



County of Santa Barbara

Energy and Climate Action Plan Implementation and Data Support



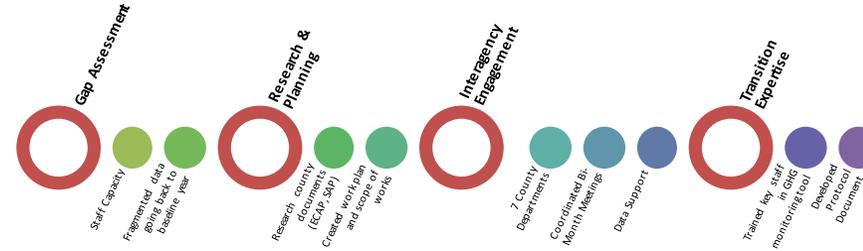
Project Overview

The County of Santa Barbara adopted its Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) in 2015. It was developed by Long Range Planning to provide detail instructions on reducing the County's carbon footprint while aligning with state targets (i.e. AB 32, SB 350). The ECAP identifies 51 emission reduction measures (ERM) that are set to reduce the County's GHG emissions by 15 percent below the baseline level by 2020.

Since the adoption of the ECAP the County of Santa Barbara has also formed the Energy and Sustainability Division (ESD). The CivicSpark Fellow has been working under the direction of the Division Chief helping to increase capacity for program implementation.

CivicSpark has helped the County of Santa Barbara developed a framework for GHG accounting. The County is approximately 13% below its 2007 emission levels base on preliminary analysis.

Engagement and Implementation Process



County Sustainability Committee

The County Sustainability Committee (CSC) was formed under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors after the adoption of the Energy and Climate Action Plan. The CSC consist of 6 responsible county agencies and 2 volunteer agencies that have been tasked with implementing the ECAP and helping the County reach its 2020 GHG reduction targets.

CivicSpark has played an integral role in developing the logistical framework and providing technical assistance to the newly formed Committee.



Success and Lesson Learned

Success

- Formation of the County Sustainability Committee (CSC)
- Trained and assisted key staff in monitoring and reporting GHG emissions.
- Developed interagency tool to help program implementation and performance analysis.
- Developed standardized GHG accounting framework across responsible agencies
- Updated the community-wide inventory for 2007-2014
- Developed the Energy and Sustainability website

Lessons Learned

- Ensure that metrics and assumptions align with how departments collect and analyze data during the planning phase
- Identify supporting documents early in the implementation phase and develop protocols for storage
- Support from the County Executive Office is crucial for success
- Continuous improvement of technical systems are possible



Frank is part of the 2015-2016 CivicSpark cohort serving in the Central Coast Region with the County of Santa Barbara. He graduated from Cal Poly Pomona, with a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. Frank's primary focus is on policy, land-use, and energy. He hopes to use his skills to make positive change at the local level.



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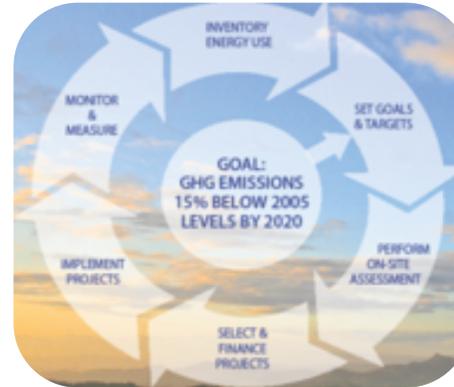
SLO Climate Action Support

SLOAPCD and SLO County Energy Watch



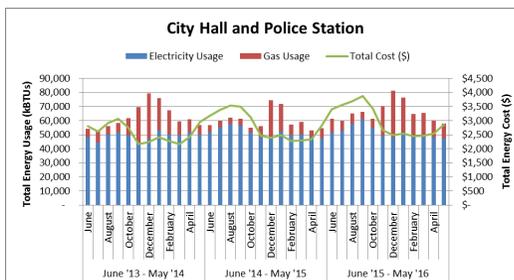
Municipal Energy Management Program

The Central Coast CivicSpark fellows have been working with SLO County Energy Watch to implement their Municipal Energy Management Program (MEMP). Energy Watch is a partnership between SLO County, PG&E, SoCalGas, and participating cities and Community Service Districts that offers a range of programs and services for local governments regarding their energy use and costs associated with facilities and infrastructure.



The main objective of MEMP is to inventory and baseline energy use in city facilities with the long-term goal of improving energy management and efficiency. MEMP was designed to assist the cities in reducing their GHG emissions in order to reach the targets set in their Climate Action Plans, and AB 32.

