



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | CCEC FORUM DAY 1

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8:30 - 5:00pm   | <b>Forum Registration &amp; Check-in</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer</i>  |
| 11:30 - 12:45pm | <b>OPENING PLENARY - California in Action: A Changing Landscape in 2025</b><br>• <i>Imperial Ballroom</i>  |
| 12:45 - 1:45pm  | <b>Networking Lunch</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom</i>   |
| 1:45 - 3:15pm   | <b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b><br>1. What's in a Label? Using Home Energy Score to Advance Local Climate Action • <i>Gold</i><br>2. Conversation Around the Local Government Kitchen Table: Addressing Affordability in a Changing Landscape • <i>Regency Ballroom 2</i><br>3. Connecting Data Point Dots: Using Data Tools to Develop Effective Reach Codes and Energy Policies • <i>Crystal</i><br>4. Planning for Climate Action Project and Funding Success: Top 10 Strategies • <i>Regency Ballroom 1</i>                                    |
| 3:15 - 3:45pm   | <b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer</i>   |
| 3:45 - 5:00pm   | <b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b><br>1. Making Community Solar Work in California: Lessons from the State's First Small Multi-Site System • <i>Regency Ballroom 2</i><br>2. Navigating Uncertainty: How Community Choice Aggregators are Leading Locally Despite Big Challenges • <i>Regency Ballroom 1</i><br>3. Frontline Leadership, Regional Coordination: Assembling the Bay Area Regional Climate Action • <i>Gold</i><br>4. EV Chargers: WHY Regional Collaboration Matters, HOW it Produces Value and WHAT it looks like • <i>Paradise 2</i> |
| 5:00 - 6:00pm   | <b>NETWORKING RECEPTION &amp; POSTER SESSION</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom</i>  |



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE | CCEC FORUM DAY 2

Thursday, July 10, 2025

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 7:30 - 1:00pm   | <b>Forum Registration &amp; Check-in</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer</i>  |
| 7:30 - 8:30am   | <b>Networking Breakfast</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom</i>   |
| 8:30 - 9:30am   | <b>MORNING PLENARY - Deep Dive: Advancing Climate &amp; Energy Solutions in the Bay Area</b> • <i>Imperial Ballroom</i>  |
| 9:30 - 9:45am   | <b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer</i>   |
| 9:45 - 11:00am  | <b>CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS (4)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Filling Energy Workforce &amp; Energy Project Pipelines: Cross-Sector Collaboration in the Inland Empire • <i>Crystal</i></li><li>2. Leading Together: Collaborative Climate Planning at the Regional Level • <i>Regency Ballroom 1</i></li><li>3. Powering Local Climate Action: Strategies for Collaboration, Workforce, and Decarbonization • <i>Regency Ballroom 2</i></li><li>4. Unleashing the All-important Community Microgrid Market Segment • <i>Gold</i></li></ol>                                   |
| 11:00 - 11:30am | <b>Networking Break</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer</i>   |
| 11:30 - 12:30pm | <b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Better Climate Action Metrics and Storytelling for All: UC Berkeley's GHG Inventory Tool Demo • <i>Gold</i></li><li>2. Growing Resilience: Integrating Natural and Working Lands into Climate Action Planning • <i>Crystal</i></li><li>3. A New Framework for Energy Programs: Designed by Communities, for Communities • <i>Regency Ballroom 1</i></li><li>4. Decarb's Path to the High Road: How to Create Quality Jobs in Residential Building Decarbonization • <i>Regency Ballroom 2</i></li></ol> |
| 12:30 - 1:30pm  | <b>Networking Lunch</b> • <i>Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom</i>   |
| 1:30 - 2:45pm   | <b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Direct-to-Renter: Locally Grown Energy Equity Solutions for Renters • <i>Regency Ballroom 2</i></li><li>2. Energized Communities: Empowering Local Governments to Reimagine a Decarbonized Future • <i>Gold</i></li><li>3. Local Governments United: Building a Statewide Advocacy Coalition for Climate Action • <i>Crystal</i></li><li>4. Resourcing Resilience: Sustaining and Strengthening Community Climate Projects • <i>Regency Ballroom 1</i></li></ol>  |



