CLIMATE INITIATIVE



The San Diego Foundation
Growing a Vibrant Region

To preserve our environment, health, and economy - and ensure a promising future for our children - we must continue to work collaboratively to implement long-term equitable solutions that build a resilient region and economy for all San Diegans.





CLIMATE
INVESTOR

The San Diego Foundation has a 45-year grantmaking history and track record as a responsive, impactful, place-based philanthropic organization. Our deep roots and strong partnerships with community-serving nonprofits uniquely position us to holistically respond to climate change on a local level. We address community needs by leveraging a broad network of relationships with funders and cultivating trusted connections with partners in business, government, philanthropy, academia and the nonprofit community to facilitate meaningful and lasting change that allows us to:

CATALYZE...

national, state and local funding for research, education and community engagement that informs public policy and leads to investments that protect and enhance our region's quality of life

CONVENE...

diverse stakeholders to identify shared goals and opportunities to work together in addressing critical regional issues; and

COLLABORATE...

with community partners and local decision makers to address systemic inequities and promote equitable, and inclusive solutions to community needs.

OUR CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Through our Climate Initiative, The San Diego Foundation provides leadership and philanthropic investment to create a more sustainable path to economic growth and a higher quality of life. The Initiative aims to advance science-based, collaborative development of local policies and programs that reduce our region's polluting emissions and minimize local risks from climate change. Learn more at **SDFoundation.org/Climate**

SINCE 2006, OUR CLIMATE INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM HAS

FUNDED
106
PROGRAMS

ASSISTED
60
INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS

INVESTED MORE THAN
$4.8M
IN CLIMATE RESILIENCY & SOLUTIONS

CATALYSTS

FOR COLLECTIVE CHANGE

The San Diego Foundation's early investments in research, community engagement, and public-private partnerships have been instrumental in catalyzing comprehensive local action on climate change for more than a decade.

To generate the greatest impact in advancing local climate action work, The San Diego Foundation took a "big tent" approach in convening stakeholders across political parties, sectors, cities, and public agencies to develop plans in addressing regional climate change impacts.

By investing in the following priorities, The San Diego Foundation created a national model for the role of community foundations.



OUR STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING INCLUDES REGIONAL FUNDING FOR:

RESEARCH

Groundbreaking research on the local impacts of climate change in the region that informs local leaders and policymakers, raises community awareness and galvanizes regional climate action.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Convening, collaboration, and technical expertise to support local government planning, policy and projects to address climate change.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community education and engagement to deepen public understanding of the causes and consequences of climate change and promote collaborative, regional solutions.



REGIONAL SUCCESSES

The San Diego Foundation supports the efforts of local leaders, policymakers and communities to create a more resilient region. Together, we have already made great strides that will benefit all San Diegans now, and into the future.

✓ TAKING ACTION

17 Regional Cities and County of San Diego have committed to Climate Action Plans

✓ 100% CLEAN ENERGY

The region's 8 largest cities have committed to 100% clean energy

✓ CUT POLLUTION

The City of San Diego reached its 2020 Climate Action Plan goal of cutting climate pollution two years early in 2018

✓ CREATED CLIMATE EQUITY INDEX

The City of San Diego completed a first-in-the-nation Climate Equity Index to ensure equitable implementation of its Climate Action Plan

INVESTING IN RESEARCH

Investing in local research is a pillar of The San Diego Foundation Climate Initiative. Since 2006, The San Diego Foundation has funded **27 climate change research grants totally $1.3 million**, including the sweeping study, *San Diego, 2050 is Calling*, California's first regional assessment of climate change impacts. Findings from these extensive scientific studies provided a road map for local governments and public agencies to proactively address looming threats and develop sustainable climate preparedness plans. This research identified the following impacts to the San Diego Region:



WATER

- Sea level will rise another 12-18 inches, causing serious flooding in low-lying areas, property damage and permanent coastal erosion.
- Extended and more frequent droughts will diminish local water supplies



ENERGY

- In the San Diego region, we will use at least 60% more electricity by 2050
- Higher energy demand will come from hotter inland areas where population will grow most



