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Regional Energy and Climate Hub (REACH) Inland Empire

REACH's long term mission is to leverage the collective power of state, federal and regional capacity and resources to advance place-based energy, climate, and land use priorities through lasting regional hubs. It is community-driven (local gov, tribal gov, academic institutions, philanthropy, CBO/NGOs) and partners and engages with State and federal agencies.

Key Priority Areas for the Inland Deserts Region – Defining Challenges and Identifying Solutions

The priorities, barriers, challenges, and potential solutions brought up in the Inland Deserts Region during the 2024 REACH IE event

Priority Areas	Challenges Identified
Climate Action Plans	Many small and rural jurisdictions lack staff and technical capacity—often relying on a single planner to manage CEQA reviews, general plan updates, and grant applications—making it difficult to maintain Climate Action Plans (CAPs).
Housing & Climate Nexus	Complex zoning, CEQA inconsistencies, and community resistance continue to limit infill and affordable housing development. Many cities struggle to balance growth with infrastructure and energy capacity, especially in the IE.
Community Resilience	Communities in the Inland Deserts face intensifying risks from extreme heat, wildfire, water scarcity, and poor air quality.
Decarbonization	Developers face long delays and unclear communication, while residents struggle with overlapping incentive programs, high electricity costs, and limited data access.
Transportation	EV adoption and charging infrastructure in the Inland Southern California desert region remain far below the state average, reflecting climate, geographic, and equity gaps.
Community Engagement	Marginalized communities, tribes, and small local governments remain underrepresented in climate planning.
Funding & Capacity	Grant applications are overly complex and fragmented, overwhelming under-resourced local governments and CBOs.

State & Local Energy & Climate Coordination (SLECC)

We are a network of partners, including the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the San Bernardino Council of Governments, and the Western Riverside Council of Governments, formed to serve the cities and communities of our region.



REACH is an extension of the State and Local Energy and Climate Coordination (SLECC) effort led by California Climate & Energy Collaborative (CCEC) and the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). In the effort to continue engagement in the Inland Empire (San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties) REACH is intended as an ongoing series.

For more information, please scan the QR code below to visit the REACH IE webpage:

Inland Deserts Region

