



2023 POLICY AGENDA

Priority Campaigns to Advocate for Our
Communities and Reach a Zero Carbon Region

Table of Contents

- 01** Mission, Vision, Focus Area for 2023
- 02** All-Electric Building Ordinances
- 03** Grant Matchmaking for Cities
- 04-05** Implementing Climate Action Plans
- 06** Regional Climate Tables
- 07** San Diego's Regional Decarbonization Framework
- 08** San Diego's Community Power Plan
- 09** SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan
- 10** Thank You

MISSION

Climate Action Campaign's (CAC) mission is to stop the climate crisis through effective and equitable policy action. We organize this vital work into our Five Fights: 100% clean energy; all-electric buildings; walkable, bikeable neighborhoods; world-class transit; and resiliency—all through the lens of equity and justice.

VISION

Within the next five years, Climate Action Campaign will implement a regional model for a just transition to zero carbon. Cities are hubs of innovation and leading the way on climate solutions, which is why we focus on creating effective and equitable climate policy at a local and regional level, which can then be scaled and replicated around the world.

CAC's ground-up theory of change puts municipalities, front-line communities, small businesses, nonprofits, academics, health care professionals and workers at the epicenter of climate action and solutions. Collaborating across sectors, we're leading the region to achieve zero emissions by 2035, in line with what climate science says is necessary to protect our health and future.

FOCUS AREA

Climate Action Campaign's annual policy agenda outlines our priority campaigns to advance our five fights, including:

- All-Electric Building Ordinances
- Implementing Climate Action Plans
 - Grant Matchmaking for Cities
 - Regional Climate Tables
- San Diego's Regional Decarbonization Framework
 - San Diego's Community Power Plan
- SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan

This agenda is not an exhaustive list of our campaigns or policy areas, but an overview of where we will invest the most time in 2023.



All-Electric Building Ordinances

We all deserve homes and appliances that meet the safety needs of our families—we deserve to be safe where we live, study, and work.

PROBLEM

Our reliance on toxic fossil fuels in our buildings threatens the health and safety of families in our communities. Children living in homes with a gas stove have a 42% increased risk of experiencing asthma symptoms. The health of our communities is dependent on getting these dangerous fossil fuels out of our homes.

All-electric ordinances are key to reaching a zero carbon future. The City and County of San Diego and the City of Irvine are significantly behind their neighbors in protecting public health. Every day our cities delay adopting these ordinances, more permits are approved to build out dangerous gas infrastructure in the buildings where we live and work.

SOLUTION

All-electric ordinances have been adopted in over 70 municipalities in California, so the City and County of San Diego and the City of Irvine know what steps are necessary to adopt these ordinances. CAC will continue to work with the community to pass all-electric building ordinances. We'll put pressure on our leaders to encourage them to take action and deliver on their climate and public health goals.



Grant Matchmaking

All cities, especially smaller cities in communities of concern, deserve their fair share of climate investments.

PROBLEM

The US economy is undergoing a historic transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. Once-in-a-lifetime federal and state climate funding is up for grabs, but many local governments lack the capacity to research and apply for this funding. The inability to fund and implement climate policies and programs is stalling progress throughout the region.

We created CAC's quarterly funding newsletter to address this problem and help city staff learn about and apply for federal, state, and private funding, but there's still work to do as grant writing processes can be rigorous and difficult to navigate.

SOLUTION

In 2023, CAC will partner with CivicWell on a grant matchmaking pilot program. This program will help smaller, under-resourced cities apply for and secure climate funding. To start, CAC and CivicWell will identify two small or mid-sized cities with more than 10% of residents at or below the poverty level. We're excited to bring resources and investments back to our communities and hope to scale and replicate this program's successes.





City of San Diego | Advocacy | All Fights

San Diego Climate Action Plan

*Everyone deserves to live in a clean, safe, affordable,
and accessible community.*

PROBLEM

The City of San Diego made national news for its groundbreaking Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2015, becoming the largest City in the United States to make a binding commitment to providing 100% clean electricity to all by 2035. Yet, in the last seven years, the City has failed to implement 90% of its strategies. Last year, the City finally updated its CAP and committed to net zero carbon by 2035. However, with the City's history of not fulfilling its promises, there is little community faith in seeing these bold goals come to life.

SOLUTION

This year, the City of San Diego is developing its first CAP implementation plan. CAC will advocate for a detailed implementation and funding plan, with a clear cost analysis and key benchmarks that pair with the goals listed in the CAP, including a master mobility plan and building electrification ordinances. It's time for the City to secure state and federal funding and fulfill its promises to San Diego families to protect our health and future.

Irvine Climate Action Plan

Everyone deserves to live in a clean, safe, affordable, and accessible community.

PROBLEM

Orange County is significantly behind neighboring California regions in climate action, with less than 20% of Orange County cities adopting a Climate Action Plan (CAP). The City of Irvine has delayed creating its CAP for the last six years. Irvine already spent over half of the money allocated to their CAP on consultants, and yet, even a year later, Irvine still has not adopted a CAP. Every time Irvine delays acting on climate, it puts families and communities at risk for climate-related health impacts, increasing natural disasters, and damage to roads and buildings.

SOLUTION

Irvine is the fastest-growing city in California, with ever-increasing populations and housing and transportation needs. To provide for its developing communities, Irvine needs to develop a strong Climate Action Plan. With an effective, legally-binding CAP, Irvine could become a national model of bold, equity-centered climate action. As the most fiscally-sound city in the United States, this is Irvine's opportunity to become a recognized climate champion. We know we have the community and political will to adopt a CAP, so this year CAC is capitalizing on this support by mobilizing our communities to advocate for a ground-breaking, legally-binding Climate Action Plan in Irvine.





