

2024 Annual Report

Santa Clara
County Climate
Collaborative



*Prepared by Farallon
Strategies for the
County of Santa Clara,
Office of Sustainability
and Resilience*

Executive Summary

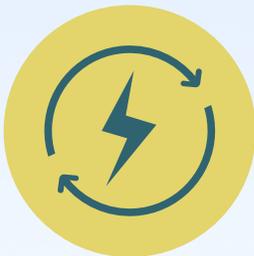
Outlined below are the impacts in each of Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative's (SC4) three core functions:

Alignment



- 39% increase in SC4 committed partners, from 33 to 46 Collaborative Partner Organizations
- 2024-2026 Strategic Plan completed

Activation



- 25 (more than half of SC4 partners) organizations engaged with Equity in Community Work Group
- Resilience Fund Initiative launched

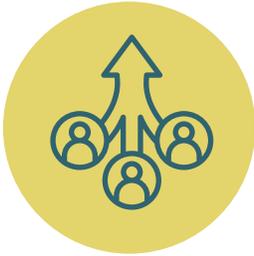
Amplification



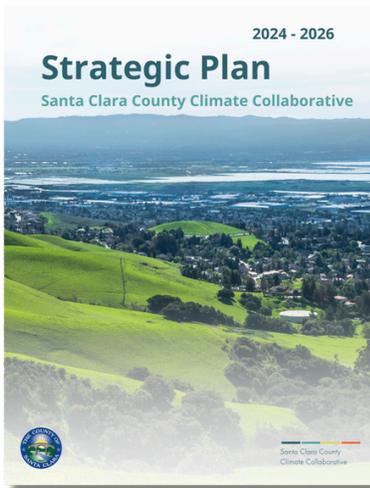
- 9 grant applications submitted with partners in 2024
- 70% of survey respondents found organizational capacity amplified by SC4

88 % Participants believe the **Collaborative is fulfilling its mission well or very well**, according the 2023 annual survey results.

SC4 Core Functions



Alignment: Building and Sustaining an Impact Network



Strategic Plan

In 2024, we released the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative's first Strategic Plan. Shaped by the Equity in Community Work Group and the SC4 Leadership Advisory Team, together with municipality and community partners, the Plan outlines our collective vision and strategic goals for the future. This Plan will serve as a resource for our partner organizations' climate efforts, help ensure regional alignment, and be the basis for future

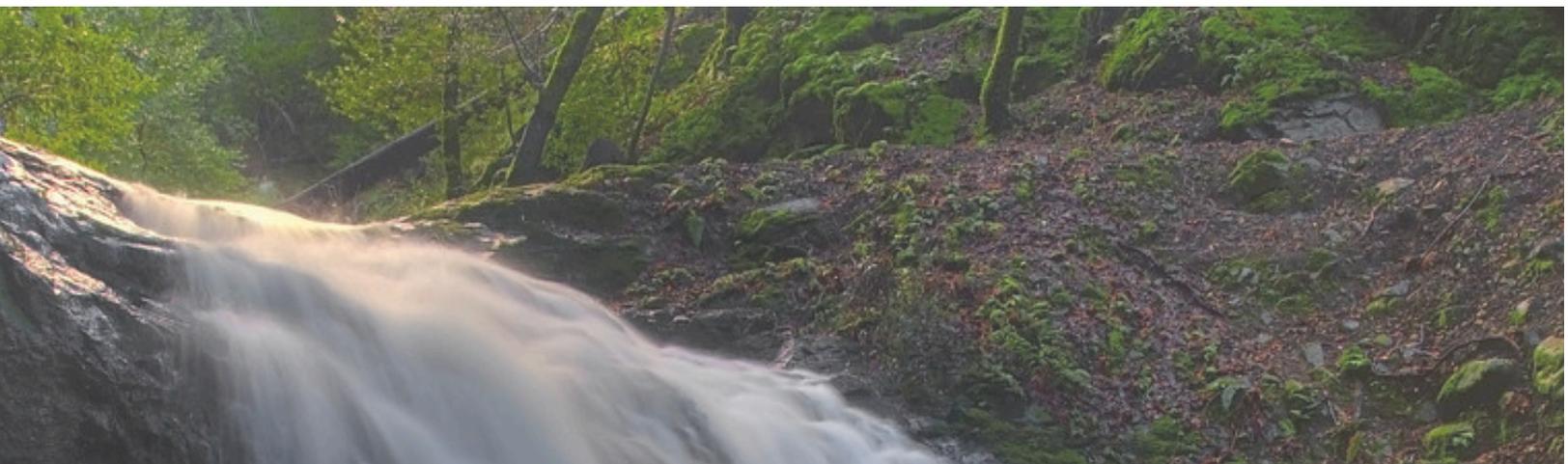
collaboration and partnerships, particularly with funding and other resource sharing efforts.