FIRES

- Large-scale fires will increase by as much as 20%
- More wildfires, drought and insect attacks will cause widespread loss of trees and forests



PEOPLE

- More frequent episodes of extreme heat will increase health risks in youth and the elderly
- Dangerously-poor air quality will increase respiratory and cardiac health problems

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE,

CONVENING & COLLABORATION

As a regional convener, The San Diego Foundation recognizes the need to provide additional expertise and gather cross-sector agencies to create comprehensive plans to address regional climate change. With pollution crossing boundaries and city borders, collaborative planning is essential.



The San Diego Foundation invested more than **$1.4 million in technical expertise** to convene and collaborate with diverse teams of stakeholders and experts. These joint efforts resulted in cross-agency sharing of best practices, pain points, and research, as well as the following invaluable partnerships and projects:

FORGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and the Energy Policy Initiatives Center at the University of San Diego to develop one of the nation's first comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories, identifying transportation as the primary source of pollution contributing to climate change for all local governments. This critical information revealed where our pollution is coming from and allows us to develop effective strategies to respond.

CO-FOUNDING THE CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

A regional network of public agencies to advance climate change solutions with a unified approach, the Climate Collaborative intersects academia with nonprofits, business and community leaders to share expertise, leverage resources, and raise the profile of regional climate leadership. In 2014, the Collaborative received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Leadership Award for Innovative Partnerships, which recognized the collaboration as a replicable model for other regions.

SUPPORTING GROUNDBREAKING SEA LEVEL RISE EFFORTS

Led by the Port of San Diego and its five member cities, with facilitation from ICLEI and engagement of major public and private stakeholders around San Diego Bay, this research helped to jointly plan for shoreline impacts from climate change.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

*Since 2006, The San Diego Foundation strategically distributed more than **$2.1 million in grants to 45 individual community organizations** focused on educating and engaging the public in regional planning processes to build regional climate resilience.*

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Led development of Climate Education Partners, a collaboration of six organizations managed by the University of San Diego and funded by the National Science Foundation, to implement a multi-year education and communications effort to increase climate science literacy at policymaker and community levels.

WATER AND OUR OCEANS

Invested heavily in finding solutions for water and ensuring community engagement in our regional efforts, including nearly $2 million to understand impacts, develop pilot projects and support community engagement for clean water.

TRANSPORTATION

Invested over $300,000 in sustainable, affordable and low-carbon mobility efforts to support regional transit solutions ensuring our communities are more bikeable and walkable.



COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & OUR MOST VULNERABLE:

While climate change affects everyone, people of color and historically marginalized communities, including lower-income neighborhoods, are disproportionately impacted. To confront this disparity, over the past decade The San Diego Foundation has invested in community partners that work directly with vulnerable populations in the San Diego region.

In partnership with the San Diego Grantmakers Social Equity Collaborative Fund, The San Diego Foundation launched and funded a climate justice grantmaking initiative that connects and amplifies a community-driven approach to local climate solutions.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

THE SAN DIEGO URBAN SUSTAINABILITY COALITION (SDUSC)

"Communities of concern are on the front-lines of climate change, bearing the brunt of environmental degradation and air pollution. Despite these immediate dangers, these communities are also often the last to receive access to important renewable energy education, technology and job training opportunities. These funds will strengthen the alignment and coordination between jobs, social equity, and climate."

- Maria A. Muhammad, co-leader of SDUSC

YOUTH EDUCATION

To nurture the next generation of environmental guardians, The San Diego Foundation invests in education efforts that prepare students for climate change and build leadership skills to engage in solutions.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

CLIMATE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

Through its Climate Kids-San Diego program, Climate Science Alliance has education more than 100,000 children in the San Diego region. Through partnerships with scientists and educators, students learn the impacts of climate change on the unique biodiversity and species of San Diego county.

