



# Community Benefits Grant: Informational Webinar

August 14, 2024



# Agenda

- ⚡ CPA and Calpine Community Energy Overview
- ⚡ About The Community Benefits Grant
- ⚡ Reporting Requirements
- ⚡ Q & A



# Who is Calpine Community Energy?

- ⚡ Calpine Community Energy, is a San Diego based organization, founded to support customer choice in energy
- ⚡ Helped launch California's first Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program in 2010.
- ⚡ Committed to re-investing into the communities and partners that we support



# Clean Power Alliance

- ⚡ Joint Powers Authority -- 35 member jurisdictions throughout Los Angeles & Ventura Counties. Three new members coming onboard in 2025 (La Canada Flintridge, Lynwood, Port Hueneme)
- ⚡ CPA serves more than three million residents and businesses through more than one million customer accounts
- ⚡ #1 green power provider in the US as designated by U.S. Dept. of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- ⚡ Each member has a seat on Board of Directors (one member, one vote)
- ⚡ Revenues (after costs for power and operations, plus financial reserve contribution) are pooled and invested into local programs and procurement



# Clean Power Alliance in Our Communities

- ⚡ In 2021, CPA launched a four-year plan to provide \$1 million in strategic investments for workforce development programs, to better equip workers pursuing career-track jobs in the transportation and building electrification sectors.



# Clean Power Alliance in Our Communities

- ⚡ CPA's Voyager Scholarship Program supports students at community colleges throughout both counties, by providing financial assistance to students enrolled in energy-focused career courses.
- ⚡ Last year, CPA's Community Benefits Grant program provided \$288,000 of funding to organizations that work in the communities CPA serves; to help advance clean energy usage, research and education, green jobs, and support environmental and social justice communities. These grants ranged in size from \$15,000 to \$30,000. This year, we will provide \$325,000 to up to 15 organizations



# Community Benefits Grant

- ⚡ The Community Benefits Grant provides funding to organizations that help advance clean energy, sustainability, and resiliency.
- ⚡ Eligible organizations must be IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit(s).
- ⚡ Funding can be used for a specific project, program, or general operations
- ⚡ Calpine awards funding and collaborates with CPA on the grant guidelines and to promote the program. Both work together to assess applications.



# Criteria

- ⚡ Impact and visibility within CPA's territory
- ⚡ Advancement of clean energy, sustainability, and resiliency
- ⚡ Alignment with 1 or more priority focus areas:
  - Research
  - Environmental and Social Justice Communities\*
  - Workforce Development
  - Education



\* The CPUC identified environmental and social justice communities as those where residents are:

- Predominantly communities of color or low-income;
- Underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process;
- Subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards; and
- Likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socioeconomic investments in their communities

On the ground, targeted communities typically include but are not limited to:

- Disadvantaged Communities, located in the most environmentally burdened California census tracts, as determined by the 25 percent highest scores (75th percentile) when using the [CalEnviroScreen tool](#);
- All Tribal lands;
- Low-income households (household incomes below 80 percent of the area median income); and
- Low-income census tracts (census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80 percent of area or state median income).





# Community Benefits Grant Application

- ⚡ Only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible. Funding for political action committees, trade associations, government entities and political candidates is prohibited.
- ⚡ All applications must include the following:
  - Organization's Description and Mission (500-word max)
  - Cities/Counties the proposed project/funding will support
  - Funding Level requested
  - Funding Category(s)
  - Proposal (1000-word maximum)
  - Budget
- ⚡ Awards will range from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for a one-year grant term (final award amounts will be made by the review committee).



# Competitive Applications

The Community Benefits Grant provides funding to organizations that help advance clean energy, sustainability, and resiliency. Competitive applications should include the following:

- ⚡ Overall proposal is clearly stated. Evaluation for success within the applications is clear and includes metrics
- ⚡ Application clearly connects to the funding goals, highlights the community impact, and communities served
- ⚡ Application highlights how the organization or project provides a positive impact on a customer segment (especially if in a new or innovative way)



# 2023 Awardees



- ⚡ **Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (\$25,000)** – Funds went toward workforce development to increase career exploration and community awareness of green industry opportunities. Alongside local trade unions, the organization will utilize virtual reality (VR) to provide an introduction to offshore wind production and turbine maintenance.



- ⚡ **Columbia Memorial Space Center (\$20,000)** – Funds will support City of STEM, the largest program promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in Los Angeles. The program is committed to opening equitable access to STEM learning, especially to those members of the public from marginalized communities, as well as under-resourced neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.



- ⚡ **Friends of the Los Angeles River (\$25,000)** – Funds supported The LA River & Me Education Program and general operations. The LA River & Me Program provides an opportunity to connect 140 classes from 70 Title 1 schools to the natural world. The program brings students to the LA River on a field trip, where they participate in three interactive educational stations. The LA River watershed covers more than 800 square miles of the most densely populated, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse region in the United States. The program covers 21 of CPA's member communities, with priority to applicants from Alhambra, Carson, Downey, Paramount, and South Pasadena.



- ⚡ **Grid Alternatives LA (\$20,000)** – Funds were used to provide homeowners in Carson and Whittier with reroofs, service panel upgrades, and any other necessary professional services to access no-cost solar energy systems.



- ⚡ **LA Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC) (\$20,000)** – Funds were used to create a Clean Energy Education Campaign to educate the public in the greater Los Angeles region about the benefits of clean energy and promote more sustainable energy usage. LARC will form a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to guide the campaign and will enlist two UCLA College Corps Fellows in the campaign.



