



Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative

Participant Commitment Letter

Vision: 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.

Santa Clara County benefits from a vibrant ecosystem of actors that contribute individually to the region's resilience. Through the formation of a regional collaborative, we work to empower organizations to build strong partnerships to support alignment in decision-making, policy implementation, and program development consistent with state and local climate priorities. The Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative (Collaborative)¹ 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. The Collaborative will work toward its vision through the following 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.

The Collaborative welcomes representatives from the following organizations based in Santa Clara County:

- Local and Regional Public Agencies: staff of local jurisdictions, special districts, and 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 organizations²: private businesses and firms, based in Santa Clara County.

To demonstrate organizational commitment to working jointly with other organizations to advance the Collaborative vision and goals by dedicating staff time, sharing information, and coordinating efforts, organizations will sign a Participant Commitment Letter to join the Collaborative as core participants.

¹ This is an informal collaboration, and nothing in this Commitment Letter or participation in the Collaborative creates a separate body, organization, or entity.

² For-profit organizations will be required to sign an Affiliate Commitment letter that specifies the terms and expectations of their participation in the Collaborative.



Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative Participant Commitment Letter

_____ is committed to the vision and goals of the Collaborative and to be a core participant of the Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative. We recognize and agree that effective regional climate solutions require:

- Applying a collective impact approach that builds a common understanding among members of the problem, and a mutual agreement on how to solve it.
- Organizing at the countywide level to leverage solutions that may not be possible for individual jurisdictions or organizations, due to their location, size or capacity.
- Commitment to working together, especially where organizational and regional goals converge and the sharing of critical information.
- Leveraging existing activities and resources to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Building trust and strengthening relationships within and across sectors and jurisdictional boundaries.

As participants of the Collaborative, organizations would retain autonomy to direct their own activities that best serve its community, while coordinating with and leveraging the resources and activities of the Collaborative. Participating organizations sign on behalf of their organization as an authorized representative, while also affirming and retaining the independence and autonomy of their organization, its mission, its authority, and its goals. This is an informal collaboration, and nothing in this Commitment Letter or participation in the Collaborative creates a separate body, organization, or entity. Participants, including the County as the support entity, are not liable for individual action of Collaborative participants.

As general evidence of our commitment, I/we agree to the following actions:

1. Designate at least one representative to attend bi-annual (twice per year) Collaborative meetings,
2. Allocate staff time to participate in at least one Collaborative work group to facilitate achieving goals and objectives,
3. Review Collaborative meeting materials to keep current with Collaborative decisions/activities,
4. Represent the Collaborative by disseminating relevant information to colleagues, employees, and community contacts as appropriate, and
5. Collaborate where participant organization and Collaborative goals converge.

- I give permission for the organization's name to be placed on printed materials, literature, and web presence.

Printed Name

Title

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date



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Organizational Information

Mission of Organization: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Primary Contact Title: _____

Primary Contact Email Address: _____

Communities/Cities Your Organization Serves (If applicable):

Additional Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Email Address: _____