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

**Wednesday, July 9, 2025**

---

8:30am - **Forum Registration & Check-in**  
5:00pm *Market Street Foyer*

---

11:30am - **FORUM WELCOME**  
11:45am *Imperial Ballroom*

- **Angie Hacker** | Statewide Best Practices Coordinator, California Climate & Energy Collaborative (CCEC)
  - **Jane Elias** | Director, Energy Programs, BayREN
- 

11:45am - **OPENING PLENARY - California in Action: A Changing Landscape in 2025**  
12:45pm *Imperial Ballroom*

Join us for the opening plenary of the 16th Annual California Climate and Energy Forum, where we'll explore the implications of federal landscape changes on climate and energy and how California continues to move forward with our goals. Aligned with this year's theme, Hope in Action, this panel will showcase how state leaders are taking action and driving change - and what that means for how locals can continue to lead the way!

We'll discuss key policies, trends, and opportunities to sustain funding and momentum on critical climate and energy issues. With a focus on timely updates for local governments, attendees will gain the knowledge and tools to take action in their communities.

- **Erin Curtis** | California Strategic Growth Council, Executive Director
  - **Kate Gordon** | California Forward, CEO
  - **Rachel Peterson** | California Public Utilities Commission, Executive Director
  - **Noemi Gallardo** | California Energy Commission, Commissioner
  - Moderator: **Angie Hacker** | California Climate and Energy Collaborative, Statewide Best Practices Coordinator
- 

12:45pm - ***Networking Lunch***  
1:45pm *Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom*

---

---

1:45pm -  
3:15pm

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

### **1. What's in a Label? Using Home Energy Score to Advance Local Climate Action**

*Gold*

The Home Energy Score (HES) is a DOE-developed rating system that provides a report of a home's energy usage, utility bills, and custom recommendations to improve energy efficiency and encourage electrification. The Home Energy Score is used around the country to advance local climate action goals, helping residents improve their homes' energy efficiency and lower utility costs. Starting next year, the Bay Area's Home Energy Score Program—led by the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) and StopWaste—will be expanding statewide. Jurisdictions across California will have access to energy assessor training, customized report recommendations, and rebates for residents. Join this session to learn from those who have implemented local HES programs about how you can take advantage of the HES to meet your jurisdiction's climate action goals.

- **Maria Hart** | Program Manager, StopWaste
- **Valerie Nguyen** | Sustainability Program Specialist, City of Berkeley
- **Yuridiana Pantoja** | Associate Administrative Services Analyst, Yolo County
- **Moderator: Ammon Reagan** | Sustainability Program Coordinator, City of Berkeley

---

### **2. Conversation Around the Local Government Kitchen Table: Addressing Affordability in a Changing Landscape**

*Regency Ballroom 2*

As climate change intensifies, local governments face the need to increase funding for emergency services for climate disasters and support the clean energy transition, while community members are also compelled to decarbonize their own organizations and households. Recent increases in electricity rates are making that clean energy transition difficult. This session will ask and answer three questions about how we can address these challenges: What could we do? - In partnership with Green Cities California, LGSEC will explore the root causes of rising electricity rates and identify potential options for rate reform. What should we do - Some local jurisdictions are moving beyond regulatory processes, forming coalitions to influence state legislation and shift the policy landscape. What are we doing? - Local governments are partnering to create through more Regional Energy Networks to deliver programs and advocate for policies that ensure underserved and hard-to-reach communities are not left behind in the clean energy transition.

