SANTA CLARA
Climate
Resilience
Fund

Unlocking Funds for Collective and Community-Centered Climate Action

The Climate Challenge

Santa Clara County Will Not Escape the Climate Crisis

Despite its status as the global capital of innovation, Santa Clara County is already experiencing extreme weather events, frequent and disastrous wildfires, extended droughts, and rising sea levels. In 2024 alone, 38 deaths in Santa Clara County were attributed to extreme heat. Looking ahead, more frequent "100-year" flooding events alone could impose staggering costs:

$33 billion in infrastructure damage

$119 billion in lost tax revenue due to declining property values

$15 billion in economic disruption

Equity Gap

Efforts to address climate impacts are often uncoordinated, underfunded, and inequitable. Disadvantaged and frontline communities face the worst of heat waves, air pollution, flooding, and water scarcity without the resources to respond. In Santa Clara County, 42% of the total population exposed to extreme heat conditions has moderate to high social vulnerability.

Sustainable Financing Gap

Sustainable financing is essential to building climate resilience. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission estimates $8 billion will be needed in Santa Clara County by 2050 to protect shorelines from sea-level rise and flooding. Just over $5 billion is currently available through existing federal, state, regional, and local programs—leaving a $3 billion funding gap.

A Regional Solution

Climate action requires strong, interconnected networks and funding that is locally led and rooted in community priorities.

Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative (SC4)

The County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability established the SC4 to **serve as a regional hub advancing coordinated, culturally responsive, and equitable climate solutions.** The County's first Climate Collaborative includes over 90 government and civil society partners and is supported by Coastal Quest, Farallon Strategies, and Climate Resilient Communities. To address the gap in climate resilience funding and implementation, the SC4 identified the need for a non-government-led financing and capacity-building mechanism, leading to the launch of the Santa Clara Climate Resilience Fund (Resilience Fund).

The Santa Clara Climate Resilience Fund catalyzes community-centered climate action. Through flexible grantmaking and hands-on technical support, the Resilience Fund activates climate solutions that mitigate flooding, improve air quality, reduce extreme heat, achieve net-zero emissions, and empower disadvantaged and frontline communities.

The Resilience Fund seeks forward-looking partners to invest in and scale high-impact climate resilience projects across Santa Clara County.

How Investments Are Used

Catalytic Funding for Priority Projects

The Resilience Fund provides seed and match grant funding to advance priority climate resilience projects and unlock additional funding opportunities, with a goal of mobilizing $1.5 million by 2028.

Technical Assistance & Capacity Building

The Resilience Fund equips community-led initiatives with hands-on technical support and capacity building to strengthen project readiness, improve competitiveness and pursue public funding opportunities, with a goal of helping projects to pursue $40 million in total public funding by 2028. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Project development
- Grant and sponsorship matchmaking
- Grant writing and budget assistance
- Cross-sector partnership building

Long-term Sustainable Financing

Through targeted support and coordinated investment, the Resilience Fund builds public and political momentum to secure sustained financing. This enables the Resilience Fund to leverage catalytic dollars into larger, long-term investments that fund resilience initiatives across local jurisdictions, community-based organizations, and at-risk communities.

Outcomes

With sustained investment, the Resilience Fund will help Santa Clara County achieve:

60,000 **residents protected in vulnerable communities**
From extreme weather, e.g., through resilience hubs and cooling / heating centers[1]

1,600 **homes safeguarded**
From flooding and sea-level rise through natural, hard, and green-grey infrastructure solutions[2]

$1.6B **avoided in economic disruption[3]**

100% **transition to renewable energy**
by 2045 to help accelerate and achieve regional net-zero emissions goals[4]

By partnering with the Resilience Fund, your organization can:

- Co-create a scalable regional model for climate resilience funding
- Catalyze high-impact climate solutions
- Protect communities and sustain long-term economic vitality
- Leverage private capital to unlock public funding
- Champion local climate resilience as a regional business leader

Santa Clara County has a long history of innovation and leading complex solutions. Join us in turning climate risk into an opportunity to elevate our region as a national leader.

BECOME A PARTNER

Your Investment Builds Climate Resilience—Now and for the Future

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The Resilience Fund's fiscal agent, Coastal Quest (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit), staffs the Resilience Fund.

The Resilience Fund Team: The Resilience Fund is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The Fund Advisory Committee (FAC), a multi-sector body of regional leaders, co-designed a Strategic Business Plan (2025) for the Fund. The FAC will oversee implementation of the plan, guide funding acquisition and grant-making processes, provide technical assistance, and manage the Fund's operations.

[1] Coastal Risk Finder [2] Coastal Risk Finder [3] SiliconValley2.0_Sea-Level-Rise_Factsheet.pdf [4] Data Dashboard | SCC Sustainability Plan