

What is CivicSpark?

CivicSpark is Governor Brown's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to **building capacity for local governments to address climate change**. CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

"Climate change is a global challenge that requires strong, sustained local action. This program gets young people into the communities across California to help reduce emissions and boost energy efficiency."

California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

CivicSpark fellows serve for 11 months, implementing important climate change mitigation and adaptation projects throughout the state of California. Fellows have the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the sustainability field, build professional skills, and develop a strong network while creating a lasting difference in local communities.

Our Model



Gap Assessments

Fellow interviews staff and reviews key documents to determine current climate change needs and to finalize the project scope.



Volunteer Engagement

In parallel with their service project, the fellow supports increased volunteerism for climate action in the region.



Service Projects

Based on the gap assessment results, the fellow implements a specific research, planning, or implementation project.



Transitioning Expertise

Each service year concludes with the fellow providing training to staff and/or by sharing results with key stakeholders to sustain progress.

Our Impact

CivicSpark's inaugural cohort of fellows provided over **62,000 hours of service** to California's communities, implementing 37 targeted projects to support 88 local government agencies, 50% of which are "high-need" communities, and reaching over **2,500 community members**, including residents, business owners, and the general public. CivicSpark fellows supported a wide range of actions - developing, conducting, and organizing:

- 8 climate or energy action plans
- 100 energy assessment reports
- 17 climate action policies
- 10 vulnerability assessments
- 12 greenhouse gas inventories
- 31 community workshops
- 4 energy benchmarking assessments

The program leveraged **\$1 million in local matching funds** statewide, and received 5 applications for each open position in year one and over 6 applications per position in year two.



"Without CivicSpark, our City would not be able to effectively implement our Climate Action Plan."

Central Coast Project Partner

"Our CivicSpark fellows have brought a fresh perspective on how we engage the community energy planning in the Sierra Nevada, and they are not short on ambition."

Sierra Nevada Project Partner

Some of Our Projects

Climate Change

Climate Action Plan Implementation:

Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Union City, Walnut Creek, the Sierra Nevadas, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County.

Local Government Climate Action Efforts:

Developing a statewide climate action database to support local climate action research and local government policymaking.



Water

Building Community Resilience to Climate Change Impacts:

Assisting Water LA's science lead in the department of bio-diverse andscape plan templates and supporting program-related policy efforts to adapt existing street tree and parkway plan.

Regional Resiliency in the Sierras:

Supporting water/energy system improvements and providing drought training for local government staff to support water-related resiliency initiatives in the region.



Transportation

Regional EV and Fuel Cells:

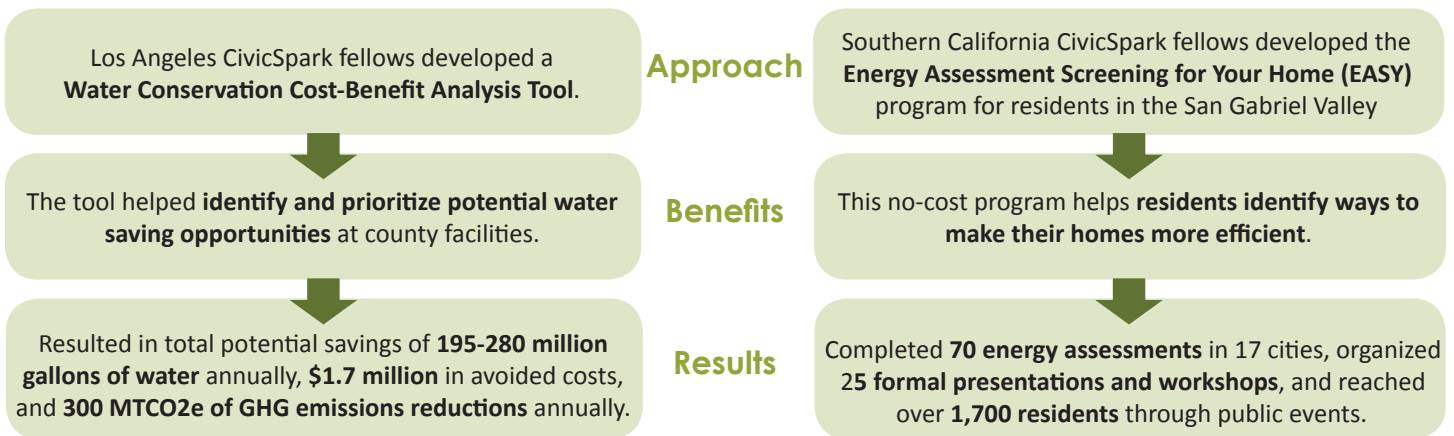
Supporting the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles and other alternative vehicle fuels to develop a robust market for alternative fuels in the broader North Coast region.