- **Aisha Cervantes-Cissna** | Senior Policy Manager, San Diego Regional Energy Network
  - **Steven Moss** | Partner, MCubed
  - **Chris Read** | Sustainability Manager, City of San Luis Obispo
  - **Moderator: Cory Downs** | Conservation Specialist, City of Chula Vista
-

---

### 3. Connecting Data Point Dots: Using Data Tools to Develop Effective Reach Codes and Energy Policies

*Crystal*

Local reach codes and policies need to be more effective than ever given the changes at the federal level. One way to develop more impactful policies is to ground them in data. There are a number of data tools available that can help local governments learn about their existing building stock, determine where action is most needed, and effectively guide communities and building owners towards specific actions. This workshop will provide an overview of four building data tools, including strengths and weaknesses of each, together with a demonstration of how to access and use the data from the tools for a specific city. Whether you are considering a reach code, wondering whether a building performance standard is right for you, or working on a climate action plan, this workshop will provide practical information and tools for maximizing the impact of your policies.

- **Misti Bruceri** | Principal, MBA, LLC
- **Jasmine Krause** | Product Manager, Policy Studio
- **Spencer Mathews** | GIS Programmer, UCLA
- **Emily Miller** | Consultant, Arup
- **JoAnna Saunders** | Building Performance Strategy Lead, California Energy Commission
- Moderator: **Kelly Cunningham** | Program Manager, PG&E
- Moderator: **Karen Kristiansson** | Assistant Director, BayREN/MTC

---

### 4. Planning for Climate Action Project and Funding Success: Top 10 Strategies

*Regency Ballroom 1*

Want to turn your climate action ideas into funded, impactful projects? Join Consero Solutions—a social impact consulting firm working to empower local organizations to enrich communities and protect the environment—the County of Yolo’s Sustainability Division, and the County of Sonoma for a power-packed session on winning strategies for climate action project development and funding research. We will break down the top 10 must-know funding strategies based on our professional experience, from aligning local equity priorities with funding opportunities to staying ahead of state and federal funding trends to engaging the community in meaningful project development.

- **Marcus Clarke** | Grants Analyst, County of Sonoma
- **Petrea Marchand** | President, Consero Solutions
- **Kristen Wraithwall** | Sustainability Manager, County of Yolo
- Moderator: **Laura Duffy** | Associate Consultant, Consero Solutions

---

3:15pm -  
3:45pm

**Networking Break**  
*Market Street Foyer*

---

---

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

### **1. Making Community Solar Work in California: Lessons from the State's First Small Multi-Site System**

*Regency Ballroom 2*

Community solar generation has proven to be an effective way of providing consumers with affordable, renewably generated electricity and encouraging the co-location of supply and demand. Shifting and uncertain regulatory environments and the difficulties inherent in building new energy infrastructure within urban load basins, however, have troubled these efforts in California. This session explores the history of community solar initiatives, existing barriers to implementation, and promising future approaches to make community solar work in California through the experiences of the Bassett-Avocado Heights Advanced Energy Community (BAAEC), a CEC EPIC-funded demonstration project. BAAEC built 626KW of rooftop solar across two sites, in a disadvantaged community, aggregated to CAISO via both the IOU and CCA utilities. Our session is intended to provide attendees with an in-depth discussion of both policy and practical challenges facing community solar, insights to scale the community solar market in the State, as well as what value a community-centered approach can provide for low-income and disadvantaged ratepayers.

- **Robert Cudd** | Research Analyst & PhD Candidate, UCLA California Center for Sustainable Communities
- **Christina Gallegos** | Senior Project Manager, GridSME
- **Vivek Phanse** | Senior Director, Market Strategy, Pivot Energy
- **John Henry Robison** | Consultant, Pivot Energy
- **Moderator: Genaro Bugarin** | Director of Energy Innovation, The Energy Coalition

---

### **2. Navigating Uncertainty: How Community Choice Aggregators are Leading Locally Despite Big Challenges**

*Regency Ballroom 1*

Join us for an engaging panel featuring CEOs from California's Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) as they discuss the key challenges facing CCAs and how they are working to overcome them. Topics will include the impact of federal policy changes, trade measures, and financial uncertainties on clean energy projects—such as tariffs on materials, shifts in tax incentives, and changes to tax credits and funding access. The panelists will share how their organizations are adapting to these evolving conditions, finding creative solutions, and continuing to drive local progress on clean energy, climate action, and community investment.