SAFEGUARDING OUR
REGION'S FUTURE

Through our Climate Initiative, The San Diego Foundation focuses on stopping pollution at its source, facilitates natural approaches to removing pollution through healthy habitats and healthy oceans, and prepares our community for the impacts already set in motion like increased wildfires. As we look toward the future, The San Diego Foundation will prioritize:

PUBLIC HEALTH

From the effects of extreme weather and heat waves on our outdoor workforce, to the increase in pollution that causes long-term heart and respiratory issues among communities closest to the pollution, we know that our changing climate is a public health emergency. We will facilitate projects that transition polluting industries to cleaner more sustainable practices.

ALIGNING THE ECONOMY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Much of our $200+billion regional economy depends on outdated polluting technologies. Our industries, which include construction, agriculture, transportation, and manufacturing, can be transitioned into new clean technologies though. We will facilitate projects that address climate change and create economic growth by investing in the transition to a clean energy economy.

COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

Climate change doesn't discriminate; it touches us all regardless of age, income-level, or neighborhood. However, due to long-standing systemic inequities, communities of color and low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. Protecting our natural resources for future generations must also include protecting all people and communities. We will support organizations that empower San Diegans to engage in the development of solutions in their own communities.

CLEAN INVESTING

The San Diego Foundation now offers donors Fossil Free Investment options in two sustainability portfolios for endowments and non-endowments, allowing donors to invest philanthropic dollars in businesses that uphold the transition to a clean energy economy.

LEADERSHIP &
COMMITMENT

In the not-so-distant future, we envision a region that grasps the uncertainties of climate change and is determined to jointly create a thriving, equitable future for current and future generations. Tackling climate change will require an unprecedented level of cooperation and commitment from every member of our community, from public and private agencies to philanthropic organizations, to research institutions.

We have made tremendous progress on regional climate action plan development. We are setting and meeting timelines, garnering widespread community support, and leading significant change as one of the earliest adopters of climate efforts. However, there is much more work ahead and decreasing pollution will be harder.

Working hand-in-hand with all communities and leaders, The San Diego Foundation will continue to ensure the San Diego region remains a leader in climate action. Together, we can grow a more equitable, prosperous and resilient region. Learn more at SDFoundation.org/Climate




7 DOWNTOWN
MTS


208
HELLO




HELLO



The success of The San Diego Foundation Climate Initiative relies on partnerships with the following organizations through the support of generous funders including the Kresge Foundation, Qualcomm, Charitable Foundation, Bank of American Foundation, Wildspaces, LLC, Marisla Foundation, as well as the following donor-advised funds at The San Diego Foundation – the Hervey Family Fund and the The Blasker-Rose-Miah Fund

CLIMATE PARTNERS:

American Lung Association of California
Bayside Community Center
Breakthrough Communities
CALPIRG Education Fund
Center for Sustainable Energy
Center on Policy Initiatives
Ceres, Inc.
Circulate San Diego
Cleantech San Diego
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Education Partners
Climate Science Alliance
Coalition for Clean Air
Conservation Biology Institute
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Center of San Diego
Environmental Health Coalition
GRID Alternatives
Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek
ICLEI USA - Local Governments for Sustainability
Justice Overcoming Boundaries
Local Government Commission
Mid-City CAN
Move San Diego
Project New Village
Public Policy Institute of California
Red Cross of San Diego County
Resilient Cities Catalyst
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
Rise San Diego
San Diego Bicycle Coalition
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority
San Diego County Water Authority
San Diego Food System Alliance
San Diego Grantmakers
San Diego Green Building Council
San Diego Housing Federation
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
San Diego State University - Department of Biology
San Diego State University - School of Public Health
San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Solidarity Farm
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association
Stay COOL for Grandkids
Surfrider Foundation - San Diego Chapter
The Borrego Valley Endowment Fund
The City Project
The Greenlining Institute
TransForm
Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve
University of California San Diego - Jacobs School of Engineering
University of San Diego - Energy Policy Initiative Center
University of San Diego – The Nonprofit Institute
University of Southern California - Equity Research Institute
Walk San Diego
Water Reliability Coalition - Regional Chamber of Commerce
WILDCOAST



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