



## Local Governments Seek to Build on the Transformative Climate Communities Program

Local governments support the use of cap-and-trade revenues to achieve California landmark climate change goals, including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

As the closest level of government to Californians, local governments are uniquely positioned to work with local planners and the public to initiate integrated, multi-benefit projects that can deliver the greatest GHG reductions per dollar. This integrated approach facilitates development comprehensive projects that cut across sectors, engage multiple partners and would otherwise require multiple grant applications to multiple state agencies. These projects provide other environmental and economic co-benefits, including better air and water quality, reduction of natural resources and energy consumption, increased water supply and greater diversion of waste, as well as local jobs.

**Issue:** An integrated approach to funding GHG emission reduction projects is needed to ensure that California meets its climate goals. Investment in reducing emissions from the transportation, land management, municipal electricity, water management, and other key sectors is necessary and broadly supported. Further, achieving long range goals will require new and innovative programs.

Local governments stand at the intersection of these sectors, and are uniquely positioned to implement the greatest emissions-reducing projects. Therefore, they should be at the center of a cap-and-trade revenue investment strategy.

**Solution:** It is important to develop funding strategies that break down existing silos and allow for more comprehensive solutions. We urge the Legislature and the Governor to build upon the success of the existing Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program, administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). We propose the following approach:

- Appropriate \$200 million in additional funding to the SGC for TCC
- Expand the number of planning and implementation grants available for local agencies in fiscal year 2018-19
- Refine program eligibility criteria to include communities across geographic areas including disadvantaged communities
- Eligible entities should include local governments, special districts, joint powers authorities, nonprofits working in coordination with local governments, and other appropriate regional entities

A streamlined and incentive-based approach for funding climate adaptation and resiliency projects. This approach will be particularly useful in disadvantaged communities that would benefit in many ways from the technical assistance the TCC can provide to navigate complex and interconnected planning. The program will help local governments meet the challenges of adopting climate action plans and integrating strategies to transform communities and create long-term sustainability.