



Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors: East Oakland

Transformative Climate Communities



OAKLAND TODAY

East Oakland is a culturally vibrant neighborhood that has long advocated for clean and green infrastructure. The region is a major industry hub with various pollution sources including the I-880 freeway and Port of Oakland. After World War II, workers migrated to Oakland in hopes of finding work at the shipyards - many of which were Black residents who faced redlining and difficulty securing homes. As a result, residents face disproportionately high community health risks (high asthma rates), limited opportunities for outdoor activity, and climate vulnerabilities such as the urban heat island effect and inland flooding.

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) funds community-led development and infrastructure projects that achieve major environmental, health and economic benefits in California's most disadvantaged communities. 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. California Strategic Growth Council awards TCC grants and partners with California Department of Conservation to implement them. TCC is part of California Climate Investments – cap-and-trade dollars at work.



The TCC project will address these challenges by investing in the community's vision for an environmentally, economically, and culturally vibrant neighborhood - through a collaboration between the City of Oakland and community partners that will also mitigate the impacts of historical systemic oppression.

BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS, SAME NEIGHBORS

Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors builds on decades of activism and a year-long, community-led planning process that formed a partnership between the East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative (EONI) and the City of Oakland.

Through a 2018 TCC Planning Grant, the EONI Community Plan presented a vision for managed neighborhood change without displacement through identified content areas. Partners turned the plan into a suite of TCC implementation projects, which will generate affordable housing, community health services, extensive greening; a new urban farm and living wage jobs; and a neighborhood bike share and youth education project that blends active transportation, art, and skills development. The projects will also increase connectivity to the MLK Shoreline Park and the Planting Justice Nursery, providing more community access to green spaces and healthy food options. Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors also invests in community leadership to lead career navigation services, targeted outreach, and displacement avoidance programs.

“[The project] empowers our community to use their strengths and talents to progress our neighborhoods block by block.”

—LAILAH TAYLOR, EAST OAKLAND RESIDENT

TCC OAKLAND COMPONENTS

- » **Affordable Housing & Health:** 55 units (25% designated for houseless populations) and a new community health clinic on the ground floor
- » **Urban Greening:** 2,000 residential and street trees, mostly locally sourced
- » **Active Transportation:** Youth bike share program with 500 new bicycles, a public bike shed, and bike safety and repair classes
- » **Health & Well-Being:** Trail education and park amenities along the 1.2-mile multi-modal San Leandro Creek Urban Greenway
- » **Urban Agriculture & Food Hub:** New aquaponics farm and food hub that will produce over 100,000 lbs. of organic produce and create 27 living-wage jobs
- » **Workforce Development:** Career navigation program to refer 1,400 residents to construction, clean transportation, health, and environmental job training and placements
- » **Displacement Avoidance:** Resident canvassing, Housing and Legal Cafes, accessory dwelling unit construction workshops, and a new Small Business Merchant's Association
- » **Community Engagement:** Steering Committee with strong resident, business, and stakeholder representation and paid Community Builders to lead inclusive outreach

BY THE NUMBERS

- » **Project area:** 4.96 square miles
- » **Partners:** Eight partners, Related CA/ACTS Community Development, Higher Ground / Scraper Bike Team, Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation, East Bay Regional Parks District, Planting Justice, Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation (BCZ CDC), East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative (EB PREC), University of San Francisco, School of Management
- » **Emissions reductions:** 8,166 tonnes of CO₂e
- » **TCC grant:** \$28.2 million
- » **Leveraged funds:** \$34.2 million