



Local Government Commission

Leaders for Livable Communities

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



The **Local Government Commission** supports local policymakers through nationally recognized events, affordable technical assistance and policy guidance on climate change, energy, water and healthy community design.

WHO WE ARE

LGC maintains a
member network of:

700+
Innovative Leaders

LGC personnel
includes:

26 Full Time Staff
10 Part Time Staff
67 CivicSpark Fellows

LGC works in four
main program areas:

Healthy Community Design
Climate Change
Energy
Water

IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS

In 2016, the Local Government Commission provided support to 290 local and regional jurisdictions. LGC staff and CivicSpark fellows collectively spent over 81,500 hours of service conducting charrettes, community design workshops, walkability assessments and trainings, as well as providing direct assistance.



HEALTHY, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

LGC's Community Design team is changing how we build communities through direct planning assistance to cities and counties, timely education and information sharing, training and technical support, grant writing and collaboration with state agencies and organizations to hone innovative funding programs for local governments.

LGC worked with communities across the state and nation to increase their walking and bicycling networks, safely connect parks and schools and revitalize corridors including: Colusa County, CA; Fort Worth, TX; Fresno, CA; Holtville, CA; Huntington Park, CA; Kern County, CA; Klamath Falls, OR; Laredo, TX; Merced, CA; National City, CA; Oakdale, CA; Orleans, CA; Redding, CA; Richmond, CA; Sacramento, CA; San Jacinto, CA; San Jose, CA; Santa Clara Valley, CA; Shasta County, CA; and Willits, CA.

Assistance included public workshops, charrettes, walking audits, temporary street transformations and plans (i.e., complete streets plans, active transportation plans, safe routes to school plans and Bicycle Master Plans).

LGC also helped disadvantaged communities in San Diego, Sacramento, the Southern California Association of Governments and the San Francisco Bay develop AHSC grant applications for transit-oriented development, affordable housing and sustainable transportation projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of a technical assistance team under the Strategic Growth Council (SGC).

CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

During the 2015-16, service year, the CivicSpark program implemented 43 projects, provided capacity-building support to 98 local entities around the state. Since January, fellows in CivicSpark's second cohort provided nearly 60,000 direct service hours to California's communities, supporting a wide range of climate actions from regional resiliency to sustainable transportation to climate action and adaptation plan development and implementation. In addition to recruiting 560 volunteers and engaging over 3,000 community members, the 2015-16 fellows succeeded in a range of climate actions including:

- **26** community workshops organized;
- **48** energy benchmarking or opportunity assessments completed;
- **7** inventories completed;
- **3** vulnerability assessments completed;
- **2** climate or energy action plans written;
- **36** million gallons per year saved through leak detections; and
- **5** Recycling programs implemented.

For the 2016-17 service year CivicSpark has grown to 67 fellows, and now features two program tracks: the CivicSpark Climate Action Fellowship (CivicSpark: Climate), and the CivicSpark Water Action Fellowship (CivicSpark: Water) who will conduct research, planning, or implementation projects focusing on statewide priorities at the nexus of water resources and land use



Stockton Cycle Track

planning, such as groundwater sustainability, flood mitigation, water supply and demand challenges, and watershed health. The 2016-17 CivicSpark Fellows are implementing 43 climate action projects and 20 water action projects this service year. LGC has a planning grant to explore expanding its National Service footprint to include a “Common Ground Service Corps” concept that will focus on large-scale renewable energy and affordable housing siting assistance throughout California which, if chosen, would launch in Fall of 2018.

ADVANCED ENERGY COMMUNITIES

In May, LGC was awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the CEC to launch a planning process to develop an energy opportunity zone in Fresno. This two-year project will bring together experts and community partners to develop a set of tools to evaluate policy, financing, and technology options that can contribute to a dramatic

increase in renewable, distributed, and energy efficiency projects in the Blackstone Corridor and Downtown areas of Fresno. This project will develop a master community plan for Fresno that can be implemented through Phase 2 funding, while also sharing the tools developed with other communities in California.

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

WATER STRONG SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Our \$2.5 million WE CAN – San Joaquin Valley program officially launched in May with Landscape Upgrade Rebates, job trainings and technical assistance, and community engagement around water-efficient landscaping. We have received 10 rebate applicants to date (six of which have completed their projects) for a savings of 325,851 gallons of water and 220 lbs. GHG over the next 20 years. <http://www.wecan.lgc.org/>

DROUGHT RESPONSE TRAINING

Through our \$130,000 job-training contract with the state Employment Training Panel, LGC held 10 training workshops on topics including water conservation and regulatory compliance, for 163 individuals from 39 local governments and 24 other affiliations in the Central Coast, Sacramento Valley, Sierra Foothills, and San Joaquin Valley.

WESTSIDE SACRAMENTO IRWMP

LGC is conducting outreach efforts on the Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)’s “Brownfields” project – to bring resources to community-members impacted by legacy mining, and to help local governments in the watershed - including Solano, Lake, Colusa, Napa, and Yolo Counties - to plan for restoring watersheds and redeveloping contaminated sites.

