



2025 POLICY AGENDA

*Priority Campaigns to Protect
Communities Against National Rollbacks
and Worsening Climate Impacts*



“The climate fight is even more crucial in 2025. Looking ahead, we draw strength from our collective power. With your support, we’ll keep fighting for clean energy, climate equity, and a future where every family can thrive.

We’ve secured historic climate wins—we’re not stopping now!”

NICOLE CAPRETZ, FOUNDER AND CEO

Our annual policy agenda outlines our path to a brighter, better future. This year, more than ever, it’s a reflection of our resilience.

We’ve never backed down in the face of opposition, and we’re not starting now.

The federal government is on a rampage: slashing climate funding, propping up fossil fuels, and attacking climate education and advocacy at every turn.

But that only fuels our fire. Our 2025 Policy Agenda shows how we’re blazing forward to drive progress at the local and state level, where action matters most. In a hostile federal climate, local power leads the way. Now is the time to act to protect the people and places we love.



2024 FOCUS AREAS

- 01 Switch on Success: Clean Air for Schools
- 02 Advance Clean Air and Healthy Homes
- 03 Strengthen Orange County Power Authority
- 04 Build Community Resilience
- 05 Expand and Protect Clean Energy
- 06 Free Electric Appliances for Homes
- 07 Build a People-Powered Movement



SWITCH ON SUCCESS: CLEAN AIR FOR SCHOOLS

Too many schools still rely on outdated, costly, polluting gas systems that put students at risk. Federal climate action is stalling and funding is shrinking, making local action more urgent than ever. Schools are the heart of our communities, and when they go electric, the impact goes far beyond the classroom. But without a clear roadmap to scale success, progress stays stuck. We're leading the charge to turn our wins into a statewide movement.

Every student deserves a safe, healthy school—electrification keeps classrooms clean, air pollution out, and our future bright.

ACTION

We're scaling our success across Southern California by electrifying schools and mobilizing students to power the movement. This year, we're activating communities across the region, including Vista Unified School District and Southwestern College. We kicked 2025 off with a huge win at [Carlsbad Unified](#), our third district to commit to all-electric systems. While federal policies roll back clean air protections and cities drag their feet, schools are stepping up as climate leaders. It's time to flip the switch to a brighter future.



CLEAN AIR MANAGEMENT ADVOCACY

Clean air means healthier families, resilient communities, and a better quality of life for everyone.

Our region has some of the worst air quality in the country, thanks in part to gas appliances polluting our homes and neighborhoods. The result? More asthma, heart issues, missed school days, and preventable suffering.

While the science is clear, the gas industry is doing what it always does: trying to block progress. The industry has already watered down key air quality rules, and now they're trying to kill them entirely at the expense of our communities.

ACTION

We're not backing down. CAC is all-in at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, supporting zero-emission appliance rules that protect nearly half of California's population. Clean appliances cut pollution, lower bills, improve quality of life, and avoid costly gas repairs.

We're partnering with the California Air Resources Board to ensure community voices guide air monitoring and clean air policy. Clean air advocacy should start, and stay, in the hands of those most affected.



STRENGTHEN ORANGE COUNTY POWER AUTHORITY

Irvine is threatening to abandon the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) and is dragging neighboring cities with it. If they succeed, thousands of residents will be left at the mercy of the monopoly utility SoCal Edison (SCE). SCE has hiked rates by 90% in the last decade alone, and nearly 1 in 5 of its customers are already over \$1,000 behind on their bills. Our current energy system is broken, prioritizing profit over people. Communities deserve local control, clean power, and fair rates. Walking away from OCPA is a step backwards.

Everyone deserves to breathe safe, healthy air at home and to have a say in the energy decisions that shape our lives, our bills, and our future.

ACTION

Every city in Orange County deserves the benefits of community choice. We're working alongside residents to urge their cities to join the Orange County Power Authority, a top-ranked Community Choice Energy program recognized nationwide for clean, local, affordable power.

In Irvine, we're partnering with our communities to demand transparency and accountability and vocalizing our support of OCPA. Across the county, we're mobilizing to support key votes later this year, pushing cities to break free from monopoly utilities, join the power authority, and take control of their energy future. We're building a movement to transform our energy system from the ground up.



BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Real climate resilience starts in our communities, with solutions shaped by the people who know their neighborhoods best.