- **Monica Padilla** | Chief Executive Officer, Silicon Valley Clean Energy
  - **Lori Mitchell** | Director, San Jose Clean Energy
  - **Robert Shaw** | CEO, Central Coast Community Energy
  - **Dawn Weisz** | CEO, Marin Clean Energy
  - **Moderator: Shawn Marshall** | CEO, Peninsula Clean Energy
-

---

### **3. Frontline Leadership, Regional Coordination: Assembling the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan**

*Gold*

The Bay Area Air District is creating the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan (BARCAP) to leverage the extensive ongoing climate work being done at the local level across the region. Our team sought to develop strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy in a way that benefits frontline communities. In this session, we will share tactics used to engage the public and frontline communities across a vast area spanning eight counties, the benefits those communities found of greatest interest, and the regional measures developed in response. Expect to take away a set of useful practices for engaging frontline communities in substantive conversation about the benefits and challenges of climate action. Session attendees will engage in facilitated discussion about how climate action planning can be enhanced by partnering with local residents, CBOs, neighboring cities/counties, and regional entities.

- **Forest Abbot-Lum** | Senior Environmental Planner, Bay Area Air District
- **Ana Avendano** | Executive Director, El Concilio of San Mateo County
- **Maria Jaramillo-Botero** | Director of Latine Programs, North Marin Community Services
- **Vanessa Zamora** | Sr. Engagement Manager, InterEthnica
- Moderator: **Osamu Kumasaka** | Senior Associate, Cascadia Consulting Group

---

### **4. EV Chargers: WHY Regional Collaboration Matters, HOW it Produces Value and WHAT it Looks Like**

*Crystal*

As electric vehicle adoption accelerates in California, the need for a well-coordinated, regionally integrated charging network has never been greater. Join this dynamic, interactive session to explore—and prove—how regional collaboration is key to deploying EV infrastructure efficiently, equitably, and at scale. Regional collaboration can take many forms, including coordinated planning, data sharing, joint procurement, and collective grant-seeking efforts - all of which can enhance equity, efficiency, cost savings, network optimization, and grid resilience. Success hinges on active participation and collaboration between regional stakeholders. Hear insights from local leaders, researchers, and community members as they discuss funding strategies, policy alignment, and community needs. Through fast-paced case studies, participatory activities, and audience engagement, you'll walk away more optimistic, with actionable strategies to break down silos and drive meaningful impact in your region.

- **Heather Allen** | Program Administrator, County of Ventura
- **James Choe** | Climate Program Manager, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- **Matthew Jumps** | Agreement Manager, California Energy Commission
- **Brendan Havenar-Daughton** | Energy Manager, Contra Costa County
- **Joy Massey** | Manager of Transportation Electrification, MCE
- **Monica Meagher** | Sustainability Group Manager, BART
- Moderator: **Ted Lamm** | Associate Director, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, UC Berkeley School of Law

---

5:00pm -  
6:00pm

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

*Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom*

---



## FULL FORUM PROGRAM | **CCEC FORUM DAY 2**

**Thursday, July 10, 2025**

---

7:30am - **Forum Registration & Check-in**  
1:00pm *Market Street Foyer*

---

7:30am - **Networking Breakfast**  
8:30am *Desert Conference Center Lobby*

---

8:30am - **MORNING PLENARY - Deep Dive: Advancing Climate & Energy Solutions in the Bay Area**  
9:30am *Compass Rose Ballroom*

Join us for a deep dive into the energy and climate landscape of Santa Clara County and the broader Bay Area. This session brings together local and regional leaders to share their visions, challenges, and strategies for accelerating clean energy adoption, reducing emissions, and advancing equity and environmental justice. Through candid conversations, speakers will discuss both progress and obstacles, highlighting innovative approaches and collaborative efforts that are driving meaningful change across the region. From navigating policy complexities to fostering partnerships, participants will gain valuable insights into how unified action can create a more sustainable and resilient Bay Area.

