

2020 IMPACT REPORT

CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE ACTION



CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE





The Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRC) is a multidisciplinary network of 46 members from diverse sectors including local and regional agencies, organizations, businesses and associations that work together to advance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts in their own communities and throughout California's Capital Region.

CRC's membership network encompasses the 6-county Sacramento Area. CRC is a member of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation.

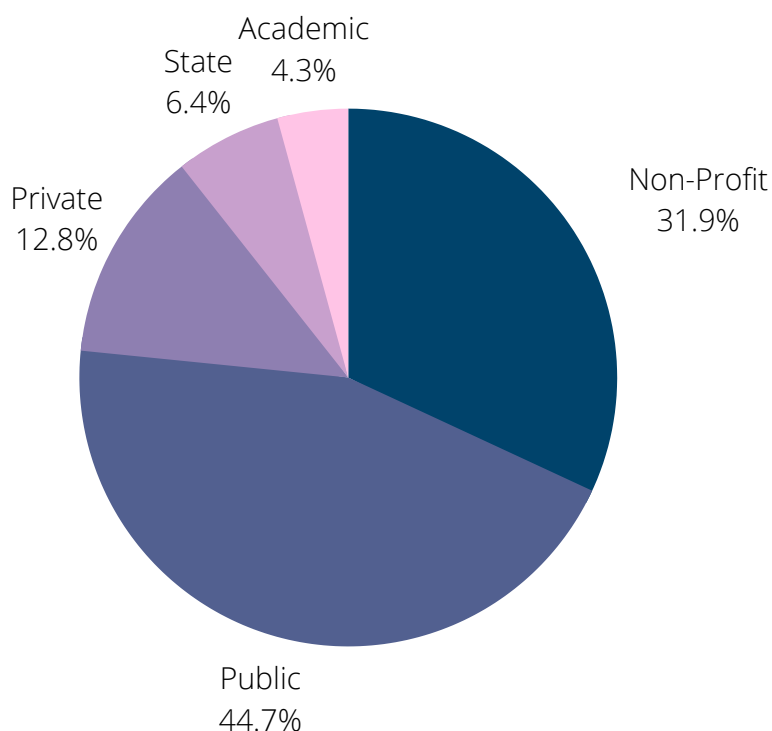


Visit CRC at: <https://climatereadiness.info/>

CRC 2020 Recap

-  California alone experienced over 9,000 fire incidents in 2020, and the Sacramento region had numerous days of unhealthy air quality where individuals were advised against going outside.
 - CRC's annual Heat PSA campaign corresponded with record breaking stretches of extreme heat and electrical grid vulnerability throughout the state but especially impacting the Capital Region.
 - The number of extreme heat days in the region is forecasted to increase. CRC and SMAAQMD partnered on the Capital Region Urban Heat Island Mitigation project, culminating in 2020, to develop strategies and recommendations to minimize the UHI effect, focusing on the transportation sector and communities most vulnerable to extreme heat.
-  COVID-19 brought impacts on GHG emissions, especially in early months – teleworking was widely adopted and mobility decreased significantly. Individuals from all walks of life had to quickly adapt to a new reality.
 - Local organizations, cities, and agencies felt the impacts of COVID-19 on their capacity and priorities in 2020. Challenges and opportunities were echoed at CRC's Annual Members' Forum where members discussed the collective benefit of working together regionally and the need for innovative ways to source funding amidst an economic recession.
 - CRC's six new members in 2020 demonstrate the continued interest in regional collaboration
-  Numerous acts of police brutality highlighted the continued need for equity and support for communities of color throughout the US.
 - CRC released an Equity Statement acknowledging the necessity of racial justice and equity in achieving climate resilience.
-  CRC, as a member of the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation, also participated in statewide projects through Member Meetings and the Adaptation Policy Working Group

Breakdown of CRC Members:



Newest Members:



Interested in Membership? View benefits and access an application on our [website](#)

What happened in 2020 in the Capital Region around climate action and adaptation?

Department of Water Resources: DWR Receives National Climate Leadership Award – The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and The Climate Registry presented the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) with a Climate Leadership Award (CLA) for Organizational Leadership on March 5, 2020. The award recognizes DWR for its influential role in the nation’s fight against climate change, conducting outreach on climate resilience, and taking a comprehensive approach that aligns state and local water management in mitigating and adapting to climate change. This award marked the fourth time in six years DWR was honored with a CLA.



Delta Stewardship Council: The Delta Stewardship Council is about to release a Public Draft Vulnerability Assessment, the first ever, comprehensive climate change study for the Delta. We made substantial progress on the assessment and conducted an extensive stakeholder process, all remote, in 2020.

Delta Conservancy: The Delta Conservancy supported an effort to complete the first ever 3rd party validation and resulting certification of wetland carbon credits in the Delta. The Delta carbon market represents a compelling economic incentive to help change land use that causes subsidence of the highly organic peat soils, and the stop the resulting inordinately large carbon emissions: subsidence = CO2 emissions. This effort has stimulated interest from several public and private land owners who are currently converting several thousand acres to rice cultivation or managed wetlands. Stopping subsidence also reduces flood risk for California's water supply system and vulnerable communities, and provides habitat value.



City of West Sacramento: The City is undergoing a CAP update, which will be informed in part by the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change process. The City completed the Southport Levee Improvement Project in 2020. The City is also currently updating the Housing Element, Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan.



City of Davis: The city embarks on its climate action and adaptation plan update this year. The last plan was last updated in 2010. This update contains a robust community engagement component. The City also began their portion of an EV charging project through a SACOG grant at the end of 2020. The Coordination of this effort came out of Yolo Resiliency Collaborative.