Putting the Spark in CivicSpark



- Authored and presented Baseline Energy Reports to all 7 cities in SLO County
- Analyzed energy use in over 165 buildings and 141 utility infrastructure

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



Left to right: CivicSpark fellows Alex Economou and Katie Webster, Jon Griesser and Jordan Garbayo from SLO County, and CivicSpark fellow Savannah Speerstra at the SEEC Forum



Alex Economou, Central Coast Region

Alex graduated from the University of Oregon in 2015 with B.S. degrees in Environmental Studies and Business Administration. He enjoys running, hiking and camping among other outdoor adventures. After CivicSpark, Alex will be moving to Santa Barbara where he is very excited to begin a career at the SB County Air Pollution Control District.



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Charging up the Central Coast

Promoting Alternative Fuels with the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition



Project Overview

The CivicSpark fellows have been working with the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C5) to support the non profits' mission of promoting alternative fuels. The Central Coast CivicSpark fellows helped C5 organize and run their Green Car Show and Ride & Drive, and booth at the 2016 San Luis Obispo Earth Day Celebration. Fellows promoted the event and C5 by organizing an outreach event at the Downtown San Luis Obispo Farmer's Market.



Outreach Events

The Green Car Show and Ride & Drive were an electric success! Fellows gathered over 8 alternative fuel, hybrid, or electric vehicles for the Green Car Show and Ride & Drive. Among the green cars was a Honda Civic Natural Gas vehicle and a PG&E Hybrid Bucket Truck! The Green Car Show attracted over 100 citizens and fellows engaged with 102 community members at their Farmer's Market Event.

Grant Funding

C5 receives grant funding from the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to assist with a variety of outreach efforts to promote alternative fuels and alternative fueling structure. C5 used CivicSpark as a resource to help educate the public about alternative fuels through outreach events.



Savannah Speerstra, Central Coast Region

Savannah graduated from UC Davis with a major in Environmental Science and Management. Savannah also studied abroad in Santiago, Chile for one year at La Universidad de Chile where she also studied Environmental Science. After CivicSpark, she hopes to continue a career in sustainability or climate change work.



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Teaming Up with GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives Team Leader Program



Taking Volunteer Engagement to New Heights



The Central Coast fellows completed the GRID Alternatives Team Leader Certification Program and organized a culminating installation for their Volunteer Engagement Project.

The team demonstrated a skillful command of installation protocols by leading and teaching other volunteers during the culminating install.

In total, the fellows completed five 2-day installations, including a large-scale project for a local food bank. The systems' 26.2kW of power offset over 600 tons of GHG emissions.



Project by the Numbers

- 4 fellows
- 5 solar installations
- 540 hours served
- 615.25 tons of carbon offset
- \$299,672 saved on energy bills
- 8 volunteers recruited
- 4 families with solar energy
- 1 nonprofit



Skills Checklist

- ✓ Volunteer Management
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Protecting the Roof
- ✓ Locating Rafters
- ✓ Stand-off Installation
- ✓ Racking Assembly
- ✓ Junction Box Wiring
- ✓ Home Runs & Ground Wire
- ✓ Module Installation
- ✓ Tile Installation
- ✓ Tilt-up Installation
- ✓ Conduit Bending
- ✓ Inverter/Disconnect Mounting
- ✓ Micro-Inverters



Katie Webster is originally from Georgia and an Auburn University alumna. She is excited to pursue a career fighting climate change and achieving environmental justice. Katie is grateful for her time as a CivicSpark fellow working to improve municipal energy efficiency in San Luis Obispo County. She enjoys commuting to work on her vintage Cannondale bike and trying out new vegetarian recipes at home.





Urban Heat Island Reduction in L.A. County

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Project Overview

LA County's Climate Committee, led by the Department of Public Health (DPH), is a workgroup consisting of members of several County departments—Regional Planning, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Fire, Beaches & Harbors, and Internal Services—collaborating to advance climate change projects. The Committee is developing an Urban Heat Island Reduction Plan that will include measures centered around four strategy areas: **1) roofs, 2) green space, 3) trees, and 4) pavements**. With climate change expected to bring higher temperatures and more extreme heat days in Los Angeles, UHI reduction can help offset some of the expected warming, protect vulnerable populations from extreme heat health effects, and address inequities in tree-poor, park-poor neighborhoods. CivicSpark fellow Sergio Avelar assisted with the continued development of the Plan by conducting research, reaching out to Committee members and other organizations for support, and developing an outline of the Plan.



