



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN LOMELI



# Transform Fresno

## Transformative Climate Communities

### FRESNO TODAY

The City of Fresno has long struggled with environmental, health and economic disparities. Since the mid-twentieth century, suburban sprawl has consumed more than 100 square miles in the city, including some of the state's most valuable and productive agricultural land. This has led to an economically-distressed urban core and historic neighborhoods, such as Southwest Fresno and Chinatown, that contain some of the highest concentrations of poverty in the nation. These communities also experience some of the highest levels of air pollution and lack access to parks and healthy food in their neighborhoods. Through the TCC process, stakeholders from Southwest, Chinatown and Downtown Fresno collaborated to create a proposal that would directly address these community needs.



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. \$66.5 million was awarded for community-led transformation of Fresno.

## TRANSFORM FRESNO

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Local Fresno leaders formed the Transformative Climate Communities Collaborative to identify a plan for economic and environmental transformation of Southwest, Chinatown and Downtown Fresno. A Community Steering Committee, comprised of over 160 residents and local business owners, participated in a series of community meetings that put the decision-making power in their hands. During these meetings, participants were encouraged to propose projects. Sixty-two projects were proposed in total, of which 37 were deemed eligible for funding consideration. Eligible projects were then gathered into five packages that were presented to the Community Steering Committee. At the final Community Steering Committee meeting, a total of 126 Committee members voted to select the projects they wanted to see come to fruition in their community. They overwhelmingly chose the package designed by residents of Southwest Fresno – one of the state’s most “disadvantaged” neighborhoods.

*“The SGC truly listened to the concerns of the residents by writing policy guidelines that addressed the history of racial inequities and environmental injustice that has plagued Southwest Fresno. I believe that the transformation of Southwest Fresno will be a success and will improve the lives of current residents.”*

—IVANKA SAUNDERS, RESIDENT OF SOUTHWEST FRESNO



ON OVER   
**200 HOMES**  
INSTALL SOLAR SYSTEMS

## TCC FRESNO COMPONENTS

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- » 56 affordable homes
- » Install solar systems on over 200 homes
- » Provide energy efficiency improvements for 200 households
- » Over 2,500 new trees
- » Construct 17 acres of parks and community gardens
- » Increase frequency of local electric bus system
- » Create new electric vehicle- and bicycle-sharing programs
- » New West Fresno City College Satellite Site

## BY THE NUMBERS

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- » Project area: 4.9 square miles
- » Partners: 13
- » Emissions reductions: 28,400 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- » TCC grant: \$66.5 million
- » Leveraged funds: \$85.5 million