



CivicSpark

a program of the Local Government Commission

Help Us Build Stronger Communities and Future Leaders

CivicSpark is a new Governor Brown's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to **building capacity for local governments to address climate change**. Each year, 48 CivicSpark fellows, organized in 8 regional teams, work with cities, schools, and other public agencies to implement 100 local climate-smart projects such as greenhouse gas inventories, complete streets plans, and campaigns to help residents conserve water. With the extra push, technical assistance, and practical resources from CivicSpark, these projects will succeed and move communities towards a healthier, safer, and more resilient future. Through their work on these innovative, real-world projects, CivicSpark fellows gain exceptional career experience, preparing them to be the future leaders in California's response to climate change.

"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.

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

Become a Sponsor

With CivicSpark's federal funding support, participating local governments will be able to access high-quality, professional climate-change support services at a highly subsidized rate. However, the current cost structure remains out of reach for many communities who simply don't have resources available even for a very cost-effective program like CivicSpark.

LGC is seeking sponsors to help reduce the overall participation costs to expand CivicSpark's reach and strengthen its ability to serve. We have four sponsorship opportunities to fit your needs and interests:

Statewide Sponsors

Statewide sponsors recognize and support our environmental, economic, and social objectives, and want to make a significant investment in CivicSpark's growth and success across the state. For \$112,500, we can dedicate half of each fellow's project time in every region (over 6,000 hours combined), and for \$225,000, we can dedicate all of their project time (over 12,000 hours). This widespread support will help local governments who cannot participate otherwise make important progress on climate action goals.

Regional Sponsors

Regional sponsors support one of our eight regional CivicSpark teams by investing time, resources, and talent, and can collaborate with participating organizations and staff in a specific part of the state. A full-time fellow can be sponsored for \$25,000, while the annual cost of a regional team can range from \$75,000 to \$175,000.

Project Sponsors

Project sponsors help support specific climate action - such as renewable energy, greenhouse gas inventories, or complete streets projects - in a region or across the state. Your organization can apply its expertise and passion about a specific climate-action activity to support CivicSpark fellows working on that topic. Project sponsorship starts at \$10,000 for a 500-hour project, but can be scaled up for larger projects.

Material Sponsors

Material sponsors donate specific resources to help fellows operate efficiently and redirect our limited funding to other needed areas on-the-ground. Critical materials to support the program include laptops and phones. Additional hardware, such as printers, projects, digital cameras, and storage media, are also useful.

2015-16 Sponsors



Statewide Sponsor



Regional Sponsor

Join Us to Make a Difference Today

Whether it is statewide or in one of the eight regions we serve, we are looking to get connected with organizations interested in building capacity of California local governments to respond to climate change and supporting the next generation of climate change leaders.

In addition to sponsorship, there are many ways that you and your organization can get involved with CivicSpark and its local projects, such as joining our network of strategic advisors to help develop CivicSpark so it is scalable beyond its current size, providing pro-bono guidance and professional expertise to help us build a robust infrastructure and supporting our fellow recruitment efforts.



Contact

Kif Scheuer

Climate Change Program Director
Local Government Commission
kscheuer@lgc.org | 415-717-4809



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Learn more at www.civicspark.lgc.org/join-civicspark/support.