- **Jane Elias** | Director, Energy Programs, BayREN
- **Quirina Geary** | Chairwoman, Tamien Nation
- **Violet Saena** | Executive Director, Climate Resilient Communities
- Moderator: **Dan Kalb** | Former City Councilmember, City of Oakland, Boardmember, Civicwell

---

9:30am - **Networking Break**  
9:45am *Market Street Foyer*

---



---

## **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS (4)**

### **1. Filling Energy Workforce & Energy Project Pipelines: Cross-Sector Collaboration in the Inland Empire**

*Crystal*

The Inland Regional Energy Network (I-REN) is creating synergies across programs to support equity communities. This session highlights how I-REN is increasing access to local green jobs, satisfying local capacity needs, and completing energy projects at critical community facilities to achieve local and state energy/climate goals. I-REN's public sector programs help public agencies identify, implement, and fund energy efficiency projects to save energy and money and meet their energy/climate goals. Agencies need resources to achieve these goals, which is especially challenging within the I-REN territory, where the vast majority of public agencies are equity communities. Many I-REN agencies also lack the capacity/expertise to implement energy projects. I-REN's Energy Fellowship addresses this barrier by placing local Fellows to support energy efficiency project identification, benchmarking, energy action planning, and other sustainability initiatives. Attendees will learn best practices for identifying and implementing energy efficiency projects, cross-sector program collaboration, and synergistic program design.

- **Juliet Agtang** | IREN Fellow, City of Palm Springs
- **Jennifer Aguilar** | Energy Program Manager, I-REN/SBCOG
- **Tony Yun** | CivicSpark Fellow, City of Ontario
- **Yash Patel** | Associate Director, SBCCD
- **Vivian Trinh** | Program Assistant, San Bernardino Community College District
- **Moderator: Lauren Seymour** | Assistant Director of Energy Services, The Energy Coalition

---

### **2. Leading Together: Collaborative Climate Planning at the Regional Level**

*Regency Ballroom 1*

Achieving California's ambitious GHG reduction targets for 2030 and 2045 requires bold, locally driven action through land use authority, project implementation, and ordinances. Most Californians live in metropolitan areas spanning multiple cities and counties, making regional coordination essential for developing and implementing cohesive and equitable strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled, sequester carbon in agricultural lands, and transition to zero-emission fuels and energy. However, aligning jurisdictions with diverse goals, resources, and visions presents its challenges. Recognizing this, the USEPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program funds 10 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) across California to develop regional climate action plans. This interactive panel brings together MSA lead agencies to discuss the challenges and opportunities of regional climate action planning. Panelists will present strategies for building momentum, securing resources, and aligning efforts across jurisdictions, while attendees will share examples of successful regional coordination to inspire and inform local action.

- **Victor Briones** | Program Administrator, County of Ventura CEO Sustainability Division
  - **Brianna Moland** | Associate Air Quality Planner/Analyst, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
  - **Jamesine Roger Gibson** | Senior Advanced Project Advisor, Bay Area Air District
  - **Moderator: Ryan Wolfe** | Manager of Sustainable and Resilient Development, SCAG
-

---

### 3. Powering Local Climate Action: Strategies for Collaboration, Workforce, and Decarbonization

*Regency Ballroom 2*

This session highlights innovative GHG mitigation strategies being employed in rural, mountainous environments. Without these strategies, these regions would likely be left behind in the achievement of an equitable energy transition. Presenters will describe approaches to drive decarbonization and how they can be scaled to other jurisdictions. The Town of Truckee is pioneering building electrification efforts, launching residential & small business initiatives supported by creative funding mechanisms. The Climate Transformation Alliance, a public-private partnership committed to carbon neutrality, will present insights on fostering community buy-in and accelerating mitigation efforts through strategic knowledge exchange. As another approach, Sierra Business Council, the Go Electric Truckee Tahoe program is tackling electrification workforce and market barriers by training contractors and providing coaching for home and building owners. Participants will gain actionable strategies for overcoming electrification and climate mitigation challenges in rural and market-constrained environments. This session will showcase how governments, businesses, and communities can work together to transform climate goals into tangible results.

