



Impact Report 2024

Dear CivicWell partners and supporters,

Nearly twenty years ago, acclaimed author Alice Walker released a collection of essays entitled We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For: Light in a Time of Darkness. In compiling the stories and data in this Impact Report, my colleagues and I had an opportunity to reflect on how CivicWell has emerged from the challenges and setbacks of 2024. It is clear that over the past year, CivicWell and our partners have developed the skills and galvanized the relationships needed to address whatever lies ahead.

During my first year as CEO, I guided the organization to overcome challenges with our funding streams, fee structure, and financial model. In mid-2024, I took decisive action to substantially restructure the leadership and administrative teams to improve efficiency and save costs. CivicWell collectively re-examined our programs, paused some projects and initiatives, and migrated a number of impactful initiatives to new homes.

While these changes were difficult, the actions daylighted strengths and opportunities we may have overlooked otherwise. Employees were invited into higher levels of decision-making and enjoyed improved transparency and coordination. Coalitions committed to promoting adaptation and supporting sustainable energy have been able to achieve greater independence. And perhaps most importantly, in sharing our trials, we opened up dialogue with our partners for relationships with greater vulnerability and candor.

Elevating our employees, empowering coalitions, and engaging in candid dialogue have prepared us for the hurdles that face our organization and the rest of the country in the year ahead. During the weeks that we were finalizing this report, we faced another barrage of challenges, from devastating fires in California to unsettling policy proposals that threaten to undermine efforts that CivicWell has worked to advance for more than four decades.

Through our virtual and in-person events, we have held space for hundreds of civic, community, policy, and business partners to mobilize around good policymaking and advance promising innovations. Our resources have informed local, regional, and statewide leaders and provided the ideas and data necessary to promote livable, equitable, and sustainable communities. Our work has inspired new partners to join as Agency Members, Strategic Partners, and Directors on our Board. The community CivicWell fosters is one of idealists and pragmatists who transform local vision into action. We are the dreamers and the doers. We are indeed the ones we have been waiting for. Collectively, we are up to the challenges—and opportunities—that face us in the year ahead.



Bernadette Austin
CivicWell CEO

2024 IMPACT

We inspire, equip, connect, and cultivate civic leadership for local innovation and community change.

\$851K AWARDED

Provided outreach and technical assistance to under-resourced communities, with \$851,223 awarded for Active and Multimodal Transportation Plans



9 MILLION+ RESIDENTS

live in areas where CivicWell is building local capacity



22K+ LEADERS

connected through projects, communications, and events



8 RESOURCES

New reports, tools, webinars, and guides created



115 HOURS

of programming provided to support and inspire local leaders



18 BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

We supported 29 bills, 18 of which became law



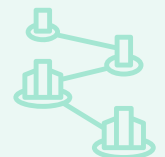
46 MEETINGS & EVENTS

organized to engage communities and move priorities forward



7 PLANS ADOPTED

by jurisdictions we partnered with—helping secure funding; coordinating outreach and education; and facilitating advisory groups, charrettes, and events



CLIMATE CHANGE & ENERGY



ADVANCING LOCAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION

In 2024, CivicWell's Climate Change & Energy program streamlined its focus to two key initiatives: the California Climate and Energy Collaborative ([CCEC](#)) and the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition ([LGSEC](#)).

CCEC celebrated a milestone with its highly successful 15th Annual Forum, which attracted 400 participants and further advanced coordination between local governments and state agencies. Additionally, December marked the launch of [REACH](#), a new regional convening initiative in the Inland Empire, which was met with enthusiastic participation and impactful outcomes.

These achievements underscore the program's commitment to fostering collaboration and driving sustainable energy solutions. Looking ahead, the program will build on these successes, expanding REACH to new regions and continuing to strengthen partnerships that support local and state climate goals.