UHI Reduction Plan Strategy Areas



Roofs



Green Space



Trees



Pavements

Next Steps

- Finalize Plan
- Conduct outreach to external stakeholders
- Present final draft of Plan to County Board of Supervisors

Roofs

- Adopt cool roofs ordinance for new buildings

Green Space

- Allow for recreational uses under utility rights-of-way

Trees

- Add Tree request function for The Works app

Pavements

- Develop criteria to identify suitable areas for cool pavements pilot projects



Sergio Avelar is a graduate of USC with a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies. He has had prior experience in education and environmental policy research. His interests are in sustainable planning and policy, air quality, climate change and public health, and education.



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Expanding Waste Diversion and Recycling at PDC

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Pitchess Detention Center



Project Overview



Background:

Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) is a 2,600 acre facility in LA County containing an average of 6,500 inmates and 2,000 civilian staff. The facility generated an immense amount of waste, approximately 300 tons of waste per month, creating steep landfill fees as well as contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. To address this issue PDC created an onsite recycling and material recovery facility to provide viable training to inmates while considerably reducing the facility's landfill dependency and environmental impact.

Goal:

Continually reduce the environmental, economic and human costs within Pitchess Detention Center by establishing, practicing, and supporting sustainable waste management operations. Follow LA County's *Road Map to a Sustainable Waste Management Future* encompassing AB 32, AB 341, and AB 1826.



Progress



- ✓ Evaluated existing operations and determined areas of need and improvement.
- ✓ Identified sustainable waste prevention and disposal strategies to establish new operational procedures.
- ✓ Created recycling signs and directives.
- ✓ Redesigned Pitchess Recycling Center with new sorting conveyor system.



Megan Hines graduated from California State University Channel Islands in 2014, earning a B.S. in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Resource Management. After working for a non-profit and then an environmental consulting agency, she decided to join CivicSpark to gain experience working with local governments and communities implementing sustainability projects to address climate change.

What's Next?

Future recommendations:

- Revamp PDC's **personnel engagement** by creating a PDC **Green Team**.
- Focus on **upstream management** and **presorting**.
- Expand facility **reuse initiatives**.



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Supporting Sustainability Initiatives in Affordable Housing

Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura



Project Overview



Background: The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) has been building and managing affordable housing for more than 60 years. Today, HACSB provides quality, low-cost housing and support services for 4,000 Ventura County residents across more than 30 properties.



LEED-ND – Westview Village Project Rendering

In 2013, HACSB pledged to reduce their overall energy usage by 20% by 2020 under the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge (BBC).



Community garden planting

- Fellow Roles and Responsibilities:**
- Plan and organize community gardens
 - LEED-ND technical support/project research
 - Energy data collection, tracking, and reporting
 - Rebate research and applications
 - Research and implement new sustainability initiatives
 - Facilitate internal Sustainability Team

Results

- **BBC:** Applied for and received over \$5,000 in utility rebates, led monthly Sustainability Team meetings, assisted with green lease implementation, participated in 2016 Better Buildings Summit in Washington, D.C.
- **LEED-ND:** Completed LEED-ND checklist for Fall 2016 certification.
- **Community Gardens:** Helped start 3 resident-led community gardens, established HACSB as a Food Forward receiving agency from which HACSB residents have received over 2,000 lbs. of donated fresh fruit, organized the building of 9 "food hubs" to hold Food Forward donations and community garden produce.



Abbie Huvad – LA Region: Abbie was born and raised in Ventura County. She graduated with a BS in Environmental Management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and has a wide array of experience ranging from Ocean Lifeguarding to working for an international wine company. After CivicSpark, Abbie plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

What's Next for HACSB Sustainability?

- 2016-2017 HACSB CivicSpark Fellow
- Westview Village LEED-ND certification – Fall 2016
- Green lease implementation
- Expansion of on-site, resident-led community gardens
- Continued utility data collecting and tracking through WegoWise
- Continued fruit donations from Food Forward



1 of 9 food hubs holding donated and garden fruit



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From Idea into Law (in the Local Level)

Los Angeles County Department of Internal Services Department



L.A. County: 1 Million Trees Over 10 Years

The Million Trees L.A. County Initiative implemented in three stages:

1) *Land Development:* Use Los Angeles County owned facilities for growing trees, use tree distribution centers at Fire and Sheriff Stations.

2) *Labor Force:* A Countywide collaboration amongst inmates, County Departments, a tree committee, County Employees, community leaders, volunteers, nonprofits, sponsors, conservation corps groups, retirees, residents, and possibly the Board of Supervisors.

