

SCC Climate CBO Ecosystem Mapping Process

Santa Clara County Office of Sustainability

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Background and Community Partners

To address the coming climate change impacts changes equitably, partnerships between Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and governments are essential. Ecosystem mapping is one strategy that can be taken by local governments toward this goal. This ecosystem mapping in Santa Clara County (SCC) aimed to 1) identify CBOs doing climate work. 2) assess the overall landscape of efforts towards climate planning, 3) to better understand the relationships between CBOs and the county in terms of historical and current injustices experienced by their communities.



Methods

- Internet-based and snowball-sample search to identify and learn about climate CBOs in SCC.
- Semi-structured voluntary interviews with CBOs.
 - Questions were designed with input from Coastal Quest and Climate Resilient Communities.
 - 15 organizations were interviewed for 1 hr on organization background, goals, challenges, partnerships, and previous experience with and relationship with the county.

Results

We identified 131 CBOs across a variety of climate domains in SCC. A visual Ecosystem Map Visualization was created which enables filtering CBO by topic of focus and existing partnerships.



Interviews were summarized into a report collecting common themes on common challenges, historical context for this work in SCC, and expectations from CBOs on the county. The report also includes detailed information all the CBOs interviewees. Two samples pages are shown below:

CBO COMMON CHALLENGES



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Conclusions

We identified several core partners and leader CBOs with the expertise, interest, and capacity to partner with the SCC OOS in the planning and implementation of climate planning.

CBO Recommendations for the SCC OOS

- Ensuring appropriate compensation of CBOs for their involvement in community-based climate planning
- Supporting CBOs in securing grants through grant services and facilitating logistics for county-wide planning
- Building, maintaining, and investing in longterm relationships with CBO partners
- Taking a leadership role and demonstrating longitudinal commitment in the planning process.



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