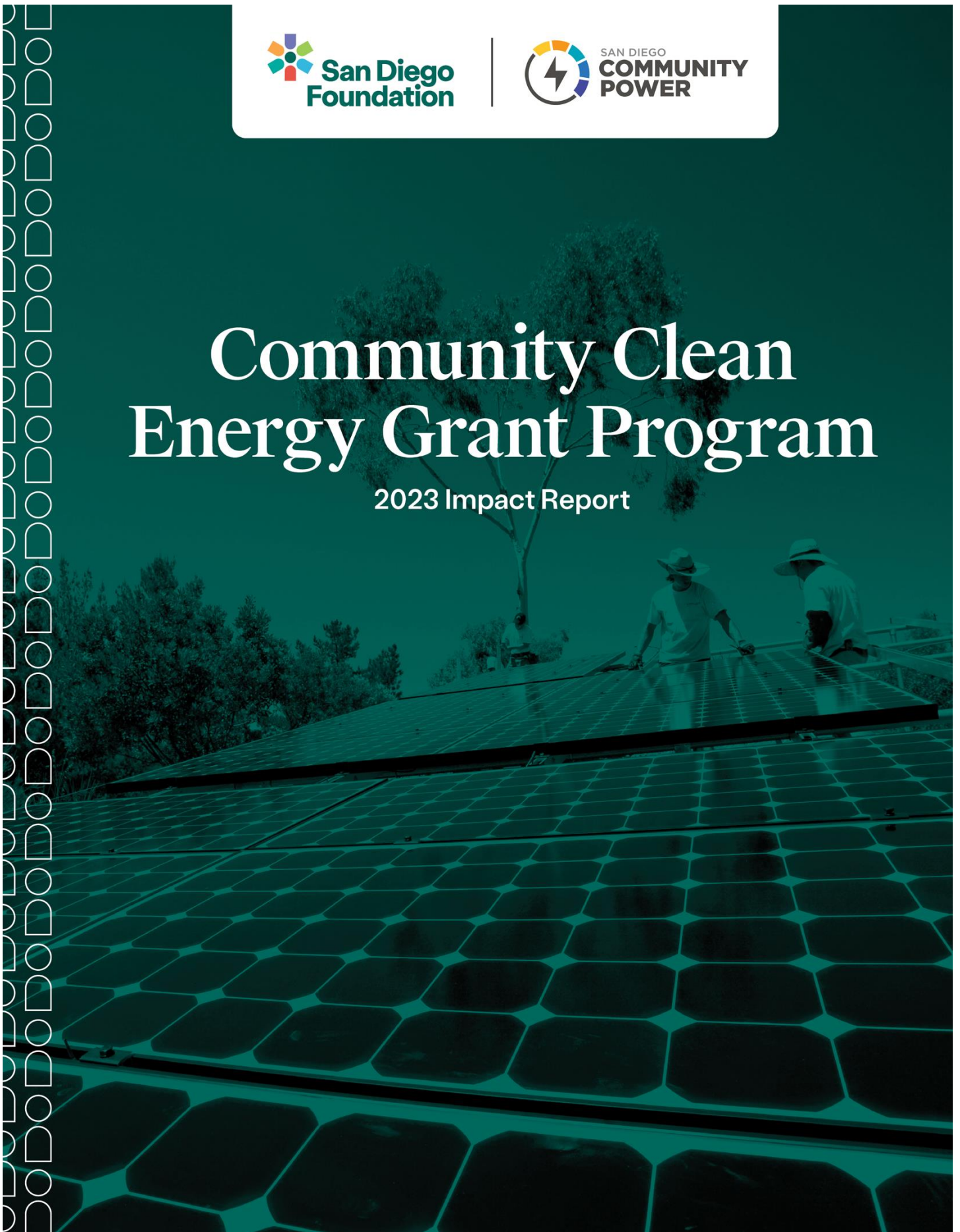




Community Clean Energy Grant Program

2023 Impact Report



San Diego Foundation (SDF) and San Diego Community Power (Community Power) share a vision of a just, equitable and resilient San Diego. The Community Clean Energy Grant Program (formerly the Community Clean Energy Innovation Grant Program) creates a collaborative pathway for Community Power to reinvest funds back into the San Diego region to advance a just transition toward a greener economy. By providing grants to community-based organizations and nonprofits, Community Power is helping to support local clean energy projects and programs that provide economic, environmental, health and community benefits.