- **Courtney Henderson** | Councilmember & Former Mayor, Town of Truckee
- **David Jaeger** | Climate & Energy Project Manager, Sierra Business Council
- **Anna Klovstad** | Vice Mayor and CTA, Governing Partner, Town of Truckee & Climate Transformation Alliance
- **Moderator: Kaeleigh Reynolds** | Project Manager, Sierra Business Council

---

### 4. Unleashing the All-important Community Microgrid Market Segment

*Gold*

Community Microgrids are a critical component of a clean energy future, offering an unparalleled trifecta of economic, environmental, and resilience benefits in the communities where they are deployed. Yet, developing a Community Microgrid in California is no simple endeavor; it requires significant stakeholder facilitation at the local level and favorable statewide policies to get through the process of selecting a site, navigating utility studies, and ensuring the project is economically viable. This panel explores key roadblocks, including technical hurdles, stakeholder coordination, and financial feasibility. Experts will discuss strategies for defining critical infrastructure, engaging local stakeholders, and ensuring fair compensation. Learn how to unlock the full potential of Community Microgrids and accelerate local implementation.

- **Peter Asmus** | Senior Advisor, Microgrid Strategy & Thought Leadership, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, University of Alaska
- **Craig Collins** | Senior Associate, PAE Engineers
- **Allie Detrio** | Chief Strategies, Reimagine Power
- **Moderator: Ben Schwartz** | Policy Manager, Clean Coalition

---

11:00am - **Networking Break**

11:30am *Market Street Foyer*

---

11:30am -  
12:30pm

---

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

### **1. Better Climate Action Metrics and Storytelling for All: UC Berkeley's GHG Inventory Tool Demo**

*Gold*

The CoolClimate Network at UC Berkeley is developing a data platform for GHG inventories and climate action metrics for local governments across California. The project was presented at CCEC 2024 to gather input from participants. In this year's session, the team will demo the live beta version. The outputs available to cities include traditional and consumption based inventories from 2010-2022. They also feature tangible metrics such as EV registrations with the DMV and heat pumps installed through TECH incentives. These detailed metrics can enable local governments to set concrete targets and tell compelling stories about climate action, benefits, and potential impacts in their communities. Participants will practice applying concepts of effective storytelling from a UC Berkeley School of Journalism fellow as they explore the data available in the tool.

- **Twilight Greenaway** | Climate Writer/Editor, Berkeley Journalism
- **Christopher Jones** | Director, Cool Climate Network
- Moderator: **Mlya Kitahara** | Program Manager, StopWaste

---

### **2. Growing Resilience: Integrating Natural and Working Lands into Climate Action Planning**

*Crystal*

Natural and working lands are essential for sequestering carbon, reducing climate risks, and supporting local economies—yet they're often missing from climate action plans. This session will provide a clear roadmap for how local jurisdictions can integrate these landscapes into their climate strategies and secure the funding, partnerships, and technical support needed to act. Speakers—including elected officials, County staff, and technical assistance providers—will share best practices for identifying priority conservation practices, engaging historically underserved farmers and ranchers, and aligning agricultural efforts with climate goals. Attendees will gain practical insights on navigating cross-sector collaboration, securing grants, and implementing high-impact projects that build climate resilience while benefiting rural/agricultural communities and urban areas alike. Whether you're just starting to explore nature-based solutions or looking to scale existing efforts, this session will provide actionable strategies and interactive breakouts focused on building your local coalition and driving progress, even amid shifting federal priorities.