3) *Los Angeles County Tree Committee:* Would create an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) that would involve the implementation, logistics and oversight of a tree program.

Drafting an Tree Ordinance from Scratch:

Lessons Learned in Drafting an Ordinance:

- Have clear goals
- Make connections with your stakeholders
- Visit your site locations
- Ask lots of questions
- Revise...revise...revise
- Patience
- Locate funding



Begin Pilot Project:

- Located at Sheriff's Peter J. Pitchess Detention Center.
- Grown by inmates through an education work/training program.
- Use Sustainable Best Practices:
 - Recycled blackwater
 - Aquaponics to grow seeds
 - Mulch and soil from local sources

Goal: Plant a mixture of 10,000 (1-gallon, 5-gallon, & 15-gallon) native drought-tolerant trees, and fruit trees on 30 acres.



Daniel graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He played on the men's soccer team for 4 years. The last 2 years he worked for The San Francisco Department of the Environment. Next month he will join the California State Senate Fellowship in Sacramento, working under a Senator for a year.



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Climate Planning Preparation in Long Beach

City of Long Beach, Office of Sustainability



Project Overview

In 2010, the City of Long Beach Office of Sustainability adopted the **Sustainable City Action Plan (SCAP)**, which includes initiatives and goals to create a more sustainable Long Beach. The ongoing implementation of the SCAP provides a great platform for transitioning into planning for climate change.

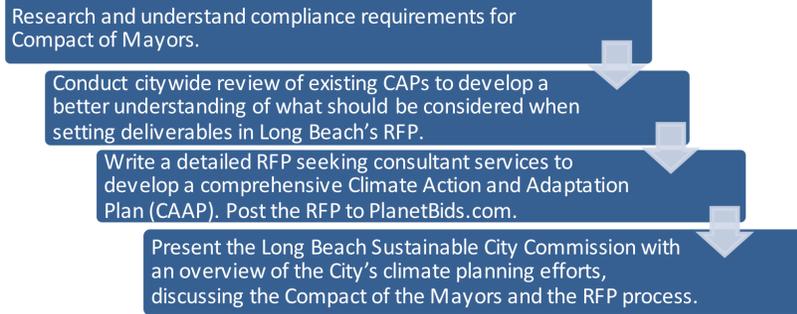
In November 2015, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia signed an official commitment to the **Compact of Mayors**, a global coalition to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change. In order to comply with Compact of Mayors requirements, the City of Long Beach must establish a **climate action and adaptation plan**.



Project Goals and Objectives:

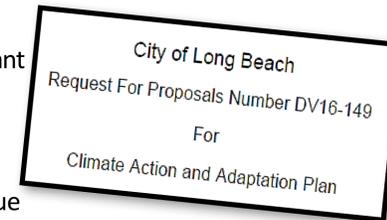
- Develop staff understanding of Compact of Mayors compliance requirements and the necessary steps to achieve it.
- Research other cities' best climate action and adaptation planning processes in order to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking consultant services to create a comprehensive Long Beach Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Process



Next Steps

- Review the proposals received from consultant services
- Interview and select a consultant to develop CAAP
- The consultant begins development of the CAAP
- The City and consultant continue to work together on the production of the CAAP



Carrie Metzgar, of the Los Angeles Region, received a bachelor's degree in Social Ecology from UC Irvine and a master's degree in International Planning and Governance for Urban Sustainability from University College London. She is passionate about planning for climate adaptation & resiliency and is particularly interested in coastal adaptation and conservation.



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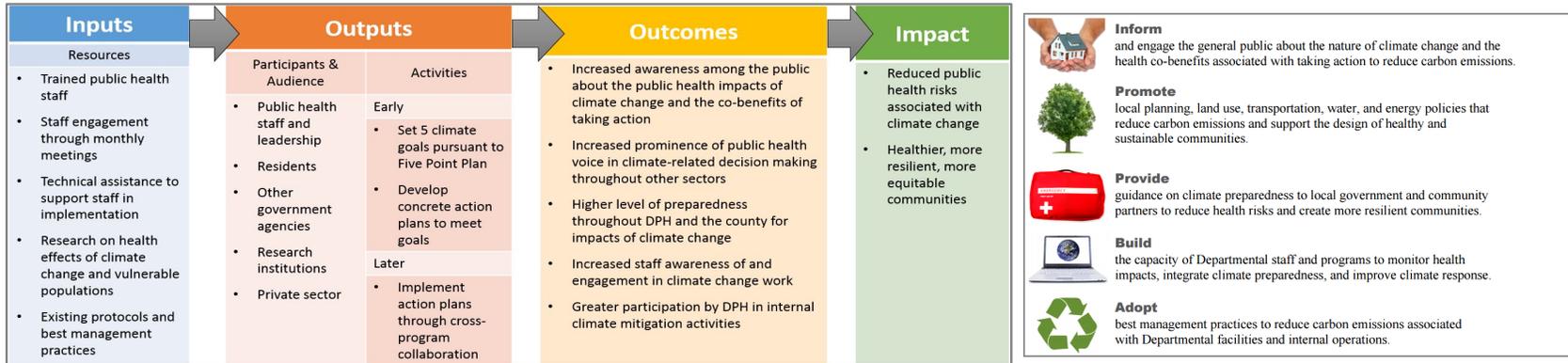
Climate & Health Initiative

