



Participatory Research to Policy Model

Climate Change Research Program



BACKGROUND

The Strategic Growth Council's (SGC's) Climate Change Research Program funds research focused on reducing carbon emissions, including clean energy, adaptation, and resiliency. The Program has allocated and distributed almost \$34 million dollars over three rounds of funding, supporting 20 research projects that fill gaps in knowledge and advance the State's climate change policies while directly benefiting disadvantaged communities.

The Climate Change Research Program requires that research teams partner with community experts to ground-truth all funded research. Community experts advise the research teams, and the research teams provide community experts with technical assistance and capacity building to advance community priorities. The Program is unique in its approach to State-sponsored research, and SGC has distilled the Participatory Research to Policy Model from its success.

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH TO POLICY MODEL

SGC's Participatory Research to Policy Model is a framework for community-based participatory research that informs policy; we hope that other State funders of climate change research will adopt this Model. It overhauls the canonical scientific method to enhance the co-production of knowledge, giving communities ownership of the knowledge so they can better advocate for themselves. In this Model, partnerships between the community, research institutions, and the State build capacity, accountability, and coordination by incorporating Equitable Partnership, Meaningful Engagement, and Advancing Community Solutions.

EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP

In an Equitable Partnership, all parties involved in the project must give equal weight to each partner's perspective, even if work is not divided equally. These relationships should mend past inequities and benefit community partners. Each contributor will provide insight aligned with their training, experience, and knowledge. All partners, including community experts, are compensated.

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

Requiring a seismic shift in thinking, Meaningful Engagement aligns a project with community priorities and occurs throughout the research process. Researchers listen, document, and make changes in response to community members' feedback throughout the research process, making community priorities a deciding factor in the direction of the project. This ground-truths researchers' assumptions and aligns a project with community priorities in a way that is not extractive or performative.



ADVANCING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Advancing Community Solutions means researchers not only publish peer-reviewed articles but also help make major change in their partner communities. Researchers create accessible data sets, tools, and pilots that communities can use to advocate for the policies that advance their priorities and that policymakers can refer to when making laws and allocating funding.

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