2024 Annual Survey Results Highlights

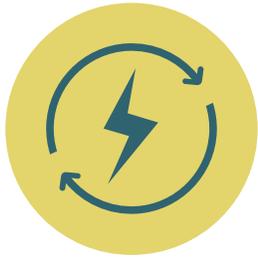
98% of survey respondents envisioned the SC4 Strategic Plan would influence their work, out of which:

- 22% say the Plan will **help with organizations' climate efforts**
- 32% say it is **valuable** for regional alignment
- 25% say the Plan **sets the framework** for future collaboration and partnerships

To view the 2024 Annual Survey results on the SC4 website, [click here](#).



SC4 Core Functions



Activation: Building Regional Funding and Political Will

Welcome our new LAT for 2025-2027!

New Leadership Advisory Team (LAT) to provide strategic direction and guidance on Strategic Plan implementation:

- **Victorina Arvelo**, South Bay Resilience Manager, Greenbelt Alliance
- **Julie Benabente**, Deputy Director, Climate Smart, Environmental Services Department, City of San Jose
- **John Bourgeois**, Deputy Officer, Division of Watershed Stewardship and Planning, Valley Water
- **Angelica Diaz**, Director, Healthy Communities Branch, County of Santa Clara Public Health Department
- **Shawn Gerth**, Executive Director, Veggielution
- **Kristen Parineh**, Director, Office of Sustainability, Stanford University
- **Lauren Weston**, Executive Director, Acterra



Resilience Fund

Using \$200,000 seed funding generously provided by the Packard Foundation, SC4 launched the effort to design the *Santa Clara County Collaborative Climate Resilience Fund*. The Fund aims to identify and secure diversified funding streams that will provide multi-year support for climate resilience projects across Santa Clara County. As SC4 strives to activate climate work in our county, this Fund will be a valuable resource in advancing community-centered climate resilience.

SC4 Core Functions



Amplification: Building Capacity and Accelerating Best Practices

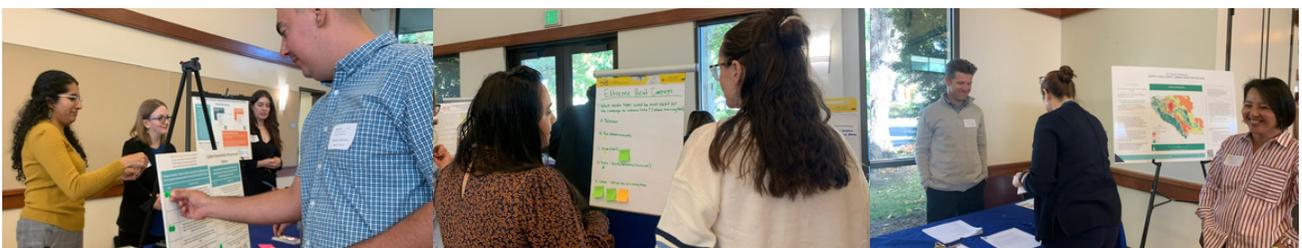
Collaborative Meeting

The breadth of Collaborative connections were on full display at the October 30, 2024 Fall Collaborative Meeting with over 100 attendees representing 59 organizations. Special guest speakers, Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee and Dr. Jennifer Norris from the California Wildlife Conservation Board set the stage for an afternoon of lively discussions and relationship building. The gallery walk session allowed attendees to interact with work group leads and learn more about the different efforts that they could engage with to support and/or complement their own organization's climate work.



2024 Annual Survey Results Highlights

- Work group participation **facilitated relationship and connection building**
- Work group participation helped build **partnerships**; 50% of respondents partnered with **CBOs** and 33% with **local jurisdictions**
- 95% of respondents found work group activities **useful in advancing climate efforts and goals**





Amplification through Work Groups

- **Identifying gaps** and brainstorming solutions with a Member Needs Assessment at the Equity in Community Work Group.
- **Elevating challenges** from the shothole borer beetle to local trees at Santa Clara Valley Urban Forestry Alliance.
- **Learning about efforts to mitigate heat** through presentations from Miami-Dade County about best practices and **urban forestry efforts** from local organizations at the Heat and Air Quality Resilience Work Group.
- **Keeping abreast of the state requirements** for sea level rise adaptation through presentations from Bay Conservation Development Commission on the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan at the Flooding and Sea Level Rise Work Group.

“Meeting people and connecting with them separately outside of the collaborative to share resources or learn from each other has been incredibly helpful and useful.”



Info: Equity in Community Work group members

Strengthening Community Resilience Through Collaboration

The Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative (SC4) has been an invaluable space for fostering connections and advancing climate resilience in our region. Through SC4, Greenbelt Alliance connected with dedicated local organizations working to support frontline communities, and these relationships helped lay the groundwork for a major investment in resilience hubs in Santa Clara County.

