



Building Community Resilience

Water-Energy Community Action Network — San Joaquin Valley (WE CAN — SJV)



Project Overview

The Water-Energy Community Action Network — San Joaquin Valley (WE CAN — SJV) aims to build **Water Strong Communities** by increasing access to water-efficient practices, highlighting local champions of water-efficient landscapes, and helping to grow local businesses that support turf alternatives.

WE CAN — SJV has three components:

- 1. Landscape Upgrade Rebates:** Targeting end-user residential outdoor water use in disadvantaged communities in the cities of Fresno, Clovis, and Reedley. WE CAN — SJV pays \$1/square foot for a maximum of \$1,000 for turf conversion projects. WE CAN — SJV also pays up to \$2,000 in irrigation efficiency and graywater systems projects.
- 2. Job Training:** Providing essential workforce training and re-education for those whom will be maintaining the renovated landscapes once established: local independent landscaping contractors and laborers.
- 3. Community Outreach and Engagement:** Highlighting the environmental and economic benefits of water-efficient landscapes. Activities include a publicized turf conversion demonstration event to launch WE CAN — SJV.



Water-Energy Nexus

Outdoor water use accounts for approximately 60% of total household water use in the cities of Fresno, Clovis, and Reedley. By incentivizing homeowners to shift from non-climate appropriate landscape designs and plant materials to Central Valley-appropriate drought tolerant species and designs, WE CAN — SJV seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the associated energy use of residential water use.

Over the 20-year lifecycle of the landscape upgrades associated with the WE CAN project, the anticipated total savings are as follows: 1,936.6 million gallons of water; 2,547,752 kilowatt hours; and 514,646 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions.

Community Mobilization

To support the launch of WE CAN — SJV, Mitchelle established the **Community Resilience Internship Program**, a 10-week pilot program for college students to gain hands-on experience in addressing regional sustainability challenges. The project impacts include:

- **120 homeowners** engaged in disadvantaged communities in the cities of Fresno, Clovis, and Reedley to promote water conservation incentives through door-to-door engagement
- **375 hours** of volunteer service committed by 7 students over the course of 10 weeks



Mitchelle De Leon, CivicSpark AmeriCorps Fellow — San Joaquin Valley Region
Mitchelle completed his B.S. in Economics at California State University, Bakersfield. After CivicSpark, he plans on scaling up the WE CAN community mobilization model in partnership with LGC's CivicSpark Water Action Fellowship.



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