

August 31, 2022

Subject: SGC Catalyst Conference
Reporting Period: June 2022 – August 2022
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Summary

Announced during the June Council Meeting, SGC will host an inaugural Catalyst Conference in Sacramento from February 1-2, 2023. With historic state and federal funding quickly becoming available, much of which is prioritizing community and health and racial equity, SGC is excited to convene this critical conversation and catalyze policy to action together with federal, state, and local government, community leaders and organizations, and private partners.

Hosted in partnership with the Milken Institute, the conference will draw on SGC's experience to highlight best practices and tested models to catalyze equitable climate investment in California and beyond. The result of the Summit should be a strong foundation upon which to implement best practices and models at scale across the state and beyond, leading ultimately to a new generation of climate equity leaders, institutions, and standards.

Background

California leads the nation in addressing climate change challenges through policy innovation and legislation. However, across the state, there remains a shortage of climate-focused and equitable shovel-worthy projects ready for public and private funding. At the same time, historic public infrastructure investment is becoming available at the federal and state level, with much of it slated for communities disproportionately burdened by pollution and disinvestment.

Over the past decade, SGC and its programs have evolved through a continual process of experimentation, reflection, and refinement. Through this approach, SGC has been at the forefront of program ideation and by being highly responsive to the needs of the communities in which SGC programs operate. SGC and its programs have now reached a point of maturity where through idea incubation, the lessons learned through our experience with interagency coordination, community engagement, and climate equity can be shared and taken to a broader scale for the benefit of communities nationwide.

At the conference, approximately 200 participants from government, non-profit, academia, and the private sector will work to bridge the gap between government policy and action on the ground. Conference participants will look to answer questions such as the following:

- How do we use current momentum to build a policy environment that enables the communities most impacted by climate change to lead and sustain the response to the challenges they face?
- How do we build a pipeline of equitable climate projects that are eligible for available public funding?

- How do we leverage available public funding to catalyze action that also brings private funders to the table?

On August 4, 2022, SGC convened the first conference Steering Committee meeting. The Steering Committee is comprised of 12 members representing non-profits, local and regional governments, academia, and philanthropic organizations across the state. The Steering Committee discussed high-level themes and objectives for the conference, potential workshop and panel topics, and strategies for audience engagement and participation. Future Steering Committee meetings will focus on conference content, including SGC's model toolkits, as well as strategies for targeted outreach and potential synergies with the Governor's January Budget and SGC's ongoing strategic planning efforts.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some key issues and topics you would like to see addressed at the conference?
2. What tangible outcomes would you like to see resulting from the conference?
3. What emerging policy issues or trends in your field would you like to see discussed?