

Climate Resilient Monterey Bay



FACILITATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE

SUMMARY

Ecology Action, in partnership with Regeneración – Pajaro Valley Climate Action (with Community Initiatives as fiscal sponsor), is actively leading community participation-centered engagement efforts for the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network (MBCAAN). Leveraging the Monterey Bay Area Climate Justice Collaborative (MBACJC), which will serve as a trusted network of over 40 local and regional organizations, the team ensures that frontline communities are meaningfully involved in climate adaptation planning. Monthly engagement through the Collaborative and targeted community-led activities ensures that climate solutions are co-created with those most impacted.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is actively taking place in the Monterey Bay region, including Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, with a focus on climate-vulnerable communities in Watsonville, Salinas, and surrounding areas. The initiative builds regional collaboration while emphasizing hyperlocal engagement through trusted community-based organizations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project actively leads community-focused engagement by positioning Regeneración as the Resilience Justice and Community Lead, gathering critical feedback from disadvantaged and marginalized communities to inform MBCAAN's climate adaptation efforts. It facilitates ongoing community dialogue through monthly Clima y Equidad meetings that build climate literacy and provide a platform for community voices, which are then reported at quarterly MBCAAN meetings. Additionally, the project supports a Community Advisory Group (CAG) that regularly convenes community-based organizations and residents to directly shape MBCAAN priorities. Capacity-building efforts include providing technical assistance, training, and resources to strengthen the climate resilience knowledge and capabilities of frontline organizations. To ensure equitable participation, the project removes barriers by compensating community members, offering bilingual communications in Spanish and Mixteco, and providing meals and other supportive services. The team also maintains accountability by tracking engagement outcomes, reporting community feedback, and ensuring transparent communication.

ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Regional Collaboration and Capacity Building



PARTNERS

Monterey Bay Area Climate Justice Collaborative



Ecology Action



Regeneración



Resilient Central Coast



This work is part of Climate Resilient Monterey Bay (CRMB), an initiative through the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation. CRMB is Federally funded as part of the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge through the Inflation Reduction Act and administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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COMMUNITY TEAM

Ecology Action leads on all project management, administration, and coordination with the MBCAAN, as well as providing training and technical assistance leveraging [Resilient Central Coast](#) program resources. Regeneración – Pajaro Valley Climate Action serves as the community engagement lead, acting as a liaison to marginalized communities and facilitating community-based organization involvement, the Community Advisory Group, and local climate resilience events. Community Initiatives functions as the fiscal sponsor for Regeneración. Supporting this work is the Monterey Bay Area Climate Justice Collaborative (MBACJC), a coalition of over 40 local and regional organizations that provides a trusted network for education, partnership, and inclusive climate planning throughout the Monterey Bay region.

Members of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) actively engage in the Community Advisory Group’s monthly meetings, focusing on topics involving community resilience, preparation for weather emergencies, and topics of relevance to the communities they work with. These organizations include MILPA, the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council (MBCLC), Ventures, Monarch Services, and the Community Action Board (CAB), alongside additional community members not formally affiliated as CBOs. The Community Advisory Group consistently engages each month, representing CBOs from across the tri-county area of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties as part of the Monterey Bay Climate Action Adaptation Network framework, providing support for activities, local perspective, and facilitating MBCAAN topics and priorities.

ADAPTATION STRATEGY

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PARTNERS

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