SDF and Community Power launched the Community Clean Energy Grant Program in March 2023. The design of this grant program was informed by the community needs assessment Community Power conducted for its [Community Power Plan](#), a five-year strategic plan guiding customer energy programs. Community Power heard from nearly 3,500 community members between May and November 2022 through listening sessions, workshops, pop-up events in harder-to-reach communities, and a customer-wide survey. The community needs assessment findings were critical in developing the grant focus areas to ensure that grant funds meet the needs, goals and priorities of the communities Community Power serves. For details on grantmaking criteria and process – see appendix A.

Grant Program Highlights

In partnership with Community Power, SDF awarded \$389,998 during the inaugural grant cycle in 2023 to new and existing projects that move communities toward a healthier, more sustainable, clean energy future. Together, SDF and Community Power made 10 grants to nonprofits serving Communities of Concern¹ within Community Power service areas, and:

- Increased overall energy literacy and education by engaging **5,384 community members** through workshops and community events covering topics such as electric vehicles, energy-efficient appliances, environmental justice and solar installation.
- Improved awareness about energy savings for **1,732 households** in Communities of Concern and affordable housing communities.
- Supported green job and internship opportunities for **15 workforce development trainees**.
- Enabled **\$175,355** of additional resources to be leveraged.

Community Power awarded grants to:

- **MAAC Project** – \$45,000
- **United Women of East Africa** – \$45,000
- **La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation** – \$34,500
- **Community Housing Works** (on behalf of Flick) – \$34,500
- **Climate Action Campaign** – \$30,500
- **Environmental Health Coalition** – \$40,500
- **Hammond Climate Solutions Foundation** – \$25,000
- **San Diego Green Building Council** – \$45,000

In support of clean energy and green workforce development programs, SDF awarded the following grants:

- **Casa Familiar** – \$44,998.35
- **GRID Alternatives** – \$45,000

¹Full definition in Appendix

Grantee Accomplishments

Funded clean energy projects and programs showcase a broad range of outcomes that provide both community and environmental benefits as outlined below.

Community Power-Funded Organizations

MAAC Project

Project Name: Electric Vehicle Access Program

The Electric Vehicle Access Program reduces carbon emissions and increases renewable energy usage in low-income and pollution-burdened communities through an increase in the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). The program also serves to demonstrate the cost-savings and environmental value of EVs to Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) community members, provide opportunities for LMI families to establish or repair credit, demonstrate the value of EV charging station installations in LMI communities to elected officials and decision-makers and create a scalable, sustainable, replicable program delivery model for other low-income and pollution-burdened communities.



Figure 1 MAAC Team Tabling at Community Event

Project Outcomes

- Increased energy literacy through 13 outreach workshops.
- Attended 17 community events in Community Power service areas, reaching a total of 1,661 households.
- Engaged a total of 2,875 individuals through a combination of MAAC Project's outreach workshops and community events.
- Developed the framework for providing down payment assistance through mini grants.
- Provided application assistance to 43 community members.
- Awarded 15 mini grants with all awards claimed to date.