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



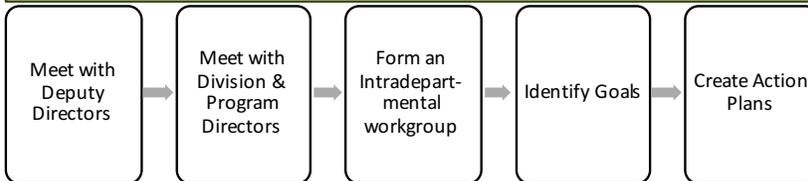
Project Overview

Mission: Create a self-sustaining work culture within the Department of Public Health that will **encourage, recognize, and organize** climate change work



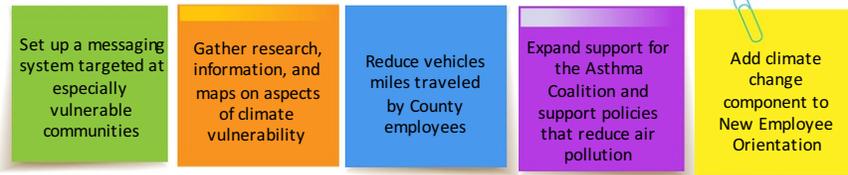
Preparation

- Both bottom-up and top-down approaches
 - Build staff interest and knowledge through workshop series
 - Build support among leadership through individual meetings



Next Steps

- Finalize 5 goals
- Develop action plans to meet goals
- Begin implementation



Teresa Perez graduated from California State University Long Beach in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science and Policy. After CivicSpark, Teresa will continue her service with AmeriCorps as a SolarCorps Fellow with Grid Alternatives, a non-profit organization whose mission is to make renewable energy technology and job training available to underserved communities.



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Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators

Southern California Association of Governments



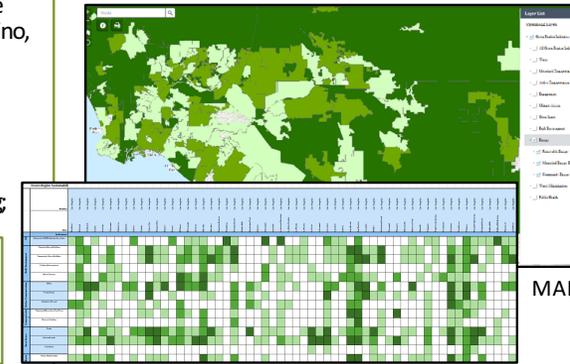
Project Overview

SCAG's Green Region Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Indicators project tracks the sustainability progress of the 197 local governments in the SCAG region counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The GRI chart and map present sustainability progress across the region, enabling local governments to explore best practices and replicate existing projects.

Over the course of the 2015-2016 term, the three CivicSpark Fellows at SCAG developed

- 25 metric reports containing 25 topic-specific ranking systems and over 50 performance metrics for indicators including GHG reduction and climate action planning, active transportation, renewables and energy efficiency, green buildings, waste reduction, water conservation and capture, and urban greening;
- An updated GRI chart focusing specifically on policy with a performance data chart in the works;
- An interactive regional map presenting the chart data; and
- Informational, topical fact sheets to assist local governments in improving sustainability.

- White = Opportunity Area
- Light Green = Taking Action
- Medium Green = Making Progress
- Dark Green = Leading the Way

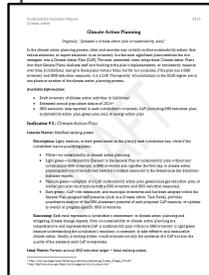


MAP

CHART

Strategies to Tracking Sustainability

- The intention of policy and actual implementation may differ substantially which necessitates measuring each independently to determine progress. Measuring performance provides a more objective way to quantify progress.
- Available data can be limited and methods of measurement not standard so it may be useful to assign both interim and ideal metrics.
- Viewing "ranking systems" as stages of a process toward sustainability provides a way of analyzing what steps will move local governments from one stage to the next.