High Speed Rail Vulnerability Assessment:

Identifying specific climate risks and performing a quantitative assessment of the impacts on high-speed rail assets and future operations.



Our Success Stories



Contact

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Receive Project Support

CivicSpark helps local governments build their climate response capacity by working directly with local staff or in the community on projects that address their larger climate action goals. **Local government agencies or non-governmental organizations can contract directly with LGC** for CivicSpark fellows to support projects and programs as long as they have a local government connection.

CivicSpark operates out of 8 regional hubs. Each team includes 3-7 CivicSpark fellows selected through a highly competitive, national application process, and a part-time experienced coordinator who provides 1,000 hours of team training and supervision and acts as a local liaison, project advisor and mentor.

CivicSpark fellows have at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, and will typically have workplace and community service experience. Each fellow serves for 1,700 hours with 1,300 of these hours dedicated to implementing projects, and the remainder dedicated to professional development and broader community service.

2016-17 Service Year Calendar

March 15, 2016

Call for proposals is open. LGC staff talk with potential partners about interest and opportunities for engagement.

July 1, 2016

Priority application deadline to submit initial basic application.

October 1, 2016

Target date for all service agreements to be signed.

Early October

Fellow orientation takes place.

Mid October

Local projects get underway.

How to Get Started

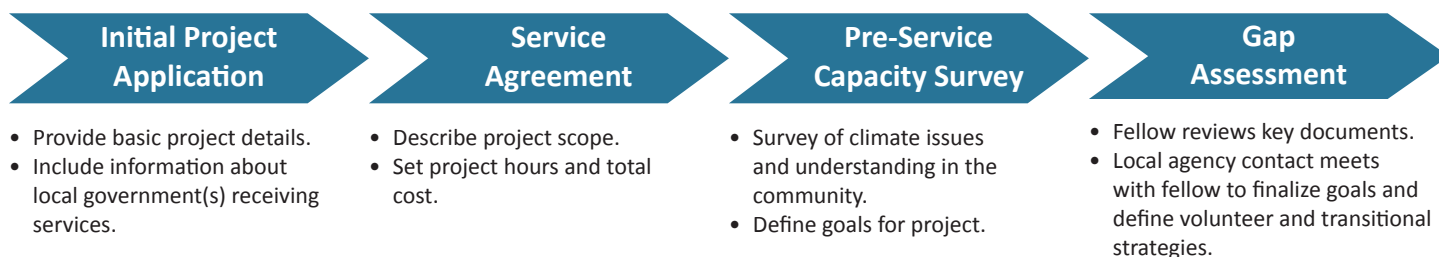
Eligibility

All projects must involve specific local government agencies, and CivicSpark can only serve those agencies that demonstrate a "capacity need," which is defined as the **absence of at least one** of the following elements:

- A full-time dedicated sustainability staff.
- A formally adopted Climate Action Plan.
- Specific formal mechanisms to annually track and report on climate-action progress.
- All projects must be a minimum of 200 hours.

Statewide, we also want at least 50% of the local governments served to be "high need" in terms of climate capacity.

Application and Startup Process



Project Costing

CivicSpark is funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, however, participation in CivicSpark requires a fiscal contribution from project partners. Projects are defined for a fixed term that allows the fellows to dedicate their attention and time to a specific project. The chart below describes pricing for projects of differing sizes, duration, and associated resources.

	3 months (325 project hours)	6 months (650 project hours)	11 months (1,300 project hours)
Cost	\$6,500	\$12,350	\$23,400
Rate	\$20/hour	\$19/hour (5% discount)	\$18/hour (10% discount)
Additional Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-20 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$100 in project-related travel covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-40 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$200 in project-related travel covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-80 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$400 in project-related travel covered