Who are we? Climate Action Campaign

Five Fights

All through the lens of equity and justice.

BIKEABLE, WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

WORLD CLASS TRANSIT

RESILIENCY

100% CLEAN ENERGY

ALL-ELECTRIC HOMES

TIMESOC

These groups are helping change climate policy in Orange County

Ayn Craciun, left, and Lexi Hernandez with nonprofit Climate Action Campaign at Irvine City Hall. (Kevin Chang / Staff Photographer)

BY BEN BRAZIL | STAFF WRITER

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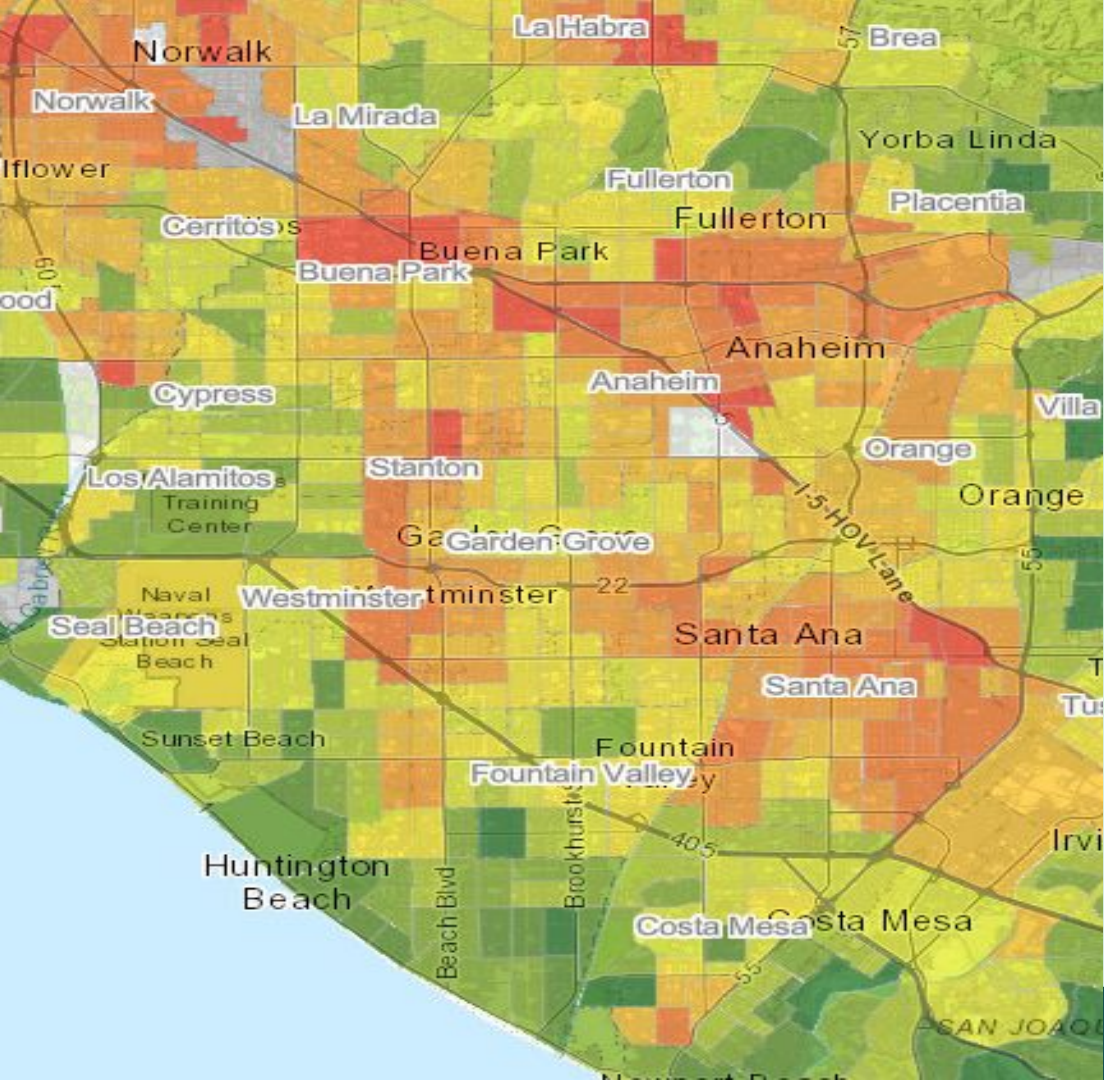
CAC's Partner Organizations

CAC works with many organizations in central OC on the frontlines of industrial pollution - OCEJ and GREEN-MPNA are partner orgs on the Building Decarb Proceeding.

GREEN-MPNA

Getting Residents Engaged in Empowering Neighborhoods

MADISON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION - SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

The Impact of Pollution

- Many communities that CAC works in have suffered the lasting consequences of segregation and being zoned next to industrial pollution.

- These communities are predominantly low-income and people of color, who already suffer disproportionate health impacts.

Section 661a

Public Utilities Code 661(a): On or before July 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, each gas corporation shall submit to the commission a map that includes all of the following:

1. The location of all potential gas distribution line replacement projects identified in its distribution integrity management plan and any foreseeable gas distribution pipeline replacements.

2. The city, county, and census tract boundaries within the gas corporation's service territory.

3. Locations of disadvantaged communities, tribes, and priority neighborhood decarbonization zones, as designated by the commission pursuant to Section 662, that are within the gas corporation's service territory.

4. Any additional information required by the commission.

Understanding Section 661(a)

Maps should incorporate data from CalEnviroScreen 4.0, and should prioritize the following data points:

- Race
- Low-income
- High Pollution Percentile (According to CalEnviroScreen)
- High Percentile of Health Impacts (Asthma, Cardiovascular Disease)
- Linguistic Isolation (English as second-language)

Understanding Section 661(a) (continued)

Why these data points?

Race: Due to legacies of segregation, communities of color have less access to building decarbonization technologies.

Low-income: The high cost of retrofitting buildings with electrified appliances is often prohibitive for low-income families to pursue.

High Pollution/Health Impacts: Communities that face high indoor air pollution and already face health impacts b/c of this stand to gain the most from SB 1221 pilot projects.

Linguistic Isolation: Similar to race, immigrant communities struggle with access to electric appliances due to language barriers. A pilot project could serve as a case study for addressing this barrier.

Goals for Section 661(a)

Main Goal: The benefits of SB 1221's pilot projects should go first towards communities that have been left the most behind and would be the first impacted by the climate crisis.

Leveraging other state programs: With catalyst funding available soon through the CA Jobs First Collaborative, a SB 1221 pilot project could be financed with help from available rebates for electric appliances.

Connecting with Local Groups: CBOs like Climate Action Campaign have ready access to the orgs that represent vulnerable communities, such as OCEJ and GREEN-MPNA, who know where these pilot projects will have the most impact.

Additional Goals

Consider SB 1221 under R.19-01-011: Climate Action Campaign recommends that the Commission assign implementation of SB 1221 under the **Building Decarbonization Proceeding (R.19-01-011)**, which has considered similar measures only just recently:

SB 1477: R.19-01-011 successfully outlined the **TECH Initiative** and **BUILD Program**, which advanced building decarbonization projects similar to what would happen in SB 1221.

AB 157: Allocated $40 million in additional funding for the **TECH Initiative** for home electrification in the **Aliso Canyon Disaster Area**.

SB 1221: With the focus of the law on Building Decarb, R.19-01-011 would be an apt proceeding for implementation.

Questions?

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