"One of the major barriers to transitioning to electric vehicles is affordability. One success story included a participant who was looking to transition to clean transportation when her gas-powered vehicle lease was up. She wanted to purchase a battery-electric vehicle, but her budget was tight. With the help of a mini grant, the participant was able to stick to her budget while purchasing the electric vehicle. She not only received a grant for \$1,000 but we also helped her gain access to special financing, allowing her to save \$40 per month in monthly payments." – MAAC Project, Electric Vehicle Access Program

United Women of East Africa

Project Name: Clean Energy Program

The Clean Energy Program is a six-week sustainable energy education and outreach program designed to promote sustainable energy behaviors and reduce energy consumption and costs in low-income households. Through this program, United Women of East Africa educates community members on sustainable living practices, such as energy-efficient appliances, renewable energy and waste reduction.

Project Outcomes

- Served 72 participants through workshops.
- Created a space for individuals in the community to learn and expand their understanding of sustainable energy.
- Educational workshops, group discussion and resource distribution resulted in participants reporting:
 - Increased knowledge of energy literacy and climate change.
 - Improved understanding of the impacts of climate change and the importance of mitigation and adaptation strategies that promote community resilience.
 - A strong willingness to take action toward sustainability in their communities.



Figure 2 UWEAST Team Facilitating Community Workshop

"I've learned how much fossil fuels and energy we use on a daily basis and how it's affecting our communities and the climate." –Dahabo

"The climate change workshops stirred in me a drive to want to do my part in helping the environment. I often doubt how one person's change can make a difference, but the workshops presented how minor tweaks to our lifestyle choices can make a great impact on our environment. The workshops taught me things I've never even thought about or considered before through a collaborative community conversation, which made it even more meaningful." –Bieza

"I felt that these sessions I attended were very educational, and with the information I learned, I feel that I can allow myself to be a better caretaker of the planet and understand how I can reduce my carbon footprint. We only live on this Earth once, and I should take care of it while I am here."
–Workshop participant

La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation

Project Name: Electric Tool Lending Library and Green Community Events

The Electric Gardening Tool Lending Library was originally designed to provide La Mesa residents an opportunity to access and utilize fully electric landscaping and gardening tools for community garden and home needs. The Green Community Events saw the purchase and upgrading of event equipment to more sustainable options, such as mobile electric-powered generators and improved bicycle infrastructure to reduce the environmental footprint of the space.

Project Outcomes

Electric Tool Lending Library

After overcoming liability challenges and revisiting the scoped use of the electric landscaping and gardening tools, the Lending Library was repurposed from lending tools to residents to providing City of La Mesa staff with the fully electric equipment to use in La Mesa's parks to promote electric tools to the community.

- Purchased five sets of landscape tools, including hedge trimmers, edgers, blowers and trimmers.
- Purchased batteries and chargers to support tools at various locations, which helps to promote use of electric tools throughout the City of La Mesa.
- Purchased and installed supplies for the Community Garden Clubhouse to house and maintain the new equipment.

Green Community Events

- Purchased one electric generator with solar panels and used at various community events.
- Facilitated five workshops, including information at the Earth Day Fair, Park Appreciation Day, concerts and other tabling events, to educate the public on electric tools and their benefits.
- Educated more than 500 residents through workshops and tabling events.



Figure 3 La Mesa Tool Training Event Flyer

"The electric tools not only cut down on fuel but are lighter and quieter... All the staff are excited to be able to use the electric tools. As we replace equipment, **we will replace with electric tools.**" –La Mesa Parks Staff

"I can do this! I was afraid of the gas-powered tools, but **I am going to buy my own electric tools.** I just didn't realize how easy they are to use." –La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation workshop attendee

Environmental Health Coalition

Project Name: Holistic Healthy & Climate Resilient Homes

The Holistic Healthy Homes Pilot Program braids indoor health interventions with climate resiliency measures and energy-saving resources. Together, these services enabled a National City family to save on their home electricity costs, reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, and breathe cleaner and healthier air.