- **Lynda Hopkins** | Fifth District Supervisor, County of Sonoma
  - **Margot Flynn** | Sacramento Valley Soil Hub Coordinator, Sacramento Valley RCD
  - **Heather Nichols** | Executive Director, Yolo County Resource Conservation District
  - Moderator: **Kristen Wraithwall** | Sustainability Manager, County of Yolo
-

---

### 3. A New Framework for Energy Programs: Designed by Communities, For Communities

*Regency Ballroom 1*

This session spotlights the Community-Based Design Collaborative (CBDC), a pioneering initiative launched by SoCalREN and funded by the CPUC, that reimagines how energy programs are designed by centering the voices of communities they aim to serve. Panelists representing community-based organizations across Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties will share lessons from the Collaborative's first year, including co-creating a scalable framework for equitable, locally tailored energy solutions. With members specializing in public health, transportation, environmental justice, and more, the CBDC reflects vulnerable communities' rich diversity and expertise. The panel will explore how deep engagement, shared decision-making, and equity-centered design can yield replicable, community-powered programs aligned with state equity goals. Attendees will be invited to participate in interactive discussions that mirror the Collaborative's design process, offering a dynamic space to share insights, spark innovation, and shape actionable strategies for local climate resilience.

- **Brianda Castro** | Climate Equity and Environmental Justice Associate, Central California Asthma Collaborative
- **Natalie Espinoza** | Program Manager, The Energy Coalition
- **Amy Wong** | Program Director, Active San Gabriel Valley
- **Ashley Mercado** | Director of Special Projects, Day One
- **Moderator: Lujana Medina** | Division Manager, County of Los Angeles

---

### 4. Decarb's Path to the High Road: How to Create Quality Jobs in Residential Building Decarbonization

*Regency Ballroom 2*

Want to learn how to ensure your climate programs cut GHGs and also create good jobs, advance equity, and build lasting community wealth? Join the Bay Area Residential Decarbonization High Road Training Partnership to explore how local leaders are designing publicly funded programs that create equitable access to quality decarb careers. This session offers actionable labor standards, model procurement tools, and policy levers that ensure decarbonization dollars cost-effectively uplift workers and support disadvantaged contracting businesses. Learn from those doing the work: You'll hear from four Partnership members who will share real-world lessons and resources for launching holistic, High Road residential decarbonization strategies that center job quality, workforce development, and equity. Attendees will leave the session equipped with the insights, resources, and inspiration to build programs in their own communities that deliver climate resilience and economic justice.

- **Jillian Du** | Single Family Program Manager, BayREN
  - **Nik Kaestner** | Senior Building Decarb Coordinator, San Francisco Environment Department
  - **Katie Van Dyke** | Chief Resilience Officer and Climate Action Program Manager, City of Berkeley
  - **Mireille Vargas** | Sustainability Specialist, City of Hayward
  - **Moderator: Julia Hatton** | President & CEO, Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
-

---

12:30pm - **Networking Lunch**  
1:30pm Market Street Foyer/Imperial Ballroom

---

1:30pm - **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS (4)**  
2:45pm

**1. Direct-to-Renter: Locally Grown Energy Equity Solutions for Renters**

*Regency Ballroom 2*

This session will highlight an innovative program piloted in the City of Pomona designed to address the renter equity gap in the clean energy transition. Most programs are designed for homeowners, leaving renters with few options. The Direct-to-Renter program provides no-cost clean energy appliances directly to low-income renter households, improving their resilience, ability to manage high heat, indoor air quality, and energy bills while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The session will share program details and engage the audience's input in a multi-sectoral discussion of social, health, technology, and policy issues. The panel will include the program's on-the-ground CBO implementers, the nonprofit that designed the program, and a renter advocacy organization. The audience will learn best practices around outreach, appliances and costs, logistics, and data gathering. The session will also address grid benefits and demand flexibility, wildfire smoke, funding barriers, and program scaling to other regions statewide.