*Join the 2025 CCEC Forum!
July 4-5 in San José.*

[**LEARN MORE**](#)



CCEC is great for networking and learning! This is the Forum to attend to meet the movers and shakers in the energy efficiency, decarbonization, energy equity, and climate action space. This is a place where innovative and passionate minds from local government, not-for-profits, utilities, state government, and more come to discuss solutions to our most pressing problems.

*Aisha Cervantes-Cissna
San Diego Community Power*



“I look forward to [the CCEC Forum] every year. It is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers and leaders across the state on locally focused energy and climate solutions.

Laurel Rothschild

Vice President, The Energy Coalition



COMMUNITY DESIGN

LOCAL VISION BECOMES ACTION

We partnered with communities around the state to conduct local visioning, planning and implementation of solutions for equitable and sustainable transportation, shared mobility, housing, neighborhood revitalization, and placemaking. We provided intensive technical assistance to help underserved and marginalized communities develop ideas, recommendations, proposals, and access funding.

Community Engagement and Planning

Seven plans were adopted by jurisdictions that we partnered with. Our role focused on securing funding for the planning effort; helping with consultant selection and project management, outreach and education; and organizing and facilitating the public process (e.g. technical and community advisory groups, charrettes, pop-up events, youth engagement, tours of other cities).

Additionally, we conducted town halls, walk audits and interactive community design charrettes in five communities. The final plans are under development and will be adopted in the first half of 2025.

Funding for Community Mobility

We wrote two successful Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grants, with \$600,000 awarded to San Diego to develop the Mid-City Multimodal Mobility Plan, and \$251,223 to Modoc County to develop a countywide Active and Multimodal Transportation Plan.

Walk Audits: Blue Zones & Dan Burden

Continuing our long-time collaboration with renowned Walkable Communities expert and Civic Innovator Dan Burden and Blue Zones, we conducted walk audits and site assessments with elected leaders, agency representatives, school officials, and advocates in Sonora and Jamestown (Tuolumne County) and Clearlake and Lower Lake (Lake County). In Sonora and Clearlake the focus is on active transportation and placemaking improvements to their historic main street corridors. The focus in Jamestown and Lower Lake is on safe routes to schools.



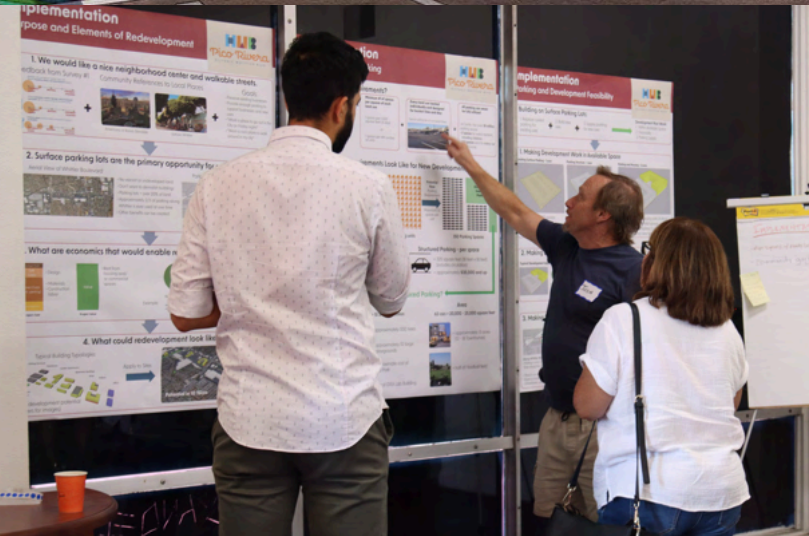


PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Historic Whittier Blvd Revitalization City of Pico Rivera

In 2024, the City of Pico Rivera adopted the Historic Whittier Boulevard (HWB) Multimodal Plan, focused on improvements to walking, bicycling, transit access, and microtransit, and the HWB Vision Plan, which articulates a vision for a new and improved Whittier Boulevard. Together, the plans lay the foundation for future planning and establishing a formal "uptown" district that embraces the rich history, culture, and diversity of Pico Rivera.