- ⚡ **Merito Foundation (\$30,000)** – Funds were used toward advancing energy literacy and green workforce development opportunities for Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) students. The project will empower 1,200 multicultural and economically unprivileged VUSD students in grades 7-12 to innovate solutions that reduce the carbon footprint of their school campuses through six months of in-class energy literacy, culminating in a STEM competition.



# 2023 Awardees



⚡ **Pando Populus (\$20,000)** – Funding went toward Pando Days, a project-centered learning program for colleges and universities focused on implementing Los Angeles County’s sustainability goals. This year’s program spans 20 universities and community colleges throughout Los Angeles and Ventura counties.



⚡ **Santa Monica Mountains Foundation (\$25,000)** – Funds supported the development of the Los Angeles region’s first native seed production farm. This project will seek to increase resiliency to climate change, mitigate the threat of extreme wildfires, offer employment opportunities and environmental education for diverse youth, and enhance wildlife habitat and ecosystems.



TreePeople

⚡ **Tree People (\$25,000)** – Funds supported the Tree People Eco Tours, where trained leaders lead K-6 students and teachers on guided trail hikes to experience the outdoors while learning about the concepts of climate change. This funding will help expand education to disadvantaged youth from both Los Angeles and Ventura counties, to experience STEM and ensure inclusive environmental education.



⚡ **U.S. Green Business Council (USGBC) (\$30,000)** – Funds were used to develop a certification for construction professionals to learn and adopt best practices around improvements and materials for buildings and landscapes to reduce the long-term extreme heat-related impacts of climate change. This training will build upon the successful model developed and implemented by USGBC-LA to provide wildfire defense training and certifications for construction and landscaping professionals.



⚡ **Ventura County Community Foundation (\$25,000)** – Funds were used for operational support to increase coordination and capacity building around the foundation’s environmental literacy programming, workforce development in green jobs, and resiliency for outdoor workers faced with extreme heat.



⚡ **Oxnard Performing Arts Center (\$23,900)** – Funds were used to incorporate solar energy art activities and education into a year-long initiative. The program is expected to reach 20,000 individuals, including teens, youth, and families within Ventura County. Activities will include Solar Summer Camp, Family Art Night, and the launch of a solar art cart to be used at various events.





# Project Highlight 2023:

CFROG is an organization that advocates for positive changes that promote a fossil fuel-free future: clean power, green jobs, and environmental justice. They are part of the movement for a Just Transition on the Central Coast and work to combat environmental racism and the profound impacts that environmental pollution has on communities of color.

The Community Benefits Grant from Clean Power Alliance has allowed CFROG to expand its impact in the transition to a fossil fuel-free future. This impact is evident in their green workforce development program.

Over a dozen participants in Ventura County completed a multi-hour course that utilizes virtual reality to simulate working on an offshore wind turbine -- an exciting renewable industry coming to the California coast soon.

- ⚡ CFROG program is designed and implemented with local labor partners.
- ⚡ For the first time ever, offshore wind maintenance and technician training was incorporated into the nationally-recognized Multi-Craft Core Curriculum for pre-apprentices.
- ⚡ By investing in green workforce development, CPA is helping build the new energy system that supports workers, communities, and our climate.



CFROG staff teach students from a local labor union's pre-apprenticeship program about climate change, the green workforce, and career opportunities in the emerging offshore wind industry.

# Reporting Requirements

- ⚡ Awardees of the Community Benefits Grant must agree to provide the following reports:
  - Eight-month post-award status report, including pictures/videos, a statement of expenditures to date, and a description of the progress of the project.
  - One-year post-award interview, including pictures and videos, a statement of expenditures, and a project wrap-up summary.
- ⚡ Note: during the interview, Calpine Community Energy, CPA, and the grant recipient's staff will discuss the status of the granted project and its local impact.



# Budget

- ⚡ Awardees of the Community Benefits Grant must also agree to provide a budget:

<i>ITEM(S)</i>	<i>BUDGETED (\$)</i>	<i>ACTUAL</i> <i>(TO BE COMPLETED ONE- YEAR POST AWARD)</i>
<b><i>DIRECT COSTS</i></b> (HARD COSTS SUCH AS SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT, PRINTING, ETC.)		
<b><i>STAFF LABOR COSTS</i></b> (NUMBER OF HOURS, JOB TITLES, AND HOURLY RATE OF ALL STAFF THAT WILL WORK ON THE PROJECT)		
<b><i>OTHER</i></b> (ANY COSTS THAT DO NOT FIT INTO THE ABOVE CATEGORIES)		



# Timeline

- ⚡ August 6, 2024 - The application period opens. Interested organizations may apply at [www.cleanpoweralliance.org/cbg](http://www.cleanpoweralliance.org/cbg)
- ⚡ August 14, 2024, 1-2 p.m. - Community Benefits Grant Program webinar. Learn more about the process to apply and grant requirements.
- ⚡ September 13, 2024 – The application period closes. All applications and relevant attachments must be submitted by 5 PM to [communitybenefits@calpineenergysolutions.com](mailto:communitybenefits@calpineenergysolutions.com) on this date for consideration.
- ⚡ September through early October – Application evaluation period.
- ⚡ October/November – Grant awardees contacted by Calpine.
- ⚡ December 2024- Grant funds disbursed.





# Questions





## Stay in Touch and Learn More.

For additional questions, contact  
[communitybenefits@calpinesolutions.com](mailto:communitybenefits@calpinesolutions.com)

or

Christian Cruz

CPA Senior Community Outreach Manager

[ccruz@cleanpoweralliance.org](mailto:ccruz@cleanpoweralliance.org)