

Transformative Climate Communities Program

Data and Transparency Proposal



Summary

The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) proposes a data & transparency component to the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program.

Background

TCC will support some of the state's most disadvantaged communities (DACs), with the goal of fostering catalytic and lasting change in those communities and beyond. The Program funds the development and implementation of place-based, neighborhood greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction projects that target local economic, environmental, and health activities.

A key component of any catalytic program is **TRANSPARENCY**. This not only ensures accountability for state funds, but also makes program impacts broadly visible to the community and stakeholders. CSE believes that presenting such information in an accessible, engaging manner maximizes efficacy.

To ensure transparency, the TCC Program will utilize indicators to:

- ▶ **Track and Monitor** GHG emission reductions and other project related performance metrics
- ▶ **Track and Report** on activities associated with existing California Climate Investment program project types
- ▶ **Record** quantitative and qualitative activities via an Indicator Tracking Plan
- ▶ **Report** indicators associated with each project type for at least 5 years of the grant award -- at minimum -- on an annual basis
- ▶ **Gather** key information on benefits to disadvantaged and low income communities and households
- ▶ **Keep** the public informed of TCC implementation via regular indicator updates and adjustments to meet specific project needs, and optimize program delivery.

Creation of an organized, robust, and dynamic method of gathering the TCC Program's indicators is critical to ensure the success of the effort. The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) will use a Third-Party Evaluator working with grantees to track relevant indicators and establish appropriate reporting intervals. This Third-Party Evaluator will benefit from collaboration with a TCC Data Transparency Administrator, as detailed below.

CSE Data & Transparency Proposal

CSE proposes that the Third-Party Evaluator's activities should be augmented with support from an additional third party explicitly tasked with maximizing the release of publicly-facing data and information. That is, there is the need to leverage an organization to manage, display and communicate program indicators and progress to community stakeholders, policymakers and funders through visually-engaging and easily accessible platforms. CSE proposes to apply its expertise in data visualizations, sustainability and equity issues to serve as the TCC's Data Transparency Administrator, in support of each program's required Indicator Tracking Plan.

About Us

The Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the mission to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world powered by clean energy. Founded in 1996, CSE serves federal, state and local public agencies, as well as utilities, ports, schools, transit agencies, regional energy partnerships and others. CSE's staff of project managers, energy engineers, research and policy analysts and marketing specialists are passionate about and have a wide breadth of experience in meeting ambitious clean energy and climate change goals.

The Vision

CSE envisions the creation of up-to-date, accessible, and highly-valuable information dashboards that will engage stakeholders and inform the TCC Program's decision-making process. A robust supporting database will act as an archive of program success, with the flexibility to react to changing policy environments and operating conditions. The dashboards will provide easily-accessible information and data-visualization for community leaders, decision makers, government agencies, academics, and other key TCC Program stakeholders. This will support strong TCC design and implementation, leading to long-term success for this vital program.

In this role, CSE will provide tools and services in close coordination with SGC's contracted Third-Party Evaluator, including the following:

- ▶ **Collaborate** with TCC project grantees and the SGC to develop a program-wide indicator tracking plan, including standard methodologies for calculating key metrics;
- ▶ **Collect**, clean and aggregate data from each TCC grantee on a quarterly basis, providing quality control to ensure metrics are comparable between projects;
- ▶ **Create** a public-facing, downloadable, online dashboard with engaging data visualizations that bring the indicators to life. Metrics will be presented over time consistent with the TCC Program's long-term strategies, and across geographic regions, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools as appropriate.. Filters will allow the user to interact with the data and identify trends specific to their interests;
- ▶ **Refresh** dashboard data and metrics quarterly to ensure timely access to accurate statistics; and
- ▶ **Conduct** outreach (e.g., press releases, blogs, webinars, social media posts) to highlight TCC program impacts, both within local neighborhoods and program-wide. Outreach will include a focus on community-based channels within TCC project areas and relevant cultural and language outlets.

CSE's experience communicating high quality, meaningful data through online visualizations includes the following dashboards:

- ▶ *The [Equinox Project Quality of Life Dashboard](#) tracks 15 environmental and economic indicators from a variety of data sources to measure how quality of life is improving in the San Diego region. For over 8 years, the dashboard has combined data collection and analysis with regional context and effective community outreach strategies;*
- ▶ *California's Clean Vehicle Rebate Project (CVRP) rebate statistics are displayed in both [interactive charts](#), with options to filter the data by county, political district, disadvantaged community status, and more – and [maps the distribution of California's ZEVs](#). Additional data from voluntary survey respondents is published in the CVRP's [EV Consumer Survey Dashboard](#).*
- ▶ *In Connecticut, [Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate \(CHEAPR\) Program Statistics](#) offers interactive access to data;*
- ▶ *The Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) program, via the [MOR-EV Program Statistics Dashboard](#), displays similar electric vehicle program data for Massachusetts, with the addition of a GHG reduction tracker;*
- ▶ *The [Self-Generation Incentive Program Dashboard](#) displays program statistics with filters for technology type, project status, incentives paid and more.*

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