



Watts Rising

Transformative Climate Communities



WATTS TODAY

Watts is a predominantly African-American and Latino community located south of downtown Los Angeles. The neighborhood is surrounded by numerous sources of intense air pollution as it sits under the inbound flight path for the Los Angeles International Airport, adjacent to the primary truck and rail routes to the Port of Los Angeles, and between the congested 105 and 110 freeways. Historic and current heavy industrial activity has also led to elevated levels of air, water and soil pollution in the community. The social and economic impacts of racial discrimination continue to be felt in Watts, as the community grapples with high rates of poverty, asthma, low infant birth weights, childhood obesity, and community concerns around safety and violence. TCC provides an historic opportunity to address these challenges holistically by investing in the local community's vision for Watts.



The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program funds community-led development and infrastructure projects that achieve major environmental, health and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities. Funded by California's Cap-and-Trade Program, TCC empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies and projects to enact transformational change – all with data-driven milestones and measurable outcomes. In its first year, and through a competitive process, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) awarded grants to the City of Fresno, the Watts Neighborhood of Los Angeles and the City of Ontario. \$35 million was awarded for community-led transformation of Watts.

WATTS RISING

The “Watts Rising” plan for neighborhood transformation through the TCC program builds upon a decade of community leadership and planning, including more than 200 community engagement activities and outreach to over 5,000 individuals. After learning about the TCC program, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles hosted six public workshops that were attended by over 400 community members, including Watts residents, local government and elected officials, medical providers, educators, environmental and business leaders, community group representatives, and religious leaders.

During the workshops, these diverse stakeholders set goals and selected strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health and provide economic benefits to the community. Participants then voted to select priority projects and worked collaboratively to define the details of the Watts Rising plan. The Housing Authority presented the final proposed plan at numerous stakeholder meetings and at four public housing sites to gather additional input before submitting its winning application.

“Even though the need is great in Watts, we have never had significant investment in our community. We are finally getting a chance to make our community all that it can be after being overlooked for so long. Watts is worth it and Watts is rising!”

-PERRY CROUCH, WATTS GANG TASK FORCE BOARD MEMBER

216 
NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES

4,000  NEW TREES
MORE THAN

TCC WATTS COMPONENTS

- » 216 new affordable homes
- » 10 new battery-electric buses
- » Vanpool and car-sharing programs with electric vehicles
- » Over 4,000 new trees
- » Solar panel installations on 300 homes
- » Energy efficiency improvements for 150 homes
- » 50 new mini-farms
- » New cooling surfaces for 4 schoolyards
- » 5 miles of new bike paths
- » 30+ blocks of streetscape, pedestrian improvements and urban trails
- » Over 300 construction and permanent jobs created
- » Over 500 new training opportunities

BY THE NUMBERS

- » Project area: 2.6 square miles
- » Partners: 17
- » Emission reductions: 69,041 tonnes of CO₂e
- » TCC grant: \$35 million
- » Leveraged funds: \$168.9 million