City of Sacramento: Along with the success of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change, the City of Sacramento appointed a Climate Action Lead who developed and presented the City's 2021 Climate Work Plan to council this year. The council passed a Motion authorizing the Department of Public Works to implement a Slow Streets pilot.



Regional San: The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) owns and operates the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located near Elk Grove, California. Since 1982, we've been responsible for safely conveying and treating all wastewater. Regional San serves a population which has grown to about 1.6 million people and encompasses 383 square miles. Some of the treated wastewater is safely discharged to the Sacramento River. The other portion is used for landscaping irrigation.



- The EchoWater Project (begun in 2010) is one of the largest projects in the region's history and must be in place by 2021-2023. The project will upgrade the current system from a secondary to tertiary treatment process.
- The Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) facility is the largest component of the EchoWater Project. Introduction of primary effluent was initiated in September 2020, which means the BNR is now successfully treating a portion of the wastewater treatment plant's flow. The BNR Project will reduce 99 percent of the ammonia in treated wastewater discharged. Once complete, almost 100 million gallons a day of cleaner water will be entering the Sacramento River.



Pictured: Regional San's Tertiary Treatment Facility

Placer County Air Pollution Control District: The summer of 2020 was one of the worst wildfire seasons on record. The scope and scale of these wildfires vividly illustrates the challenges ahead as climate change continues to take a toll on our forested lands, much of which has a century of fuel build-up from failed forest policies.



This year's wildfires resulted in unprecedented poor air quality levels throughout California, and especially in the Sacramento Capital Region. Over two months, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District was instrumental in keeping County residents apprised of current and forecast air quality conditions. This included coordinating with school and public health officials on informational health advisories, developing written materials on restricting outdoor activities and mask selection, as well as guidance to local businesses and educators on how to balance competing challenges between COVID-19 indoor restrictions and wildfire smoke outdoor restrictions.

- Coordinated action at the local, state and federal levels will be critical if we are going to meaningfully begin to address the current unhealthy state of our forested lands, and prevent future large-scale wildfire events.



Placer County CDRA: On January 28, 2020, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved its first-ever Placer County Sustainability Plan (PCSP) - a road map to meet California's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and reduce the county's vulnerability to climate risks like worsening wildfire severity.

SMAQMD: The Air District, working with LGC and through a CRC effort, completed the Capital Regional Urban Heat Island Mitigation Project. The project built detailed models of the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect in the Sacramento region and used them to evaluate the effectiveness of a range of heat mitigation measures. These findings have been translated into strategies and recommendations to minimize the UHI effect in the Capital Region, focusing on the transportation sector and communities most vulnerable to extreme heat.



Sacramento Municipal Utilities District: The SMUD Board of Directors adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration this past summer and directed staff to begin working on a Zero Carbon Plan to achieve zero carbon emissions in our power supply by 2030.



Over the past 2 years, the Sustainable Communities initiative has focused on building a collective impact model, streamlining partnerships and facilitating connections inside and out of SMUD. A key 2020 accomplishment was the in-house development of a Resource Priorities Needs Map. The interactive map uses a collection of key data from various resources to help guide how SMUD and our local partners prioritize resources within our communities to reduce the growing economic disparity in Sacramento, including urgent community needs worsened by COVID-19 impacts.

Finally, SMUD has joined the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Power-in-Pollinators initiative, which exists to promote and support pollinator conservation among energy utilities. The partnership shares the latest scientific findings, case studies and tools to assist with the integration of pollinator-friendly practices into utility vegetation, facilities and land management.



Grid Alternatives North Valley: Over the past year Grid Alternatives North Valley pivoted in response to COVID-19 that includes serving Food Banks with solar and transitioning solar access and training programs to an online platform.

Breathe partnered with **SMAQMD** to create educational materials regarding wildfire smoke and how to stay safe during wildfire smoke events for their Wildfire Smoke Emergency Air Pollution Plan. The educational materials were created based on input from community leaders, school administrators, and school nurses.



In addition, Breathe manages a food waste recycling program funded by the Sacramento County Solid Waste Authority. Before the pandemic started, Breathe worked with Natomas Unified School District to expand food waste recycling into 4 of their elementary schools, bringing a total of 20 schools into compliance with state mandatory recycling laws across four school districts in Sacramento County. The program pivoted to accommodate distance learning and released a coloring and activity book for elementary students to print and learn about food waste recycling at home.

2020 Events

FEB

[Webinar: Strategies for Safeguarding the Built Environment](#)

[Webinar: Strategies for Safeguarding the Transportation System](#)

[Webinar: Cooling the Capital Region: From Models to Implementation](#)

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APR

[Climate Change and the Economy in the Context of COVID-19](#)

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JUL

[COVID Response: Lessons for Climate Action](#)

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NOV

[CRC Affiliate Event - The Water Forum's 20th Anniversary Symposium: Addressing Climate Impacts on the Sacramento Region's Water Supplies and Environment](#)

The Water Forum commissioned artist Stephanie Taylor to create an original painting for its 20th anniversary. The work depicts The Lower American River.



Thank you for your leadership in 2020

Executive Committee



Meg Arnold
2020 CRC Chair
Valley Vision



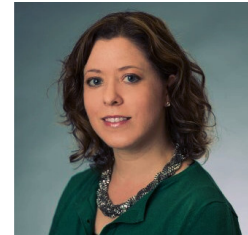
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Steering Committee



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