Since 2022 CivicWell has served as part of the project team for both plans, empowering the community to actively participate in the decision making process. The team completed over 75 events and engaged with more than 6,000 stakeholders and community members.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Active Transportation Plan City of Dunsmuir

The City of Dunsmuir Active Transportation Plan—the culmination of months of community engagement, visioning, and conversations toward creating more safe and accessible transportation options—was adopted in February 2024. CivicWell helped secure funding for the project and was part of the team developing the plan and conducting community engagement.

Residents, businesses, CBOs, and local leaders identified key issues and developed solutions for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements. The Plan includes recommendations to support Dunsmuir's short- and long-term active transportation and roadway safety goals, implementation strategies, and actions to encourage community use of the improved transportation infrastructure.





CIVICWELL POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

The 32nd annual CivicWell Policymakers Conference brought together 120 local elected officials from across California in majestic Yosemite National Park. This year's agenda featured sessions on funding strategies for infrastructure, energy innovations, electrification and equity in housing and community development, disaster recovery, the future of the climate movement, and lessons on cross-jurisdictional governance from transportation.

The networking opportunities at the CivicWell Policymakers Conference continue to be beyond exceptional. The session topics and speakers challenge me to expand my vision for what is possible in my community and for our future. I come home with so many seeds of inspiration to plant and cultivate.

Wendy Root Askew
Supervisor, County of Monterey



Join us for the 2025 CivicWell Policymakers Conference, be held March 13-16 in Yosemite!

ADVOCATING FOR A RESILIENT CALIFORNIA

One of the highlights of 2024 was the passage of Proposition 4, the Climate Bond. This measure authorized \$10 billion in bonds to support projects to reduce climate risks and impacts. Find a breakdown of funding categories [here](#).

It was also an eventful year in the Legislature, with 991 bills landing on Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk for consideration in September. CivicWell took a position on 30 bills—29 in support and one opposed. Of the bills we supported, 18 were signed into law. A few of note:

SB 59 (Skinner)

Authorizes the State Air Resources Board (CARB), in consultation with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), to require bidirectional capability on any weight class EV upon specified findings.

AB 2684 (Bryan)

Requires local governments to include a component on extreme heat in the safety element of their General Plans after January 1, 2024 and update the component at specified intervals.

AB 2553 (Friedman)

Revises the definition of "major transit stop" to specify locations where 20 minute service intervals occur, rather than 15 minute service intervals, and amend the fee mitigation act to provide that housing projects within one-half mile of a major transit stop be considered for reduced impact fees.

AB 2427 (McCarty)

Requires local governments to develop the process and information for permitting curbside charging for EVs.

CivicWell has provided a valuable voice in the Legislature for local governments on issues such as housing, water, energy, transportation, and sustainable communities.

Catherine Blakespear
CA State Senator



Strategic Partner Program



"Becoming a Strategic Partner with CivicWell was an easy decision for us. No other organization has the depth of experience advocating for transformational policies and working with communities to enact real change. As a Business Partner, we get the opportunity to engage with and be thought partners to communities and policy makers that are looking for real solutions to big challenges."

Josh Brock
Vice President of CCA Commercial Operations
Calpine Energy Solutions

CREATING COMMUNITY IMPACT

CivicWell works to advance sustainable community solutions throughout California and the nation. We form strategic partnerships with businesses, philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, and other groups to help create a strong pipeline of transformative projects.

By becoming a member of the Strategic Partner Program, you expand your impact through cutting-edge initiatives advancing sustainable, equitable, and resilient community solutions. We strive to provide Strategic Partners with opportunities to build relationships with local elected officials and leaders, deepen your impact, and grow brand recognition in the clean and green economy.. Visit civicwell.org/partner for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS:



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2024 WEBINARS



Health In All Policies

[Watch Here](#)



Transportation Equity

[Watch Here](#)



Climate Disaster Resilience and Recovery

[Watch Here](#)



Investment Strategies for Climate Resilience

[Watch Here](#)

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