



Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative

OVERVIEW

The Collaborative is a cross-sector network and community of practice for public agencies, academia, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and business and community leaders to advance regional solutions to climate change through resource and expertise sharing, joint-funding opportunities, and partnership development. This is an informal collaboration and not a separate body, organization, or entity.

Vision For a Resilient Santa Clara County

We envision a Santa Clara County where diverse stakeholders come together to partner on and coordinate regional strategies to combat climate change and protect people and the natural environment, while advancing strategies to eliminate inequities and improve quality of life for all.

Collaborative Goals

Goal 1: Sustain a diverse impact network of staff from Santa Clara County public agencies and organizations to advance regional climate projects, programs and policies.

Goal 2: Develop and formalize partnerships to coordinate and fund programs and projects that enhance the county's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Goal 3: Empower communities through inclusive decision-making processes that provide culturally responsive engagement and capacity building to support the integration of equity and climate justice in the Collaborative.

Goal 4: Prioritize natural and nature-based climate solutions to promote regional resilience.

Joining The Collaborative

The Collaborative welcomes representatives from the following organizations based in Santa Clara County to serve as core participants:

- **Local and Regional Public Agencies** - staff of local jurisdictions, special districts, metropolitan planning organizations.
- **Non-profit Organizations** - staff of not-for-profit faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, social advocacy groups, or foundations.
- **Tribes** - tribal communities or native-led organizations.
- **Academic Institutions** - staff of academic or research institutions.
- **For-profit organizations** - private businesses and firms, based in Santa Clara County.

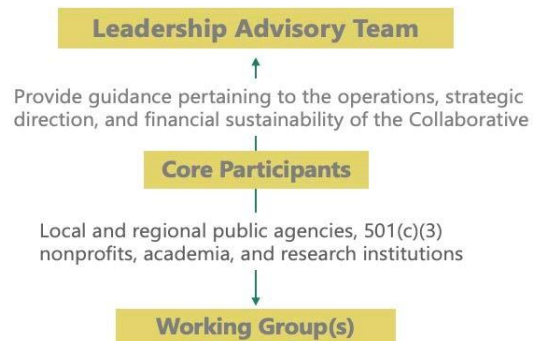
All organizations will sign a Participant Commitment Letter to join the Collaborative to demonstrate their commitment to working jointly with other organizations to advance the Collaborative vision and goals by dedicating staff time, sharing information, and coordinating efforts. This is an informal collaboration, and participation in the collaborative does not create a separate body, organization, or entity. Visit <https://www.climatecollaborativescc.org> to learn more and join.



For profit organizations will be required to sign an Affiliate Commitment letter that specifies the terms and expectations of their participation in the Collaborative. For profit organizations can attend Collaborative meetings and participate through working groups of the Collaborative as invited but are not eligible to become core participants of the collaborative (cannot be appointed to leadership position or serve as working group chair).

Collaborative Structure

The establishment of the Collaborative, including decisions pertaining to the operational, strategic direction, and financial sustainability of the Collaborative will be guided by an appointed Leadership Advisory Team (LAT). The LAT will be appointed by the County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability, and will be composed of 9-11 representatives, with equal representation from both the non-profit and public sector. The LAT will meet at least four times per year.



Working groups: The LAT, in coordination with County Staff, is responsible for the approval of working groups that advance specific projects or initiatives of the Collaborative. Working groups may address topics including, but not limited to: Flooding and Sea level Rise, Heat and Air Quality, Transportation, Forestry and Equity and Environmental Justice. Working groups, as needed can establish a governance framework related to roles/responsibilities, operations, and decision-making.

Collaborative Initiatives Through December 2024

- Santa Clara County Resiliency Strategy for Flooding and Sea Level Rise
- Heat and Air Quality Resiliency (HAQR)
- Santa Clara County Urban Forestry Alliance (SCVUFA)
- Collaborative Strategic Plan and Capacity Building

Fiscal Sponsorship and Staffing Support

The County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability provides fiscal and administrative support and day to-day oversight of Collaborative operations, including the Leadership Advisory Team, Collaborative meetings and working groups. Because the Collaborative is administered by the County, the Collaborative must comply with the County rules and regulations governing procurement, grants, contracting, lobbying, donations, etc.

Consultation and Implementation Advisors

The County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability will seek administrative, operational, and strategic planning support from the following consultation and implementation advisors:

- Farallon Strategies, Planning and Administrative Support Partner
- Coastal Quest, Funding and Implementation Partner
- Climate Resilient Community, Equity Integration Partner