Project Outcomes

- Submitted the design plans and permit requests for both the solar system and battery.
- Conducted the necessary energy audits and homeowner paperwork approvals so that construction could begin.
- Educated the homeowner and her family on the dangers of gas stoves for respiratory health issues and the health and environmental benefits of electric stoves.
- Installed an air purifier and monitor in the home, funded by the County of San Diego's PAIR program, to measure improvements in indoor air quality between the gas stove and the electric stove.
- Successfully installed the electric stove with all the appropriate electrical re-wiring in the kitchen and properly disposed of the old stove.
- Replaced the gas-powered water heater with an electric water heater with a new exterior shed built and properly disposed of the old water heater.



Figure 4 Community Resident with New Electric

Community Housing Works (On behalf of Flick)

Project Name: Flick Community Partnership Program

Flick's patented smart light switch plate promoted energy awareness, reduced utility fees and increased resident awareness of their in-home energy use. This program specifically served affordable housing communities, which tend to have less access to information about energy programs yet have higher energy burdens and costs.

Project Outcomes

Due to manufacturing and site coordination challenges, Flick was only able to install its devices at one of its five proposed housing communities. Installation at the four remaining communities is expected to be completed by November 2024, and approximately 320 households will be served.

Outcomes to date include:

- Installed 71 smart light switch units in an affordable housing complex in the Southcrest community of San Diego. Installation included educational resources (in English and Spanish) about the device and energy savings.
- 100% of participants noticed Flick and the associated energy-saving messages.
- 100% of respondents emphasized the importance of saving money on utility bills.
- 80% of respondents reported that Flick increased their awareness of energy consumption.
- 60% of respondents indicated that they took proactive measures to reduce energy usage when Flick prompted them to do so.

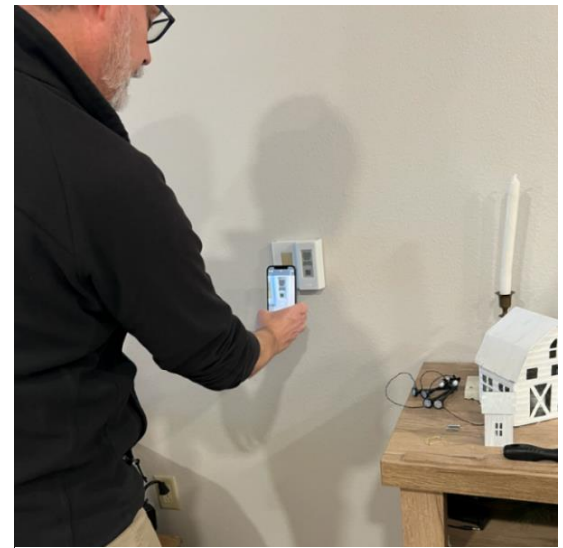


Figure 5 Flick Team Scanning Smart Light Switch Plate

Climate Action Campaign

Project Name: Building Electrification Outreach Project

The Building Electrification Outreach Project helps San Diego communities access benefits from available state and federal climate resources through programs, like the Inflation Reduction Act. The program educates key stakeholders about the benefits of household electrification and demonstrates its feasibility, while also promoting the health benefits of this transition.

Project Outcomes

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) hosted two workshops, each targeting different audiences that are essential in the transition to clean energy: (1) individuals interested in careers as HVAC installers, contractors and electricians; and (2) homeowners, building owners, renters and tenants. By increasing awareness of available and upcoming incentives, CAC sought to increase the pursuit of energy sector careers and home electrification, facilitating the region's transition towards a zero-carbon future.

- Organized and conducted two informative and interactive workshops, featuring a mix of presentations, tutorials and breakout group discussions. Session topics included "Building Electrification," "Electrification and Your Health," "Induction Cooktop Tutorial," "Electrification for Renters" and "Electrification for Homeowners."
- Engaged 40 participants through workshops.
- Provided live Spanish translation services to ensure all participants could fully engage and benefit from the event.
- Provided two portable induction cooktops to workshop participants through an opportunity drawing.
- Each workshop included a resource fair featuring the following organizations: San Diego Green Building Council, QuitCarbon, Viet Voices, Palomar College, San Diego Workforce Partnership and the City of Chula Vista's Sustainability Department.