San Diego and Orange Counties | Advocacy | All Fights

Regional Climate Tables

Regardless of where we live, we all deserve bold action from our governments to protect us from dangerous climate impacts.

PROBLEM

For the past seven years, local governments created groundbreaking climate plans in San Diego, such as the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plans (CAP). We've also seen these plans fall through the cracks because they lack funding and effective implementation.

In Orange County, they lack climate action plans and have failed to adequately address the climate crisis.

Attempts by cities in both regions to prioritize climate action are met with roadblocks because every path to an equitable and sustainable future requires us to work together. It's time to forgo our siloed approaches by relying on regional collaboration to reach our zero carbon vision.

SOLUTION

In 2023, CAC will advocate for a diverse and equitable Regional Climate Table in both San Diego and Orange County. We're pushing for regional collaboration because climate solutions, like clean air, clean transportation and clean energy, cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Regional Climate Tables will act as a central hub for best practices, funding opportunities, and facilitating the equitable implementation of key climate strategies. We all deserve to live and work in clean and healthy communities free from pollution, health risks, and increasingly frequent climate-related disasters, and regional collaboration is how we get there.

SANDAG Regional Transportation Plan

People deserve convenient, safe, clean, reliable, and affordable ways to get to their jobs, schools, stores, and homes.

PROBLEM

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in San Diego County, with emissions from cars and trucks harming our health, poisoning our air, and exacerbating the climate crisis. The 2021 SANDAG Regional Transportation Plan was meant to provide world-class transit and a path to lower GHG emissions. Unfortunately, the plan is still in flux after the SANDAG Board of Directors voted in 2022 to remove a key funding source.

In 2023, SANDAG will begin the process of creating the 2025 Regional Plan and reconsidering the funding for our region's robust transit and active transportation plans.

SOLUTION

We're advocating for safe and reliable connections within our San Diego region that provide fast, frequent, affordable and reliable public transportation and active transportation options such as bikeable and walkable neighborhoods. We will not only work to pass a bold transportation plan, but also launch a community-driven ballot initiative to help fund a world-class transit system.



San Diego Community Power's Community Power Plan

Everyone deserves access to clean, affordable, and reliable local power supplies.

PROBLEM

Our existing corporate monopoly utilities such as SDG&E prioritize profit for shareholders and executives over community health and well-being. We successfully helped launch three nonprofit Community Choice Energy programs across Southern California to offer an alternative model. These new public power agencies give families choice in their electricity provider, help keep the cost of power affordable, and accelerate the transition to 100% clean energy.

San Diego Community Power is one of the largest Community Choice Energy programs in the state of California and is embarking on its plan to develop local, clean, and resilient power. San Diego Community Power (SDCP) must center the voices, ideas, and solutions of the communities at the front lines of the climate crisis.

SOLUTION

We're pushing for SDCP to fulfill its mission to provide 100% clean electricity at affordable rates by prioritizing and implementing the solutions identified by impacted communities. These solutions include development of small-scale, decentralized and highly reliable energy resources such as rooftop solar, battery storage, EV charging stations, and microgrids in communities of concern.



San Diego's Regional Decarbonization Framework

Everyone deserves clean air, clean water, and a healthy and safe future.

PROBLEM

We must work together as a region to address the climate crisis and implement solutions that center on equity and justice. Last year, CAC helped pass the County of San Diego's first-in-the-nation Regional Decarbonization Framework and Just Transition Plan. This report maps our regional opportunities for collaboration on transportation, energy, electrification, and housing.

The RDF's analysis will enable the county to create a suite of local solutions that families, businesses, and cities can reference as they work to be more healthy, safe, and resilient, but more community members must know about this valuable resource.

SOLUTION

In 2023, CAC is partnering with the County of San Diego to educate our community and raise awareness about the solutions in the Regional Decarbonization Framework, prioritizing communities on the frontlines of the crisis.

This year, CAC will host monthly workshops and quarterly regional convenings exploring local climate impacts and highlighting the solutions in the Regional Decarbonization Framework. These in-depth conversations will allow community members to provide feedback on the programs, projects, and policies they would like to see implemented in the San Diego region.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous individual, corporate, and foundation donors, along with our Leadership Circle members. Your support helps us fight for a climate-safe and climate-ready , Zero Carbon future.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Legacy

BQuest Foundation
Left Coast Foundation
Satterberg Foundation
The Hervey Family Fund

Visionary

Chris Kohlhardt
The Energy Foundation

Champion

Lawrence and Suzanne Hess
Futures Unbound
Orange County Community Foundation
The San Diego Foundation
County of San Diego

Patron

Anonymous Fund from the San
Diego Foundation
Cathy Stiefel
Patti Larchet
Sarah and Niels Thorwirth
Anonymous

Partner

In Pursuit of Justice Fund of the Jewish
Community Foundation
Dennis Morgigno and Jen Stone
Anonymous: In Recognition of Aviva Paley

Defender

Cecilia Aguillon
Mary Yang
Donald Mosier and Ann Feeney
Treseder Randerson Fund
Shanbrom Family Fund
Drs. Angie and David Nieson
Julia Brown

Board of Directors

Aviva Paley - Member
Don Mosier MD- Member
Kara Ballester - Chair
Kelly Sherlock - Treasurer
Mary Yang Ph.D - Secretary
Rick Bates - Member
Rosa Olascoaga Vidal - Member
Sarah Thorwirth - Emeritus Board Member
Sebastian Sarria - Member