Climate change is already hitting home—hard. 2024 began with devastating floods in San Diego. 2025 opened with wildfires tearing through Los Angeles. The message is clear: the stakes are rising and our communities are on the frontlines.

To protect what we love, we need to build real resilience, starting at the community level.



ACTION

We're building resilience from the ground up. Through our partnership with the County of San Diego, we're hosting Community Climate Conversations that bring neighbors and leaders together to turn bold ideas into real, community-driven solutions. We're also proud to support the Refugee and Immigrant Cultural Hub and Housing Campus (RICH), where we're developing workshops on electrification, clean air, and green career pathways to advance health, opportunity, and justice. We'll be monitoring funding for key infrastructure projects, including funding to clean up our stormwater system and to better prevent future floods. By centering underserved communities and creating all-electric, resilient spaces, we're building a future where everyone has the tools to thrive in a changing climate.

CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCACY

Clean energy is under attack, at a time when we need it most. The federal government is actively propping up fossil fuels, even as communities across the country face rising energy costs, natural disasters, and increasing health issues. Rollbacks, red tape, and rate hikes are stalling clean energy progress and locking us into a polluting, centralized system. Fossil fuels threaten our affordability, equity, and resilience.

Ratepayers deserve a voice in where their energy comes from and a system that puts communities before corporate profits.

ACTION

We're going all in. CAC is doubling down on our clean energy advocacy by scaling up support for local distributed energy projects like community solar and battery storage. We're taking the fight to the state level, jumping into CPUC proceedings and rate-setting conversations to ensure local voices are heard.

We're working directly with energy developers, pushing them to engage communities in real, meaningful ways because energy decisions should start with ratepayers. And local energy means more local power, literally and politically.



FREE ELECTRIC APPLIANCES FOR HOMES

Every family deserves to live, learn, and work in spaces that support their health, without worrying about sky-high energy bills or outdated, polluting appliances.

The science is clear: fossil fuels are harming our health. Children living in homes with gas stoves face a 42% higher risk of asthma symptoms. Electrification is the safe, clean, and affordable alternative.

For many families, the price tag of switching to electric appliances is simply out of reach. This paywall leaves low-income communities with high energy bills and dirty, dangerous air.

ACTION

Last year, we helped win a groundbreaking, fully funded decarbonization program that covers the cost of going all-electric for eligible households. This program means free system upgrades for families who are too often left out of clean energy conversations.

This year, CAC is hitting the ground running to spread the word. We're working across Southern California to ensure the communities who need this the most actually get it. This program delivers tangible benefits—cleaner air, lower bills, and safer homes—to those who've carried the heaviest burdens for too long.



BUILD A PEOPLE-POWERED MOVEMENT

The federal government is bulldozing climate programs that challenge the gas industry and corporate status quo, siding with profit over people when the stakes have never been higher.

Communities deserve champions. If your leaders won't fight for you, we will.

ACTION

There's power in numbers, and we're building it. As the manager of the [Orange County Climate Coalition](#) and the [San Diego Green New Deal Alliance](#), we're growing our coalitions, bringing in new voices, and holding local governments accountable.

We're watchdogging climate promises, pushing for real funding in city budgets, and jumping on every opportunity—local, state, or national—to drive bold climate action. We're staying vigilant to protect the people and places we love.



Our work would not be possible without you!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous individual, corporate, and foundation partners! Your support fuels our mission, amplifying our impact and driving local climate action towards a better and brighter future.

Legacy

BQuest Foundation
County of San Diego
Industrious Labs
Anonymous Donor
Satterberg Foundation

Visionary

IBEW 569
San Diego Foundation

Champion

Hervey Family Fund
Clif Family Foundation
James Irvine Foundation
AES
Idemitsu
Sarah and Niels Thorwirth

Patron

David and Peg Engel
Futures Unbound
Richard and Elizabeth Steele Endowment
Fund
San Diego Community Power

Partner

AFT 1931
Bank of Southern California
Clean Energy Alliance
Edward and Helen Shanbrom Family Fund
Jewish Community Foundation
Dennis Morgigno
Orange County Power Authority
Anonymous Donor
Mary Yang

Defender

Arevon
Building Electrification Institute
Jacob Chacko
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Richard Heath and Associates
James Sallis
Anonymous Donor