METRIC REPORT

Project Benefits

- 191 cities and 6 counties now have access to policy and program data for all jurisdictions in the region and can use this information to improve their own sustainability policies.
- Informational fact sheets assist jurisdictions in sustainability planning by highlighting best practices, offering suggestions, and showcasing available resources.
- City and county officials, SCAG staff, non-profit organizations and consulting firms can assess the needs of communities and target assistance.



FACT SHEET



Mackenzie Bolger, a Southern California native, is committed to the development of a socially just and environmentally healthy SoCal that will aid in the fight against climate change and model sustainability for the rest of the world. She recently graduated from Arizona State University with a BS in Justice Studies and a minor in Sustainability.



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Urban Acupuncture: A Survey and Assessment of BMPs in LA County



Project Overview

Grant's project was sponsored under The River Project, a non-profit organization providing low-income Los Angeles residents with multi-benefit retrofits in low-impact development. During his year of service, Grant provided extensive support for policy efforts related to climate appropriate retrofits in existing street tree and parkway plans. Grant's project beneficiaries included the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, and the Los Angeles Mayor's Office. Throughout the project, Grant met with watershed engineers from both the County of Los Angeles and the Department of Public Works to assess gaps in residential stormwater capture. These assessments were ultimately provided in a report outlined for each beneficiary.

Key findings:

California's geologic soil data is incompatible with most BMP infiltration and percolation rates

Soil health and biota data should be extended to BMP infiltration assessment

BMP spacing requirements needed for subwatershed studies

WaterLA Collaborative

During his service, Grant also provided assistance in developing the WaterLA Collaborative. Grant's primary role in the collaborative included extensive technical support in geographic mapping. Using a web-based mapping software, Grant created a visual database for organizations and non-profits within Los Angeles County. The map is intended to provide the Los Angeles Mayor's Office with a reference database for identifying future partnerships in stormwater capture.

Mapping Partners for Collaboration



Grant A. Jean, SoCal Region

Grant was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He moved to California where he pursued a degree from UCLA in Geography and Environmental Studies with a minor in Urban and Regional Planning. Since moving to California, Grant has worked for the electric auto manufacturer Tesla Motors and helped support a variety of non-profits in sustainable development. In the future Grant hopes to pursue a masters degree path in urban planning and or urban design. His primary interests are smart growth transportation, and ecosystem revitalization. Grant is an avid explorer, and enjoys spending his free time hiking, cycling, and drawing.



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Green Region Initiative Sustainability Indicators Project

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)



Project Overview



Assessments/Conclusions

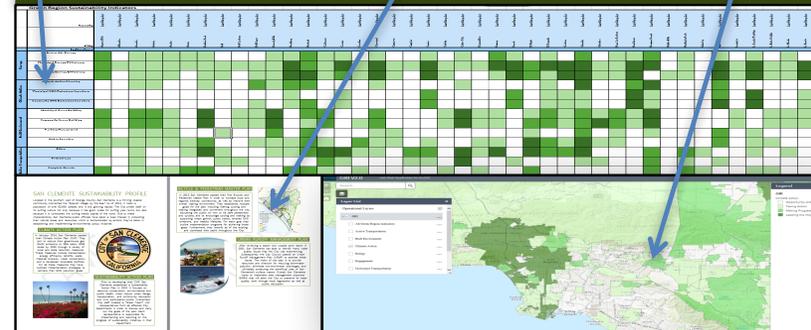
Issues/Challenges

- Southern California local governments tend to lack the necessary institutional and financial capacity to address issues related to climate change
- Geographic size, medium income level, political will, and culture of cities and counties all factor into decisions being made related to sustainability action

Key Takeaways

- Quality of sustainability plans does not necessarily correlate with effectiveness of implementation by a jurisdiction; disparity between policy and performance
- Color rankings should not be seen as scores, but rather as identifying where and what the sustainability needs are in the region
- SCAG hopes to educate and foster collaboration between jurisdictions by providing resources such as the fact sheets and sustainability indicators map

Deliverables



Mike Kloha, Southern California Region

In 2014, San Diego native Mike Kloha graduated with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Urban Planning from UC San Diego. From his education he developed a keen interest for sustainable community planning, and has spent much of his post-graduate life working in local government. In the future he hopes to learn more about the environmental challenges of California and across the country while pursuing work in the urban sustainability and environmental policy fields.



