

We can help your community tackle climate change



“Climate change is a global challenge that requires strong, sustained local action. This program gets young people into the communities across California to help reduce emissions and boost energy efficiency.”

California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY TODAY

Local governments have been and will continue to take a leading role in California’s response to climate change. However, budget constraints, the loss of key tools and funding, and limited familiarity with emerging tools and practices, pose significant challenges to local communities – large and small – as they seek to take action.

To help communities respond, the Local Government Commission partnered with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research to launch CivicSpark, a Governor’s Initiative AmeriCorps program that helps California communities build capacity and improve their ability to respond to climate change.

Each year, 48 CivicSpark fellows, organized in regional teams, work with a range of local and regional project partners such as cities, counties, regional agencies, school districts, MPOs and NGOs, helping them implement local climate-smart projects such as greenhouse gas inventories, complete streets plans and water-conservation campaigns. With the support and assistance from CivicSpark, these projects help move our communities toward a healthier, safer and more resilient future.

NURTURING LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW

At the same time, as we are making change in local communities, CivicSpark is paving the way for the next generation. Through their work on these innovative, real-world projects, CivicSpark fellows will gain exceptional career experience, preparing them to

become future leaders in California’s climate-change response.

CLIMATE CHANGE BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Here are just a few of our projects from the 2014-15 service year to give you an idea of what we can do for your community.

- **Climate Resiliency and Adaptation**
In the Sacramento region, fellows conducted a vulnerability assessment by auditing existing preparedness plans and policies, and developing recommendations to strengthen and scale these policies.
- **Clean and Alternative Transportation**
In the San Diego region, fellows increased participation in the San Diego Association of Government’s iCommute program, a countywide ridesharing, public transit and bicycling program operating across three cities.
- **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
In the Sierra region, fellows supported Climate Action Planning, community climate research and climate-risk analysis for five communities.
In the Central Coast, fellows supported eight communities to reduce GHG emissions by increasing adoption of small-scale solar PV and providing community-based energy-efficiency education.
- **Urban Greening**
In the San Joaquin Valley, fellows provided outreach and education to increase adoption of urban forestry policies (and tree cover) by educating elected officials, staff and community leaders, and providing technical support and training.

HOW CIVICSPARK WORKS

CivicSpark helps local governments build their climate response capacity by working directly with local staff or in the community on projects that address their larger climate-action goals. Although every project needs to have a connection to local government staff, CivicSpark projects can be community-focused, and we can collaborate with nongovernmental organizations to implement projects.

Depending on the size, timeframe and location of a project, CivicSpark fellows can be embedded within a community for their whole service year, or work out of a hub centered around a regional partner and support local governments in the area remotely. CivicSpark may also implement more than one project at a time for a given local government, but work involved in each project will be defined and assessed independently.

Each CivicSpark fellow will have at least a college degree in a relevant field, and will typically have workplace and communityservice experience. Each fellow serves for 1,700 hours with 1,300-1,400 of these hours devoted to implementing projects, and the remainder dedicated to professional development and broader community service.

Want to Get Involved?

If you could use help with your community projects, get in touch with us today! Each spring, we will be lining up projects and finalizing agreements. By the end of October, all fellows will be hired and local projects will get underway in early November. Here's how to move forward:

- 1 Your first step is to complete an **initial application** that includes a project description and timeframe, staff contacts and specific local government(s) that the project will support.
- 2 Following a project review, we complete a **service agreement** with you that outlines the terms, costs and basic project scope. (See below for more info on project costing.)
- 3 After completing the agreement, we share a **pre-service capacity assessment survey** with participating local government staff to get a baseline and to define their specific capacity-building goals.
- 4 In November, the CivicSpark fellow will then start to work directly on your project by conducting a **high-level gap assessment** to align the project scope and goals with our program structure.

PROJECT COSTING - FLEXIBLE OPTIONS TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

CivicSpark is funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service. However, participation in CivicSpark requires a fiscal contribution from you. Your project's fiscal contribution can come from a variety of sources, including directly from a local or regional government we are working with, a state agency that wants to support local project activity, from an NGO implementing a project that has a local-government connection, or even through private sponsors of CivicSpark activities. Projects are defined for a fixed term that allows the fellows to dedicate their attention and time to a specific project. The chart below describes pricing for projects of differing sizes, duration and associated resources.

	325 hours (3 months)	650 hours (6 months)	1,300+ hours (11 months)
Cost	\$6,500	\$12,350	\$23,400
Rate	\$20/hour	\$19/hour (5% discount)	\$18/hour (10% discount)
Additional Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-20 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$200 in project-related travel covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-40 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$400 in project-related travel covered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40-80 additional project-prep hours • Up to \$800 in project-related travel covered • Fellow is "embedded" on site with your organization throughout the service year • Additional service activities and project hours dedicated to project community

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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