CONNECTING LEADERS

In 2016, LGC reached more than 4,000 livable community and sustainability leaders and practitioners through our national conference, our statewide forums, design workshops and networking events.



In 2016, LGC connected livable community practitioners with other leaders and a range of resources.

- Over **7,800** people receiving LGC newsletters
- Over **550** Infinite Earth Podcast subscribers and over **54,900** podcast downloads
- Over **3,400** livable community leaders and practitioners connected through in-person events
- Over **1,000** tweets and reposts; over **600** Facebook likes; over **700** Twitter followers; and over **158,300** website hits

NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 11-13, 2016 — PORTLAND, OR

Highlights Include over 1,200 smart-growth leaders from across the nation came together for LGC's 16th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference. The conference included 4 plenaries, 85 breakout sessions, 15 tours, 10 networking activities, 5 indoor interactive parklets, a tech fair, and over 150 diversity scholarship recipients.

CALIFORNIA ADAPTATION FORUM

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2016, — LONG BEACH, CA

Over 500 climate-change adaptation leaders from across California, joined by leaders from throughout the nation and other countries, came together for the 2nd California Adaptation Forum. The Forum which included 3 plenaries, almost 40

breakout sessions, 15 networking and art activities, an all day tools salon with 20 adaptation tools, and 7 pre-forum workshops and tours, served as a gathering place for leaders across the state to share information, identify new resources, and develop a statewide network of adaptation practitioners.

If you had to choose one meeting a year to attend, this would be the one, believe me. Year after year it just seems to improve in quality.

– New Partners 2016 Conference Attendee



LGC Staff at the 2016 New Partners Conference

STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY COLLABORATIVE (SEEC)

JUNE 15-16, 2016 — RIVERSIDE, CA

LGC hosted the 7th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum in Riverside, CA. The forum had a record-breaking 295 participants, making this year's forum the best attended forum to date. An Elected Official Dinner Forum held in conjunction with the forum was attended by more than two-dozen regional elected officials.

YOSEMITE POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

MARCH 10-13, 2016 — YOSEMITE NATL. PARK

Eighty-five attendees from around the State met in Yosemite this year for the 25th anniversary of the conference. The program focused on a new era of sustainable community solutions for private-sector style strategies for public-benefit projects. The program's 11 sessions focused on the role of entrepreneurs in meeting evolving housing, water, travel, and mobility needs, and how local governments can do more to respond to market needs and work with the private sector to optimize community benefits.

THE ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

The Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA), a coalition of the LGC, brings leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience. The ARCCA network provided comments on a number of state documents, tracked adaptation-related bills, held in-person meetings and produced resources, including a white paper on rural-urban connections and webinars on a number of timely adaptation topics.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COALITION

The Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (an LGC coalition of 13 Cites, 8 counties, 9 regional agencies, 3 special districts and 5 affiliate members) continued to build momentum in 2016. In August, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) granted the LGSEC the opportunity to propose a framework for statewide administration of \$154 million Local Government Program Area energy efficiency funding from the CPUC. LGSEC's Business Plan, due out in January 2017, addresses numerous programmatic and administrative barriers in current energy efficiency funding administration. LGSEC also conducted quarterly meetings on forums on topics including, Zero Net Energy and Community Choice Energy.

INFINITE EARTH PODCAST

LGC continues its partnership with Skeo to offer the Infinite Earth Podcast. We are working on expanding our partnership to offer the Infinite Earth Lab — a state-of-the-art training and networking platform for local sustainability and equity leaders — with multiple content modules added covering sustainability, resiliency and equity. <https://www.newpartners.org/infinite-earth-lab/>



ADVANCING POLICY

LGC provided 22 comment or support letters on legislation, testified before the Assembly Local Government committee, participated in 24 presentations, panels and interviews, engaged 86 agencies in policy-related actions, and facilitated 7 policy workshops. Policy resources developed include 2 policy guidebooks and 12 policy fact sheets.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

LGC has supported two bills (AB 2406 and AB 1069) related to increasing housing supply and affordability by making it easier and more affordable to do Accessory Dwelling Units.

CLIMATE CHANGE

LGC was actively engaged in several successful policy actions in the climate space this past year including, passage of SB 32 to extend the AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 2722, the “Transformative Climate Communities Bill” which will provide dedicated funding to “neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans” and steps AB 2800 which establish guidelines for resiliency engineering. LGC also serves on the Adaptation Technical Advisory Committee for Implementation of Executive Order B-30-15.

ENERGY

LGC worked with PACE program providers, including authoring a Sacramento Bee opinion piece (<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article82726927.html>) to modify AB2693 to protect consumer interests without crippling PACE funding.

WATER

LGC provided comment letters and expert commentary on multiple policy initiatives, including Groundwater Sustainability Regulations, General Plan Guidelines, Safeguarding California, Plan Bay Area 2.0, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Emergency Regulations, SGMA Best Management Practices, Strategic Growth Council’s “Vibrant Communities and Landscapes: a Vision for California in 2050” report, and Statewide Water Efficiency Framework (EO B-37-16, Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life). LGC also created a fact sheet for local elected officials and municipal staff on implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).



CivicSpark Fellow, Savannah Speerstra, presenting to the SLOAPCS