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



Being Water-Smart in Southern CA

Two agencies help to manage and prepare for an uncertain future



Water Resiliency in Southern California

CivicSpark Fellow Arya Moalemi is working with two water agencies in Southern California, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, to contribute to their water resiliency efforts.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency - The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is the wholesale distributor of imported water to Western San Bernardino County and is a regional wastewater treatment agency. Arya works alongside the planning department at IEUA to contribute to the preparation, content, and editing of two key planning documents for the agency, the Urban Water Management Plan and the Integrated Resources Plan, as well as their Grant Strategic Plan. He also initiated the development of the Agency's stormwater capture program, and he assisted with the Agency's participation as a pilot study for California Water Foundation's "Sustainable Water Management Profile" which will assess the work of IEUA.

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority - The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is the only agency in the United States that manages an entire watershed. SAWPA designed and is implementing the Water-Energy Community Action Network (WECAN) throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed, which will support overburdened communities to save water and energy by replacing fixtures and turf lawns for eligible residents at no cost. This program is being executed with the help of various project partners as well as assistance from Arya. He designed outreach materials for the project, including signs and flyers; developed training sessions for contractors; and conducted necessary research. Additionally, he has created and presented a poster outlining WECAN at the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaboration Forum in Riverside, California.

Planning for the Region

IEUA is working to remain responsive and adaptive to an evolving environment. This past year, the agency has initiated and completed new planning documents. The IRP is the IEUA's first 20-year planning document that outlines resiliency planning for climate change impacts through 2040. Additionally, the Stormwater Capture Plan and Grant Strategic Plan are completely new plans for the agency.



Saving for the Region

The Water-Energy Community Action Network (WECAN) will replace certain fixtures with more efficient versions and turf lawns with California appropriate landscapes for eligible residents for no cost. In all, the program will save over 23.6 million gallons of water annually (enough for over 180 families for one year) and almost 3 million kilowatt hours of energy annually (enough to power over 438 residences for a year).



Arya holds a Master's Degree in City Planning and Regeneration from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies with a minor in French from the University of California, Irvine. Along with his international experience, he has worked with community-based non-profit groups and city planning departments. He is a member of the American Society of Adaptation.



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Collaboration is Key to Climate Resilience

Water LA



Project Overview

What?

Water LA is a community-based collaborative program based in Los Angeles that is focused on **building capacity** for communities to become more **climate resilient**. The flagship program started as a pilot which helped retrofit over 22 **residential single-family homes** in Panorama City with **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** that **capture and infiltrate stormwater on-site**.

Why?

With LA's water supply make up of **80% imported water** and individual residential properties making up over **60% of developed land** in the county, **parcel-based stormwater projects** are crucial towards easing LA's water management challenges.

The Project

A grant from the Rose Foundation sponsored Water LA to form the **Water LA Collaborative**: a multi benefit partner collective organization including six, local environmental non-profit organizations working to **scale up the Water LA program** and additional projects to **increase the region's climate resilience**. Capitalizing on the skills and networks of groups that target different communities and focus on different issues will allow the Collaborative to connect with and educate a **more diverse number of Angelenos**.

The Members



The Collaborative will not only channel the expertise of its core members, but partner with other organizations such as:

- ✓ Local businesses
- ✓ Neighborhood councils
- ✓ Community-based organizations
- ✓ Schools/colleges

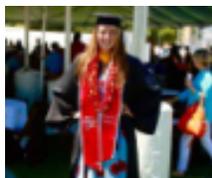
Results

After 5, three-hour meetings, the Water LA Collaborative successfully completed phase 1, ending with four deliverables:

- ✓ Mission Statement
- ✓ Partner Organizations Database
- ✓ Communications and PR Protocol
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding



The Collaborative will now move towards Phase 2 which includes declaring as a legal entity and proposing its first pilot project.



Kelly is a recent graduate of Santa Clara University with a BS in Environmental Studies. Growing up in Redondo Beach, Kelly's love of the ocean and its changing ecosystems fueled her passion for preserving the environment and promoting sustainable living. She intends to stay within the sustainable development field, working with corporations or local governments on how to lessen their environmental impact.