- Felicia Federico | Director, Funding and Research, The Energy Coalition
- Chelsea Kirk | Director, Policy and Advocacy, SAJE
- Ashley Mercado | Director of Special Projects, Day One
- Lina Mira | Executive Director, Latino and Latina Roundtable
- Moderator: Julie Castro | Assistant Director, The Energy Coalition

---

**2. Energized Communities: Empowering Local Governments to Reimagine a Decarbonized Future**

*Gold*

Join us for a panel discussion followed by interactive "Think Tank" breakout groups where we will discuss innovative methods to community electrification. Clean Power Alliance (CPA) offers a ground-breaking program called Energized Communities, which supports our local governments in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties as they electrify their buildings, fleets, and communities through pre-set pathways and creative projects. Hear directly from local government staff on their bold and actionable solutions to decarbonization challenges with funding support and technical assistance from CPA. Our Think Tank discussions will encourage attendees to self-select into groups by topic to discuss their electrification experiences and challenges with one of our panelists as a guided moderator. The session will be highly interactive, with opportunities for attendees to dialogue with speakers and learn from each other's experiences. Attendees will leave this session with concrete ideas to support the execution of electrification projects, plus innovative possibilities to consider.

- Ashley Barden | Sustainability Analyst, City of Oxnard
  - Sona Coffee | Senior Program Manager, Clean Power Alliance
  - Reata Kulcsar | Energy and Sustainability Officer, City of Carson
  - Katie Martel | Sustainability Analyst, City of Alhambra
  - Sage Stone | Program Manager, Transportation Electrification, Clean Power Alliance
  - Moderator: Genaro Bugarin | Director of Energy Innovation, The Energy Coalition
-

---

### 3. Local Governments United: Building a Statewide Advocacy Coalition for Climate Action

*Crystal*

The urgency of climate change calls for bold, coordinated action at all levels of government. Local governments, are uniquely situated to collaborate on these solutions as they are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, experiencing its impacts firsthand and implementing practical, community-based solutions every day. However, local governments also often lack the capacity or organized approach to engage state representatives effectively, leaving critical opportunities for climate advocacy untapped. This session will focus on building a statewide advocacy coalition of local governments to amplify their collective voice, collaborate with the California legislature, and advance equitable climate solutions. The ultimate goal of this session is to foster interactive discussions and gauge interest for launching this coalition. Attendees will leave empowered with the knowledge, tools, and potential inclusion in a framework for coalition participation that drives transformative climate policy.

- **Marc Costa** | Director, The Energy Coalition
- **Lucia Pohlman** | Sustainability and Natural Resources Analyst, City of San Luis Obispo
- **Moderator: Alelia Parenteau** | Sustainability & Resilience Director, City of Santa Barbara

---

### 4. Resourcing Resilience: Sustaining and Strengthening Community Climate Projects

*Regency Ballroom 1*

The landscape of federal climate funding has undergone a dramatic shift, from an unprecedented influx of resources to funding freezes and anticipated cuts. This session, drawing from *Resourcing Resilience*, a report by Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) and Philanthropy California, will elevate key barriers that California-based community and Tribal practitioners face in accessing public climate funding and implementing and sustaining climate projects. Through insights gathered from interviews with two dozen practitioners, we will present recommendations on responsive actions and strategies for public and private funders. Key themes include investing now, at a time of uncertainty and fear, to strengthen community-led capacity for equitable disaster recovery and climate resilience. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that California based community organizations and Tribes are facing, as well as strategies to help them navigate this moment. The session will equip attendees with strategies to sustain critical climate investments across California, particularly in historically disinvested communities most vulnerable to climate change, fostering action beyond the session.

- **Shasta Gaughen** | Environmental Director, Pala Band of Mission Indians
  - **Bre Onna Mathis-Perez** | Director, Consulting, Nonprofit Finance Fund
  - **Hoi-Fei Mok** | Deputy Director of Equity and Gov Transformation, California SGC
  - **Katerina Oskarsson** | Executive in Residence, CORE Hub, Humboldt Area Foundation
  - **Moderator: Kirin Kumar** | Director for Climate and Disaster Resilience, Northern California Grantmakers
-