Local Energy Resources Network

Meeting 56

September 8, 2026

Welcome!

Purpose

Interactive 1-hour meetings designed to be a regular space where local governments - and those who work with them - can help each other learn about (and possibly inform) available opportunities to advance their energy and climate goals.

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Opportunity Roundtable
- Opportunity Spotlights
  - **Bernadette Austin, CivicWell Upcoming Webinar Series**
  - **Dashiell Leeds, Bay Area Air District amendments to Rule 9-6**
- Featured discussions:
  - **Elizabeth Harris, County of Santa Clara - Recipes for Community Grounded Climate Action**
- CCEC Updates
- Bonus Breakout

Opportunity Roundtable

View all Opportunities

Policy Drives Investment → **Agencies Scope/ Design Assistance Programs & Gather Input** → **Applicants Apply to Funding Solicitation**

State

- FY 2026-2027 State Budget
- Bills

CCEC Legislative Tracker

Federal

- FY 2025-2026 Federal Budget (HR. 1) - tax credits guidance for solar/win
- H.R. 3699 "Energy Choice Act"
- OMB's Proposed Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance - National Council of Nonprofits Comments

International

Funding

- CAL FIRE: Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Grants: Pre-proposal June 30, Application September 17, 2026
- SGC: Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program - pre-app June 30 close Sept 30, 2026
- SGC: Community Resilience Centers Program - close Sept 25, 2026
- Caltrans: FY 27-28 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant - close October 9, 2026
- LCI: Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program R2 - pre-app Aug 11, 2026, app October 13, 2026
-CEC: California's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program – Solicitation 6 Community Charging, Application October 16, 2026
- CEC: Charger Service Skills Accelerator - October 30, 2026
- CAL FIRE: FY 26-27 Forest Health Research CCI Grants - November 18, 2026
- CEC: Innovations in Open Data & Modeling for a Climate- and Wildfire-Resilient Electricity System - November 20, 2026

Other Assistance

- CEC: Guidance Document for 2025 Local Ordinance Applications
- LCI: General Plan Guidelines Update (including guidance on AB 39) - Open House Draft may be ready for review next summer
- CalOES: Free technical assistance - Rolling

Input Opportunities

- CEC: Non-Energy Impacts (NEI) Informational Proceeding - open docket
- CARB CCI: Draft Supplemental Guidance to Avoid Substantial Burdens or Harms to Priority Populations - closes Sept. 15, 2026
- CalEPA: SB 54 Plastics Pollution Mitigation Fund - survey and workshops - extended to September 30, 2026
- SGC/LCI: Catalyst Convenings -North Coast (9/15), Inland Deserts (10/6)

Spotlight: CivicWell Webinar Series



Bernadette Austin
CEO
CivicWell

Strategies for Centering Community in Transportation Planning
October 1
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Info: https://civicwell.org/civic-events/sustainable-future2026/
Registration Here

Rebuilding for a More Sustainable Future
October 8
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Info: https://civicwell.org/civic-events/sustainable-future-2026/
Register Here

Habitat Conservation in an Evolving Policy Landscape
October 8
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Info: https://civicwell.org/civic-events/habitat-conservation-2026/
Register Here

Spotlight: Bay Area Air District amendments to Rule 9-6



Dash Leeds

Conservation Coordinator

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Discussion: Recipes for Community Grounded Climate Action



Elizabeth Harris

Sustainability Analyst

County of Santa Clara

Office of Sustainability and Resilience

BAYREN
Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

VEGGIELUTION

Santa Clara County PUBLIC HEALTH

Recipes for Community Grounded Climate Action

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE, VEGGIELUTION, AND BAY AREA REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK

September 8, 2026

Elizabeth Harris

Introduction and RAC Leaders



Elizabeth Harris

Bay Area Regional Energy Network/ County of Santa Clara



Lupe Yepiz

Climate and Community Resilience Program, County of Santa Clara Public Health



Soitza Del Real

Veggielution



Tonya Veitch

Climate and Community Resilience Program, County of Santa Clara Public Health

Resident Advisory Committee (RAC)

Purpose: The goal is to improve residents' quality of life and well-being by giving members a platform to voice community needs, opinions, and interests and by representing those interests to the County.

Impact:

- Build member skills and knowledge to support engagement
- Identify issues of community interest
- Foster leadership
- Advise the County

Outcomes:

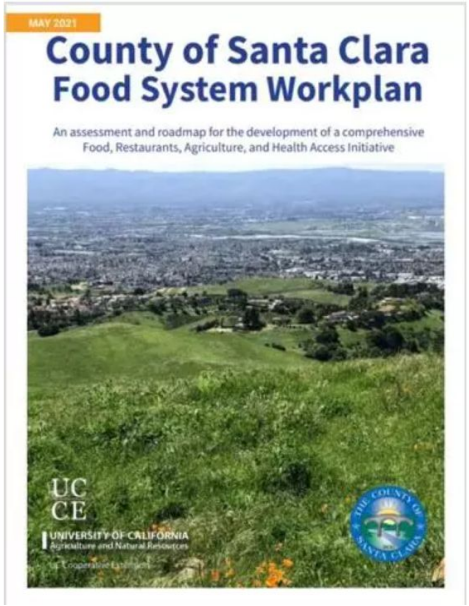
- 10 diverse community members recruited
- 2 community project implementation

Implementation Partners:
County of Santa Clara Public Health Department and Veggielution

Funding:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)

Areas of Focus

- Food Access and Systems
  - County of Santa Clara Food System Workplan
- Climate and Health
- Emergency Preparedness









Induction Workshops with the RAC

BayREN provided stipends of $500 to each RAC team (5 teams) to conduct induction demo and education sessions in their community.

