CTA | Climate Transformation Alliance

Make carbon zero a reality in Truckee Tahoe.

2022 Strategic Plan

The Challenge

Human activities are accelerating the concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our atmosphere, affecting our climate, and impacting natural, social, and economic systems. The most significant local contributors to climate change are electricity generation, building heating, the burning of fossil fuels for transportation, conversion of solid waste to GHG emissions, and disturbances to natural lands reducing their ability to sink carbon.

Our region will experience serious impacts from climate change including increasing temperatures, reduced snowpack, soil moisture, and water supply, increases in extreme weather events such as flooding and drought, and increasing incidence of wildfire. Climate change will affect our local economy as precipitation, particularly as snow, decreases and wildfire increases, causing disruption to traditional industries. Extreme heat and exposure to smoke will diminish human health, disproportionately affecting particularly vulnerable residents.

Extreme weather-related climate impacts, including the increasing incident and severity of wildfire and atmospheric river events, are interrupting the reliability of local power supply, supply chains, business activities, and stressing our emergency response capability. More intense atmospheric river storms and periodic shortages in runoff and water supply, as well as substantial changes in runoff patterns and timing, impact the region. This will affect groundwater recharge as well as water supply in downstream communities.

The Challenge (cont)

The total area in the region burned by wildfires increases in tandem with rising temperatures. As trees are stressed from higher temperatures and reduced water availability, they become more vulnerable to insects and pathogens, resulting in significant tree mortality. Nearly half of the whole community cost of wildfire is paid at the local community level by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and homeowners. Wildfire costs accrued at the local level result from long-term damages such as landscape rehabilitation, lost business and tax revenues, increased insurance costs, degraded ecosystem services, depreciated property values, and impacts on tourism and recreation.

Acting to reduce the impacts of climate change at the local level is an economic and social imperative to secure the prosperity and safety of our residents in the future.

The Vision

The Truckee North Lake Tahoe region will be net carbon neutral by 2045 through a combination of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and sinking or storing carbon in natural lands. Carbon neutrality will improve the environment, reduce the risk of wildfire, create new opportunities for innovation and business creation, diversify our economy, improve public health, equity and safety, and meet our commitment to steward the region for the benefit of future generations.

CTA

Call to Action

We engage public agencies, community organizations, the private sector, and the public in respectful dialogue leading to specific implementable actions that will meet this goal.

CTA

Values

The Climate Transformation Alliance initiative convenes a multi-stakeholder cross-sector regional alliance that works collaboratively together to reduce GHG emissions and adapt our region to the impacts of climate change.

CORE VALUES

Positivity: We will approach our work from a positive frame of mind, seek solutions, expect good results, focus on doing and achieving, celebrate success, and create an optimistic future.

Collaboration: We are committed to creating a learning network to bring ideas to the table and work together to meet common climate goals. We will freely share ideas, respectfully discuss ideas and seek common ground.

Consensus on Action: Members of the group may act individually or collectively upon ideas vetted by the group based on capacity and mission.

Respect: We will communicate based on mutual respect and appreciation. We will actively listen and assume the best in each person's perspective. We will communicate openly and honestly and provide feedback frankly and politely.

Integrity: We will participate honestly and authentically. We can be counted on to keep our word and our commitments. We strive for excellence, fairness, and decision making based on the best available data and science.

Equity: We will seek just and fair inclusion by reaching out to and creating conditions where under-represented communities can engage and be honestly heard. We seek opportunity and equitable outcomes that create vibrant, healthy communities for all.

Transparency: We seek out and share information, research, data, and analysis and seek to make the most informed strategic choices individually and collectively we can make. We maintain a repository of data to share freely with participants and the public.

Role

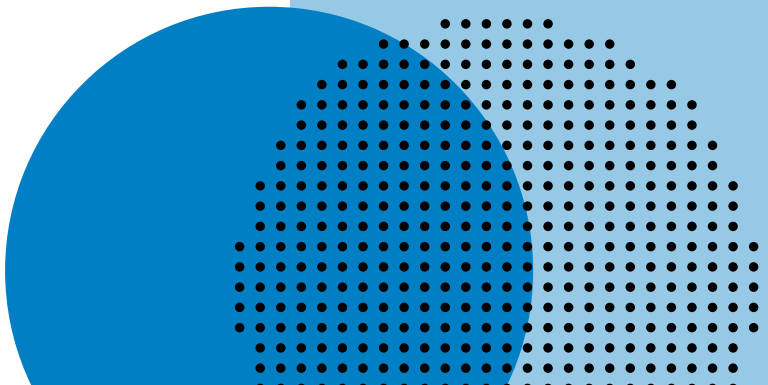
The Climate Transformation Alliance will act as a voluntary convening body to advance climate adaptation and mitigation projects, programs, and policies. Participants and agencies are not bound by any decisions made by the group or members of the group. Participants recognize that each organization or entity may operate within their organization or entity's constraints, bringing what resources they can to the effort. Signatories do not assume responsibility or liability for any other member's actions, obligations, or liabilities or any third party claims that arise out of this initiative.

SCOPE

The scope of the CTA will include the exploration of a wide range of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

These are likely to include: exploring achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions from improvements to the built environment through green building and development practices, energy efficiency, building decarbonization, renewable and distributed energy systems and local generation, improvements to transportation networks, zero-emission vehicle deployment, and green procurement and waste management strategies.

Strategies explored are also likely to include a focus on the utilization of natural and working lands to reduce emissions and store carbon, including forest and vegetation management, wildfire risk reduction, biomass utilization, prescribed fire, wetland restoration, groundwater recharge, and improving biological diversity to create more resilient landscapes in the face of climate change.



Goal 1

Organization Development

Convene the Climate Transformation Alliance

Objective 1: Organizational Charter

- Action 1: Draft and Organizational Charter
- Action 2: Legal Review by Public Agencies
- Action 3: Governing Partners Approve Charter

Objective 2: Membership

- Action 1: Presentation of Concept and Charter to Regional Leadership
- Action 2: Recruit 20 Core Members
- Action 3: Secure Sign-on From 20 Core Members

Objective 3: Budget/Funding

- Action 1: Develop 2-year Operating Budget
- Action 2: Develop Sliding Scale Membership Fee Structure
- Action 3: Secure Seed Funding for 1 year
- Action 4: Establish Process to Track Funding Opportunities
- Action 5: Submit Applications for Operational Funding

Goal 2

Communications

Catalyze Community Support

Objective 1: Develop Communications Materials

- Action 1: Develop Branding
- Action 2: Develop Program Description Materials
- Action 3: Catalog Key Community Accomplishments

Objective 2: Identify and Recruit Communications Channels

- Action 1: Develop Website and Social Media Platforms
- Action 2: Convene communications subcommittee and central point of contact

in

Objective 3: Secure Media Opportunities

Objective 4: Establish Online Community Dashboard

Objective 5: Engage in Public Engagement and Outreach

- Action 1: Convene and Host Regularly Scheduled Meetings
- Action 2: Host Community Workshops

Goal 3

Data and Information

Measure Progress

- Objective 1: Establish Shared Information Platform for Participants
- Objective 2: Aggregate GHG Inventory Data to Establish Regional Baseline
- Objective 3: Establish and Maintain Regional Project Tracking Database
- Objective 4: Utilize Data to Establish “Targets”
- Objective 5: (complimentary climate coordination)

Goal 4

Project Development Process

Track and Report Progress

- Objective 1: Identify and Implement 2 “short term” projects
- Objective 2: Identify and Implement 2 “long Term” projects
- Objective 3: Develop longer-term Community Action Plan for Climate Resilience