The partnerships that emerged through SC4—including our collaboration with CARAS, Tenacious Group, and Ashes to Beauty—have been instrumental in securing state funding through the California Strategic Growth Council’s Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Planning Grant. This project reflects SC4’s mission by demonstrating the power of collaboration in developing effective, community-driven climate solutions. By bringing together organizations with deep ties to the community and a shared commitment to resilience, SC4 has helped catalyze real, on-the-ground solutions that prioritize equity and long-term sustainability.

As we work to develop resilience hubs in Gilroy and East San José, we remain inspired by the power of collective action. The resilience hubs will not only provide critical emergency services but also serve as year-round spaces for education, empowerment, and capacity-building. We are committed to continuing to grow these efforts, finding new partners and stakeholders through SC4 and beyond, and collaborating to co-create resilience hubs that become a reality and make a lasting impact.

We deeply appreciate the role SC4 plays in fostering mutual support, strengthening community capacity, and driving forward climate solutions that truly serve those most impacted.

*Victorina Arvelo, Resilience Manager
Greenbelt Alliance*

Impact Area Achievements



Expanded Equity in Community Work Group (EICWG):

25 Members

6 Organizations receiving stipends

Priority Climate Action Plan completed in partnership with:

12 Jurisdictions

6 Public Agencies

3 CBOs and Non-Profits



2024 Extreme Heat Safety Social Media Campaign resulted in:



12 Million impressions

18 Organizations volunteered as Heat Ambassadors

Projects on utilization of cooling centers:

1 Research project with Santa Clara University students completed



Funding: Grant Applications

SC4 serves as a trusted platform for building funding-related partnerships and fostering collaboration across organizations and sectors. By strengthening relationships and creating a foundation for resource sharing, SC4 identified funding opportunities and supported partnerships to advance impactful climate resilience initiatives.



EPA CPRG Implementation Grants

Amount: over \$250M (across 6 applications)

Partners: over 14 partner organizations

Covered variety of sectors including transportation, food recovery, composting, and decarbonization



ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program

Amount: \$650,000

Partners: Coastal Quest, County of Santa Clara, Climate Resilient Communities, Farallon Strategies



EPA Community Change Grants Program

Amount: \$20M

Partners: County of Santa Clara with 14 CBO partners, Climate Resilient Communities, CADRE, CARAS, Ashes to Beauty, and others



OPR Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant

Amount: \$1.9M

Partners: County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara University and 5 CBOs/non-profits



Future Outlook for 2025

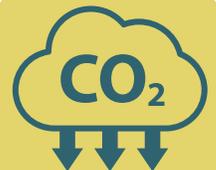


Empower Communities to Build Resilience to Climate Change

- **Establish baseline data:** Complete comprehensive needs assessment of the work group members
- **Create resources for addressing climate change impacts:** Develop EiCWG Action Plan to address members' needs in resources and skill gaps, collaboration and networking, equity priorities, capacity building, and community engagement.
- **Enlist funded CBOs to serve as mentors:** Leverage experience of new cohort of Community Resilience Leadership Academy (CRLA) and integrate CRLA program and graduates into SC4.

Achieve Net Zero Emissions

- **Prioritize and support countywide emission reductions:** Finalize measures and actions and quantify projected GHG reduction; submit Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to EPA, host sector-specific forums, including food systems and workforce development, to ensure CCAP measures are diverse and driven by community insights.



Eliminate Risk from Flooding and Rising Seas

- **Support and/or launch a countywide green belt initiative:** Complete Watershed and Community Resilience Framework and develop nature-based solutions training for jurisdictions and CBOs.
- **Help develop shoreline adaptation plans to meet state requirements:** Apply for funding to start developing Multi-Jurisdictional Santa Clara County Shoreline Adaptation Plan per Senate Bill 272.

Future Outlook for 2025

Prepare Communities for Extreme Heat and Impaired Air Quality

- **Engage with and educate communities:** Conduct both region-wide and targeted outreach to inform Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) development and a symposium or a series of workshops for urban foresters, other tree care professionals and elected officials and leaders in the County.
- **Support implementation of projects to advance community resilience to extreme heat and air quality issues:** Build the role of SC4 in planning for disaster preparedness in the region, particularly in the context of extreme heat response and wildfire policy and building connections across emergency management partners and CBOs.



Implementation Funding



- **Develop and finalize the Resilience Fund:** Design and finalize the Fund structure and governance through activities that include the convening of a Fund Advisory Committee, which would have at least 50% representation from CBOs and non-profits, and surveying SC4 members and work groups. Additional funding will also be sought as seed money ready pilot implementation of the Fund by 2026.
- **Leveraging the State Climate Bond:** Prep SC4 members and partners to participate in the development of and securing funding through the Climate Bond for local projects.



Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative

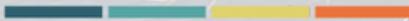
Contact us

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sustainability@ceo.sccgov.org

The County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability and Resilience provides fiscal and administrative support for the Collaborative with support from these implementation partners:




Santa Clara County
Climate Collaborative