Sustainability Indicators in SoCal

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

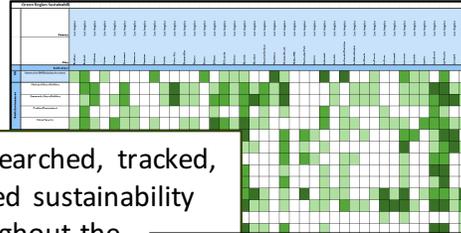


Project Overview

The Green Region Initiative – Sustainability Indicators project aims to track sustainability progress throughout the **6 counties** and **191 cities** in the SCAG region.

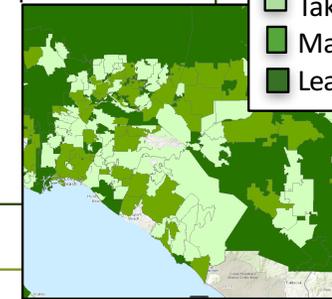
The CivicSpark fellows developed **METRIC REPORTS** for 25 sustainability indicators, providing descriptions and reasoning for the chosen metrics.

They then researched, tracked, and categorized sustainability policies throughout the region and input this data into a sustainability indicators **CHART**.



They produced **FACT SHEETS** on sustainability tools/resources and best practices.

They collaborated with SCAG staff to produce an interactive, online **MAP** that helps visualize the data.



- Opportunity Area
- Taking Action
- Making Progress
- Leading the Way.

Findings/Conclusions

- Project is meant to facilitate collaboration
- Policy and performance should be tracked separately
- A statewide standard is needed to make plans and progress metrics uniform across jurisdictions
- Regional collaboration can be beneficial in helping connect jurisdictions and facilitate sustainability but jurisdictions also need to take their own action

Next Steps

- Train SCAG staff, local governments, and planners on how to use map to further sustainability in the region
- Feature map at the California Adaptation Forum
- Collect quantitative performance data for all 25 indicators
- Include performance data, demographic information, and best practices in the map
- Hold best practice workshops utilizing indicators data



A Southern California native, Bree Swenson graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a major in Anthropology and a focus on Global Health and Environment. She has worked on distributed energy policy, energy efficiency, and climate action policy in St. Louis, DC, and Los Angeles and hopes to continue this work for a more livable and sustainable world.



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The Unseen Benefits of Mulch

Water LA



Project Overview

Water LA is a community-based collaborative organization based in the Los Angeles region that is focused on building capacity for communities to become more climate resilient. The flagship program started as a pilot project from 2012-2014, which helped retrofit over 22 residential single-family homes in Panorama City with Best Management Practices (BMPs) that capture and infiltrate stormwater on-site.

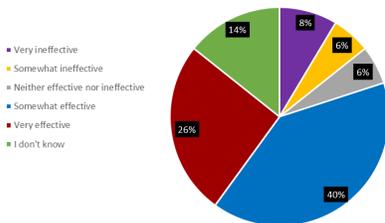
As a part of the Water LA CivicSpark Team, Jennifer Truong assisted with the development of a proposal for community-based maintenance of residential BMPs for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN). This included a proposal for a potential mulch delivery program for LASAN that can replace the current mulch pick-up program for the City. Jennifer interviewed several local government officials throughout LA County and the state and surveyed local residents and professionals on the efficiency of municipal mulch programs. The proposed program will increase mulch accessibility to the wider LA community, which in turn will assist with easier maintenance of BMPs (including rain gardens). Effective maintenance will increase optimal performance of the BMPs in treating water quality, following recommendations outlined by the Upper LA River Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP).



A residential rain garden in Panorama City after a rain event.
Photo Credit: Shawn Scudder, Water LA

Key Findings

How effective do you think your city's mulch program has been in reducing your personal outdoor water use?
(Total: 35 responses)



- Total survey responses: **35**
- **29%** say their city's mulch program was somewhat effective in **meeting city water conservation goals**
- **40%** say it was somewhat effective in **reducing personal outdoor water use** (graph pictured on left)
- **57%** are aware that mulch helps with **reducing GHG emissions**

Recommendations & Next Steps

- Local governments in LA County should start promoting mulch as a strategy to reduce GHG emissions in addition to water conservation
- A hybrid mulch delivery/pick-up program is ideal for City of LA
- At least have one full-time supervisor and a few part-time city employees available for answering questions or giving assistance with mulch pick-ups
- Provide detailed mulch quality assurance on city website and at pick-up sites (ie. state what kind of tree species are included in mulch)
- Partner with local private arborists for additional support with mulch deliveries
- Possible future research: county-level mulch programs (LA County)



Jennifer Truong graduated from UCLA with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Conservation Biology. She is passionate about protecting local wildlife from climate change impacts and hopes to pursue graduate school to receive a Master's Degree in ecology in the future.



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