Figure 6 "Pathways to Healthy Homes" Workshop

San Diego Green Building Council

Project Name: Electric Home Cooktop Program

The Electric Home Cooktop Program is a free portable induction cooktop loaner program offering individuals the opportunity to try this efficient, healthy technology in the comfort of their homes. San Diego Green Building Council developed and now hosts a web-based participant portal complete with loaner scheduling, surveys, fact sheets and other documentation; responds to inquiries; and coordinates educational outreach and demonstration events.



Figure 7 Sustainable Hood Education and Career Expo

Project Outcomes

- Conducted paid outreach through social media boosted and sponsored posts, Google Ads and paid partner outreach. Highest results were observed through partner outreach with 75% utilization rates.
- Increased number of loaner kits by eight to a total of 28 with one new location in Encinitas (now most popular).
- Leveraged volunteer community members to participate in both distribution and outreach events.
- Work is ongoing to increase the number of languages supported on the cooktop loaner program's website.

Hammond Climate Solutions Foundation

Project Name: Solar & Storage Project for Communities of Concern

The Solar & Storage Project for Communities of Concern advances community energy resilience by installing solar panels and energy storage infrastructure at the Sherman Heights Community Center, providing back-up power and serving as a resilience hub for the Sherman Heights community.

Project Outcomes

Despite challenges from site procurement and City permitting, the project began solar installation in August with completion expected in the coming months. Expected outcomes include:

- Installing a solar and storage system for a local community organization to save money on utility bills and reinvest savings into its mission and community.
- Use local union installers and trainees.
- Increase community education about clean, reliable energy.

"On behalf of the Sherman Heights Community Center, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support of the community center's clean energy resilience project. With your generous support of the forthcoming solar and storage project, we can be a model for the clean energy transition and with the energy savings, enhance our ability to continue offering community members a variety of programs and services that enrich the community! Muchas gracias."

—SHCC Executive Director Daniela Kelly

SDF-Funded Organizations

The following green workforce grants were funded through this grant cycle leveraging SDF funding, in alignment with SDF's [Workforce Development](#) strategic initiative.

Casa Familiar

Project Name: Casa Verde

Casa Verde is a 300-hour workforce development program designed to give extensive training on environmental justice principles, community organizing and climate change impacts in the border region. The program uses an innovative model of an intensive paid internship for local youth to provide them with real-life work experience while educating them on environmental issues and training them to be community advocates.



Figure 8 Housing Development Workshop

Project Outcomes

- Engaged two cohorts of five Casa Verde interns through the project's activities.
- Casa Verde interns helped relaunch Casa Familiar's large-scale "Construyendo Juntos" community forums, which had been paused since the onset of COVID restrictions in 2020, and supported three workshops.
 - The first workshop engaged more than 80 attendees. Casa Verde interns introduced the concept of sustainable communities with a focus on building an understanding of clean energy and the economic and health benefits it offers.
 - The following workshops centered on affordable housing, including solar-powered projects and community improvement, specifically infrastructure and design, such as smart streetlights.
- Interns helped develop a curriculum for youth ages 13 to 18 to involve them in National Geographic's Slingshot Challenge, creating meaningful content and learning about teamwork, research and the technical aspects of video production.
- Interns designed a full week of engaging activities introducing the concept of environmental justice for Casa Familiar's summer camp for children ages 6 to 12.
- Interns tabled at two outreach events reaching community members with limited English proficiency.

GRID Alternatives San Diego

Project Name: Solar and Electrification Readiness in Communities of Concern

GRID's solar programming incorporates workforce development opportunities and prioritizes hands-on learning experiences, a characteristic highly sought-after by industry employers. Each solar installation serves as a classroom on the roof. Through this project, outdated main service panels are being updated for homes in Communities of Concern, supporting solar installation projects and training opportunities for those seeking clean energy careers.