5 workshops across Santa Clara County

- Held at community centers, home kitchens, backyards, urban centers, rural communities, etc.

- 85 participants in total

- Most identified as low to very-low income and many were primarily Spanish speaking.
- Majority of attendees (85%+) had no prior knowledge of induction.





Impact of the Induction Workshops





⬆️ Increases in induction knowledge and interest in switching to induction.

- A barrier to induction was lack of information on the technology.

🛟 Healthy and safety changes minds before energy efficiency.

- Residents value keeping their home and families safe first.

🍳 Participants want to experience and learn first before investing.

- A major barrier is lack of lending locations / opportunities to learn and try.

🏡 In language and in community sessions create safety and reliability.

- Language barriers (not just translating but developing in-language) and concerns of sharing data data.

Recipes for Action – the RAC Ingredients

Advisory Body Focus Area

What are the topics/expertise/focus areas of the advisory body?

- Food Systems and Access
- Climate and Health
- Project: induction demos

Primary Audience Served

Who does the body to serve/engage/inform?

- Advising the County
- Prioritizing communities who experienced or are experiencing food insecurity

Body Members

Describe the type of people who will be on the advisory body?

- Representatives from each district
- Different lived experiences, ages, languages, and leadership levels
- Representation of climate and food vulnerable communities

Partnerships

Who will run and support the advisory body?

- Public Health Department
- Veggielution
- BayREN

Extrinsic Compensation

What can be provided to members, monetarily, supplies, or ways to ease participation?

- Stipends for RAC meeting attendance and mileage
- Dinner and refreshments
- Childcare and interpretation
- Outreach supplies (flyers, promo items, presentation template)

Intrinsic Compensation

What skills, trainings, developments, or other benefits member can receive?

- Training and new skills development
- Technical assistance from staff
- Networking
- Mentorship

Secret Ingredients

What is special in your community or an another ingredient idea?

- Leadership Mentorship opportunities
- Members to lead meetings items

Recipes for Action – the RAC Method

Recruiting Members

How do you recruit and select members?

- Promoted the RAC through Facebook, WhatsApp groups, Veggielution's partners
- Community Meetings
- Simple Paper and Online application

Decision Making

How does the body make decisions or form project group ?

- Rounds of voting and discussion until unanimous decision
- If no consensus, the items is tabled.
- Leadership pairs formed by members

Project Overview

What does the project entail for the members to do?

- Organize and conduct an induction cooking demo in their community
- Have participants take a survey
- Inform the community on induction cooking technology, benefits, how to access one, and local programs.
- Identify recommendations to improve induction cooking access and energy efficiency programs in the community

Capture Impact

What metrics and feedback will the members collect?

- Perception and knowledge changes
- Barriers to accessing induction hobs
- Likelihood to switch to induction

Deliverable

What do the members produce at the end of the project?

- Recommendations report and presentation
- Growing members' leadership skills

Timelines

How much time to conduct the project?

- 6 weeks

Discussion Questions

What are different types of incentives/compensation you can provide to a committee or partners?

Discussion Questions

What are some of your ideas for an action oriented advisory committee project?

Hear it From the RAC Members!

Click for Video



MEMBERS OF RAC



RITA BIRRUETA
Este de San José
Condado de Santa Clara
Originaria de
Michoacán, México
-Español-



IRMA JURI -
South San Jose
Condado de Santa Clara
Originaria de
Guatemala
-Spanish/English-



PAULINA BASANTES
North Santa Clara
Condado de Santa Clara
Originaria de
Ecuador
-Español-



KARTHI PRASANNA
Este de San José
Condado de Santa Clara
Originaria de
India
-Tamil-



TANIA BRAVO
North and South de San José
Condado de Santa Clara
Originaria de
Apatzingán, Mexico
-Español-

Q&A

Thank you!

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Tonya Veitch
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Discussion

Please add questions in the chat

Q&A and Discussion

CCEC Updates

REACH Project Acceleration Study Cohort Kickoff Meeting (online, Sept 17 at 11am)



Local Energy Resources Network

What's Next?

- Bonus Breakouts up next!
- Next meeting **October 13th**
- Share invitation with others

See you next time!

Optional: Bonus Breakouts

Thanks for joining us!

This is a space for informal discussion among the LERN network. Feel free to:

- Offer an announcement, success story, or opportunity
- Share a need for information, collaborators, or advice
- Raise a suggested topic or speaker for future LERNs

If you need an in-depth discussion, you can pitch a specific bonus breakout topic and invite others to join you (today or we can plan ahead for next month)

CCEC Serves Local Needs

- wEEkly Update
- CURRENTS Quarterly
- Webinars
- Annual Forum



- Technical Assistance
- Technical Assistance Directory
- Local Government Roundtables

- Active Funding Opportunities
- Funding Program Database

- Best Practice Database
- Interviews and Case Studies