

# South Los Angeles Eco-Lab

Transformative Climate Communities



## South LA 2025 Update

The California Environmental Protection Agency has identified South Los Angeles as one of the most polluted areas in the state. South Los Angeles has a long and damaging legacy of contaminated land and air pollution, largely due to freeways and industrial pollution impacting residential neighborhoods. Today, South Los Angeles has disproportionately high occurrences of asthma, diabetes, obesity and heart disease, all of which can be linked to unhealthy environmental factors. This highly vulnerable community faces increased adverse effects from intensified impacts of climate change. High rates of pollution and limited community assets that mitigate pollution and promote health and well-being have unjustly burdened South Los Angeles.



SAJE's role in South LA Eco-Lab is to ensure the economic development and environmental benefits the project brings to the area do not inadvertently cause gentrification. "New development and community can coexist, and that comes at the forefront of SAJE empowering the community," says Outreach Specialist Karen Ramirez, who is helping lead the Displacement Avoidance Project for SAJE.



Learn more about  
South LA Eco-Lab.



The area has a population of 85,095 with 81% identifying as Latinx, 17% African American, and 2% White or other. Sixty percent of the population lives below the poverty level with the per capita income at \$14,470, and the unemployment rate is 33%. In 2024, 44% of the population reported experiencing severe housing cost burdens, and 18% reported using active modes of transportation (walking, wheeling and taking transit) to commute to/from work.

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. The California Strategic Growth Council awards TCC grants and partners with the California Department of Conservation to implement them. While TCC Rounds 1-3 were a part of California Climate Investments, which put cap-and-invest dollars at work, Rounds 4 and 5 awards come from the state's General Fund.

## TCC South LA Components

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### Active Transportation

Implement seven hardscape improvements, 10 crosswalk upgrades, 10 street tree installations, 10 new pieces of street furniture, 140 linear feet of new sidewalk, 1 mile of bike-friendly street treatments, 25 new bike boxes, 50 new speed humps.



### Transit and Rail Access

Distribute 125,055 passes to K-12 students, low-income residents, and senior and disabled residents.



### Car Sharing and Mobility Enhancement

Add 16 new publicly accessible EV car charging stations, 8 L2 EV charging stations and 24 new electric vehicles expand LADOT e-bike library.



### Solar Installation and Energy Efficiency

Install 448 kilowatts of solar photovoltaic systems on 140 single-family homes, cool pavement on 15 lane miles of local streets, 84 cool roofs.



### Urban Greening and Green Infrastructure

Plant 4,000 trees; create edible schoolyard and outdoor classroom.



### Community Engagement

Conduct six canvassing programs, three community forums, eight pop-ups and one annual event, reaching 65,000 residents in project area.



### Workforce Development

Provide certifications to 100 individuals.



### Displacement Avoidance

Hold quarterly tenant rights workshops; create new small business database; lead various education efforts on anti-displacement policies.

## By the numbers

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TCC GRANT

**\$35 million**



LEVERAGED FUNDS

**\$24.8 million**



PROJECT AREA

**5 square miles**



ANTICIPATED EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS

**31,954 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e**

## Partners

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16 partners: Community Partners, LA Mayor's Office, TRUST South LA, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, CicLAvia, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, Coalition for Responsible Community Development, Streets LA, LA Department of Transportation, LA Metro, GRID Alternatives, Tree People, LA Neighborhood Land Trust, LA Cleantech Incubator, Climate Resolve, People for Mobility Justice.