

**EPA Environmental Justice Community Change Grant
Resilient Cuyama Valley Initiative
Summary of Projects**

The projects below have been carefully developed and vetted with community-based partners and technical assistance providers to request the maximum amount of \$20 million. The projects, descriptions and funding amounts are subject to change as more planning and coordination continue. The final application summary will be made available on the Resilient Cuyama Valley website available at www.countyofsb.org/cuyamavalley.

Resilience Hubs

Many disadvantaged communities lack the resources to evacuate in a safe and timely manner when disaster strikes or is imminent. The Resilience Hubs Strategy supports the creation of, or upgrades to, community-level resilience hubs, which are public-serving spaces that provide shelter and essential services during extreme weather, natural hazards, or other events causing or contributing to an emergency or disaster, such as dangerous wildfire woodsmoke, toxic releases, industrial fires, or similar hazardous chemical incidents. These community-level resilience hubs can also serve as community-convening spaces that provide educational activities and related emergency and disaster preparedness resources to community residents year-round.

- \$900,000 to Blue Sky Center (BSC) in New Cuyama to design and construct a solar and battery microgrid for its facility, which would also include cold storage for food and medicine, if the community is isolated or if the power goes out. This project builds off of BSC's prior participation in the County's Resilience Hubs pilot program and the project development activities funded by the Transformative Climate Communities grant.
- \$2,000,000 to the Buckhorn in New Cuyama to design and construct a solar and battery microgrid and to add HVAC to support displaced residents and emergency workers.
- \$500,000 to the Place in Ventucopa to design and construct tenant improvements for energy efficiency, HVAC, solar and battery storage, to serve as a community convening space during climate-related emergencies.

Energy Efficient, Healthy and Resilient Housing & Buildings

Residential and commercial buildings are a significant source of GHG emissions due to the large amounts of electricity consumed for heating, cooling, lighting, and other similar functions. Many disadvantaged communities also face a disproportionately high energy burden, defined as the percentage of gross household income spent on energy costs. Many factors can influence high energy burden, including higher-cost fuels, such as propane or other

bottled fuels, and energy-inefficient homes due to a lack of insulation in older homes or older appliances. This strategy supports investments in low and zero-emission technologies and energy efficiency upgrades that can help decarbonize residential and commercial buildings, decrease energy burden, and increase resilience for communities. Many of these activities also contribute to positive public health outcomes by improving indoor air quality and the safety and comfort of buildings.

- \$150,000 to County General Services Department to design and construct solar and battery storage systems for the Fire Station and Family Resource Center, two vital community-serving institutions.
- \$4,000,000 to County Community Services Department (CSD) to develop and implement a community-wide residential retrofit program for energy efficiency, electrification and energy resilience. CSD will coordinate with contractors and local and State partners to stack financial incentives and streamline implementation. This project builds off of the project development activities funded by the Transformative Climate Communities grant.
- \$400,000 to Quail Springs to develop and implement a community-wide residential program to install greywater systems that divert used laundry wastewater to outdoor landscaping.
- \$5,000,000 to Cuyama Joint Unified School District to design and install heat pumps to replace swamp coolers and furnaces and to implement tenant improvements for ADA accessibility and fire safety.

Clean Water & Resilient Water Infrastructure

Disadvantaged communities often lack access to clean water and clean drinking water. Functional water infrastructure is essential for protecting the quality of drinking water resources as well as the safety of recreational waters communities use for subsistence fishing, swimming, and other activities everyone deserves to enjoy. This Strategy addresses challenges communities face in accessing clean, reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment. Projects funded under this strategy may include focused infrastructure investments that can be completed within the three-year project period and within the funding amounts, as well as assessment and planning that will enable communities to better access tens of billions of dollars in federal water infrastructure funding from other sources such as EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

- \$3,000,000 to the Cuyama Community Services District to design and construct a water distribution line to connect a farmworker mobile community to the main municipal water service.
- \$350,000 to Blue Sky Center to procure and install various community hydropanel stations. Hydropanel stations can generate water from atmospheric moisture, offering a resilient and drought-proof source of drinking water.

- \$300,000 to Quail Springs to design and implement a community education series to educate residents on the local watershed and groundwater systems and ways to improve their sustainability.

Waste Management and Circular Economy

Disadvantaged communities often bear the brunt of environmental contamination from improper disposal of physical waste, or from disposal in landfills adjacent to those communities. This strategy supports circular economy activities and promotes sustainable use of natural resources to keep materials and products in circulation for as long as possible, resulting in the reduction of GHG emissions and other pollution across a product's lifecycle. Project activities should demonstrate that they will result in materials being diverted from end-disposal facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators) to reduce GHG emissions, toxic air pollution, and soil and water pollution.

- \$500,000 to Quail Springs to design and construct residential and small-scale commercial solutions for composting kitchen waste and promoting use of compost for local gardening.

Mobility and Transportation

Many disadvantaged communities lack access to affordable low- or zero-emission transportation options, leading to disproportionate difficulties in daily life, limiting access to educational and economic opportunities, and creating vulnerability to climate risks. This strategy focuses on providing community members with access to low- and zero-emission technologies to improve their overall health and well-being, reduce emissions, and increase access to important community destinations such as schools, workplaces, health care centers, and community spaces.

- \$450,000 to County Community Services Department to design and construct three electric vehicle fast charging stations throughout the community

Community Engagement

Community engagement is essential for ensuring community buy-in and participation. Special care and attention will be paid to language accessibility, civic engagement opportunities, culturally appropriate outreach and community decision-making.

- \$450,000 to Community Environmental Council to design and implement a community engagement plan, conduct various community engagement activities and provide interpretation and translation for the Resilient Cuyama Valley Initiative.

Administration and Project Management

- \$2,000,000 to various County departments:
 - Community Services will lead grant administration and overall project management. Community Services will directly lead the home retrofit program and the installation of community EV charging stations.
 - Planning & Development will oversee the implementation of activities from the Environmental Justice Element and Climate Adaptation Plan, relevant to Cuyama Valley.
 - Office of Emergency Management will coordinate emergency planning and community preparedness activities in partnership with the Resilience Hubs.