

Charter

Last Adopted: April 2025

Monterey Bay Area

Regional Climate Project Working Group

The Challenge and Opportunity

Climate change is a priority issue for organizations across the Monterey Bay Area Region. A focused and organized approach to accessing historic State and federal funding and resources is required to bring the region together to collectively achieve equitable and resilient outcomes. Access to large scale transformative grant opportunities has the potential to accelerate implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and programs across the three county region.

Mission

The mission of the Regional Climate Project Working Group (RCPWG) is to collaborate among groups and organizations in the Monterey Bay Area region, including Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, to develop, prioritize, secure funding for, and effectively and equitably advocate for and implement regionally beneficial climate mitigation and adaptation projects and programs.

Membership

Members of the RCPWG benefit from learning about grant opportunities, jointly developing grant proposals, and accessing an established network of partners that can lead the development of grants and implementation of projects that address climate change in the region.

RCPWG membership includes dues-paying city/county governments and regional agencies. Membership dues are determined through collaboration between RCPWG members and the Chair and Vice-Chair, with consent of the fiscal sponsor.

Local Agencies: Dues-paying cities and counties are voting members of the RCPWG.

Regional Agencies: Agencies which work across the entirety of the Monterey Bay Area pay dues of at least \$75,000 per year and support specific outcomes in the shared work-plan of the RCPWG to address aligned priorities. These commitments would be developed between the regional agency seeking or renewing membership, and the Chair and Vice-Chair, with consent of the RCPWG voting members. Dues-paying regional agencies are voting members of RCPWG.

Advisory Members: Regional agencies, nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations, and/or tribal organizations/governments members may serve as advisors and attend RCPWG meetings upon consent of the RCPWG voting members.

RCPWG members make decisions with respect to what grants the RCPWG pursues, appropriate advisors, subcommittee formation, as well as decisions related to the future membership/leadership of the RCPWG as it evolves.

The RCPWG may decide to change the composition of the RCPWG to a different structure or to add representation from other organization types once established.

Leadership

The RCPWG will be led by a Chair and Vice Chair. The term of the Chair and Vice Chair will be one year. Until officer elections take place, the RCPWG Managing Consultant (Farallon Strategies) will lead the scheduling of meetings, will set agendas, and facilitate RCPWG meetings. Following elections, these efforts will be closely coordinated with the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will approve work plans and invoices for the consultants and be the final decision maker on any agendas and have the signatory authority on behalf of the RCPWG.

Decision-Making

The RCPWG will make decisions with respect to what grants the RCPWG pursues, subcommittee formation, as well as the future membership, leadership, and dues structure of the RCPWG as it evolves. Decisions will be made by consent, meaning the absence of objections, which supports accelerated decision making.

Dues and Stipends

The RCPWG provides members with access to an established network of regional partners, grant identification and writing assistance, and grant dollars awarded for each grant secured. Each RCPWG member pays dues to be able to participate in voting. Dues will be periodically updated and maintained in an online location and format where all members will have access to the document. The County of Santa Cruz is the fiscal sponsor for RCPWG.

Sub-committees

Sub-committees of the RCPWG will be established to support the mission of the RCPWG with respect to specific focus areas (e.g. building electrification, transportation, etc.). Sub-committees will have the primary focus of identifying, developing, and if awarded, implementing grants. Each subcommittee must have a minimum of three participating RCPWG members, and one member who is willing to serve as a working group liaison.

The Sub-committee Liaison is responsible for creating agendas, facilitating sub-committee meetings, advancing the subcommittee toward its agreed upon purpose, reporting back to the RCPWG (verbally or in writing) on the progress and decisions of the subcommittee. The RCPWG has the ability to initiate or sunset a sub-committee through standard voting procedures.

Meetings

Members of the RCPWG are expected to attend and participate in regular RCPWG meetings. The RCPWG will meet virtually every six weeks for up to two hours. Sub-committee meeting frequency will be determined by Sub-committee Liaisons based on input from subcommittee members. Meetings will be run using a consent model with quorum being 3/5ths of members being present.