



CIVICWELL

Transforming Local Vision into Action

Formerly Local Government Commission (LGC)

CIVICWELL CEO NAMED AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE MAYORS

March 9, 2022 — After 15 years with CivicWell—a Sacramento nonprofit organization supporting leaders responding to the climate crisis and its impact on their communities—and nine years at its helm, CEO Kate Wright will be leaving the organization at the end of this month. Wright will be the new Executive Director of Climate Mayors, a growing network of nearly 500 U.S. mayors who have committed to accelerating equitable climate action in cities.

At CivicWell (formerly the Local Government Commission), Wright worked with local government leaders to spearhead environmental initiatives on climate resilience, clean mobility, sustainable water management, livable communities, renewable energy, and affordable housing.

“Kate has been a powerful local leader on climate issues, and I know she is the right person to lead Climate Mayors into their next chapter. I’m proud of what we have been able to achieve together for Sacramento and California with CivicWell and the Mayors’ Commission on Climate Change, and look forward to seeing the impact she’ll have with this national network,” said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg.

Sylvester Turner, Climate Mayors Chair and Mayor of Houston, welcomed the news. “We are thrilled to welcome Kate Wright as Climate Mayors’ Executive Director. I am confident she will help grow the organization and bring additional resources to help U.S. mayors accelerate equitable climate action in cities,” he said. “Climate Mayors is the leading organization helping U.S. cities meet the urgency of the climate crisis. As we enter our next chapter, Kate’s knowledge and experience working with local leaders will be pivotal in advancing solutions in communities across the country and working more closely with the Biden Administration to ensure we invest in our communities through EV charging and other critical climate action.”

“It’s been an honor to lead CivicWell for almost a decade, developing the CivicSpark AmeriCorps program and the California Adaptation Forum and other impactful programs advancing climate resilience. I am now thrilled to take this experience to lead Climate Mayors at such an exciting time for local leadership,” said Wright. “All across the nation, Climate Mayors are responding to the urgency of climate change by reimagining how we power, build and move throughout cities. These living laboratories are fostering the next generation of solutions that will be replicated across the globe, catalyzing the virtuous cycle of innovation needed to ensure long-term community resiliency and prosperity.”

CivicWell will be conducting a national search for a new CEO. Kathy Chow, CivicWell Director of Development and Communications, will serve as Interim CEO starting the last week of March, and will work directly with the Board of Directors to find CivicWell’s new CEO. Chow is a nonprofit leader with twenty years of experience in nonprofit management, and has served as the Executive Director for two national membership associations.

Chow stated, “During Kate’s tenure, CivicWell has doubled its staff and grown its impact immensely. I’m grateful for her leadership and look forward to shepherding CivicWell into its next chapter as we begin our search for a new CEO who also shares our vision for a sustainable, healthy, equitable, prosperous, and resilient future for every community.”

“Kate has been instrumental in growing CivicWell during her tenure,” said Leticia Perez, Kern County Supervisor and CivicWell Board Chair. “She helped create our CivicSpark AmeriCorps program, which has placed over 600 Fellows in more than 800 projects that have built local government capacity to address climate change. She played a huge part in many of our trailblazing efforts around climate resilience and adaptation. I know Kate will be a tremendous asset to the national Climate Mayors network.”

CivicWell recently rebranded after 40 years as the Local Government Commission. This month it will host the 30th annual Yosemite Policymakers Conference, bringing together over 100 mayors, city council members, county supervisors, and other elected officials to build partnerships and solutions to pressing community challenges like climate resilience, decarbonization, transportation, and affordable housing.

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About CivicWell

CivicWell, formerly the Local Government Commission, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting sustainable policies and the community leaders who implement them. It inspires, equips, connects, and cultivates leadership for local innovation and community change, especially for leaders responding to the climate crisis and its impacts on their communities. Since 1982, CivicWell has engaged local elected officials, government agencies, and community-based organizations through policy guidance, collaborative partnerships and coalitions, and direct assistance. For more information, please visit civicwell.org.

Contact

Kathy Chow

Director of Development and Communications, CivicWell

kchow@civicwell.org

916-539-0440

Haley Ausserer-Zelaya

Communications Manager, CivicWell

hazelaya@civicwell.org

510-409-3924