State/Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC) *exclusively staff or representatives of state agencies or local governments
- Subscribing to the wEEKly newsletter
- Joining our listserv

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