Project Outcomes

This project is still in progress. Seven more projects are ready to move forward but are currently delayed pending installation coordination and approval from SDG&E. Once cleared to move forward, GRID will proceed with the remaining three to five installations and the accompanying 120 to 200 trainee hours with 10 workforce trainees.

Outcomes to date include:

- Fully completed three home projects, including electrical panel upgrades and solar installations.
- Conducted one home roof repair and re-roofing on two homes to support solar installation.
- All individuals served for panel upgrades are at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI).
- Facilitated 80 hours of trainee time on installations.
- Served nine individuals with the three home panel upgrades and solar installations.
 - These included: a family of five with two minors and one young adult in school; an elderly woman living alone; and a daughter taking care of both of her elderly parents.



Figure 9 Home Solar Installation

Leveraging Learning and Partnership for Continued Impact

The [inaugural grant cycle](#) of the Community Clean Energy Grant Program saw a diversity of projects and programs implemented, including solar installation, clean energy equipment acquisition and energy education in San Diego's Communities of Concern. The grant program received the following coverage and highlights:

News

- CBS 8: [Climate grants for San Diego non-profit organizations](#)
- KPBS Article: [San Diego Community Power profits invested in local groups](#)
- KPBS San Diego News Now: [San Diego Foundation and San Diego Community Foundation distribute nearly \\$400,000 in profits](#)

Note: Please begin listening at the 6:03 time stamp.

- KPBS Radio: [San Diego Community Power and San Diego Foundation announce nearly \\$400K in grants to local nonprofits](#)

Note: This link includes two radio clips that aired on July 26 and July 27.

Social

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [X \(AKA Twitter\)](#)

In 2024, SDF and Community Power entered a contractual agreement to implement the Community Clean Energy Grant Program over the next three years and will leverage the learnings from the inaugural 2023 grant cycle in future cycles. With an ever-expanding definition of what a community-driven clean energy solution

can look like, this grant program's impact continues to grow. Community Power has been a critical partner in this work, and SDF is grateful for the opportunity to work together to create a more equitable, energy-resilient San Diego region. If you have any questions regarding the Community Clean Energy Grant Program or any of the impacts listed in this report, please contact SDF Manager of Climate Initiatives Everett Au at EverettA@sdfoundation.org or 619-814-1321.

Appendix A: Grantmaking Criteria & Process

Funding for this grant program is made possible by Community Power's \$300,000 seed investment and an additional \$89,998 leveraged through SDF's workforce development Strategic Plan funds. Fourteen eligible applications totaling \$626,698 were received that aligned with funding priorities. All applications were reviewed by at least five reviewers comprised of Community Power staff, Community Power Community Advisory Committee members and SDF staff.

Eligible applicants were asked to meet the following criteria:

- Proposed projects or programs must serve Community Power customers in the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City, San Diego and the unincorporated communities of San Diego County.
- Proposed projects or programs must advance one or more of the following focus areas:
 - Increased overall energy literacy of Community Power customers.
 - Energy behaviors and/or education that reduce energy consumption and/or costs.
 - Improvements in indoor and/or outdoor air quality related to greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Workforce development opportunities that support careers in the clean energy industry.
 - Energy resilience to ensure communities can avoid, prepare for, minimize, adapt to and recover from energy disruptions.
 - Increased access to the benefits of clean energy technologies with a focus on Communities of Concern and vulnerable populations.

¹Community Power defines Communities of Concern as communities identified by [California Climate Investments](#) (Assembly Bill 1550 and Senate Bill 535). These include disadvantaged communities identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and low-income communities and households with incomes at or below 80% of the statewide median or below a threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Community Power also recognizes additional census tracts identified by member agencies as Communities of Concern. Currently, only the cities of [Chula Vista](#) and [San Diego](#) have identified additional census tracts through their Climate Equity Index reports. If other member agencies were to identify additional census tracts in the future, Community Power would recognize those designations under the umbrella of Communities of Concern.