

For the fifth consecutive year, we sponsored an Environmental Champions initiative that solicited grant proposals for innovative projects in the areas of clean air, clean energy and waste diversion. This year, we awarded 26 grants totaling \$400,000. Grants ranged from \$10,000 – \$25,000. The 2019 award-winning projects include:

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT SUMMARY	CATEGORY	CITY/REGION
<b>Project Clean Air</b>	Project Clean Air is a non-profit that strives to enhance the community by improving air quality through education and collective action throughout the San Joaquin Valley and Eastern Kern County. Funding will go to support the organization’s CNG and renewable CNG projects.	Air/Energy	Bakersfield
<b>Social And Environmental Entrepreneurs/ DIY Girls</b>	Funding will support Invent Girls, an intensive year-long program that guides thirty high school girls through the engineering design process to build prototypes that address issues in their community.	Energy	San Fernando Valley
<b>San Bernardino Valley College Foundation</b>	This project will enhance SBVC’s ability to provide training in CNG heavyduty truck environments. The proposed project will allow the College to expand training to provide proper drivability procedures for extensive fuel mileage in a CNG power heavy/medium duty truck, along with expansion of the CNG Engine repair in lab.	Air/Energy	San Bernardino
<b>Energy Independence Now</b>	<b>EIN will continue to engage communities, advocate for hydrogen’s role in zero-emission transportation initiatives and promote policy that will be supportive of hydrogen production and infrastructure development.</b>	Air/Energy	Los Angeles
<b>Los Angeles Conservation Corps</b>	The Los Angeles Conservation Corps. will use its funds to feed the hungry and employ the jobless all while helping the environment through its food waste prevention program. The program collects tons of food waste per week from dozens of supermarkets, convenience stores and restaurants, then partners with Meeting Each Need with Dignity (MEND) to distribute the food to over 30,000 people in need per month.	Waste Diversion	Los Angeles
<b>Special Service for Groups, Inc., Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement</b>	SSG/API Forward Movement’s (SSG/APIFM) Clean Air SGV (formerly Particulates Matter) project addresses health concerns related to poor air quality through a community-led education and advocacy campaign.	Air	Los Angeles

<b>South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation</b>	South Coast Botanic Garden's trashy past will, for the first time, be shared with visitors through a new and layered interpretation program. The Garden has a fascinating origin story - first as an open-pit mine, then a garbage landfill, later a source for natural gas, and finally a public garden. Guests will learn why the landfill was necessary for air pollution abatement, how the landfill was engineered with natural gas diversion for energy, and how we can reduce landfill volume.	Air/ Waste Diversion	South Bay
<b>Friends Of Ballona Wetlands</b>	FBW's educational program - Explore Ballona! - provides youth with hands-on learning that promotes the development of STEAM skills; offers substantive opportunities to engage in collaboration; and establishes a strong basis to recognize the impact they can have as environmental stewards.	Air/Energy	Playa del Rey
<b>YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles Weingart YMCA Wellness &amp; Aquatic Center</b>	The Weingart YMCA Wellness and Aquatic Center Youth and Government high school-aged youth will research environmental topics, convene a debate, and educate elected officials about efforts and legislation that will use renewable natural gas that will reduce and mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions in California.	Energy	Los Angeles
<b>La Plaza De Cultura Y Artes Foundation</b>	LA Plaza's Garden & Culinary Program offers interdisciplinary, experiential educational opportunities promoting the direct connection between culturally relevant, environmental education and healthy food and lifestyle choices. Students K-12 participate in workshops providing hands-on instruction in composting, water usage, air quality, gardening, food preparation, and healthy eating.	Air/Energy	Los Angeles
<b>Southeast Community Development Corporation</b>	The Southeast LA Environmental Leadership Academy will have four components that include workshops, STEM Labs, Field Trips, and the annual SELA STEM Fest. This program will be implemented at the Bell Tech Center, Bell Gardens Tech Center, and Whittier Tech Center. This project will provide 12 environmental focused workshops for 270 students over nine months and 432 hours of instruction. Total funding request is \$20,000. Total other funding source is \$17,540.	Air/Energy	Bell Gardens
<b>Cal Poly Pomona Foundation Inc</b>	Cal Poly Pomona's Healthy Soils & Clean Air project for 2020 encourages Southern California farmers and gardeners to adopt healthy soil practices and improve our environment on a grass-roots level. Soil, if properly managed, can trap carbon and prevent it from escaping into the atmosphere.	Energy	Pomona
<b>North East Trees Inc.</b>	This project will plant 300 drought tolerant trees, construct bio-infiltration swales, and renovate a neglected park within the Ramona Gardens Housing Development, one of the most polluted and disadvantaged communities in California.	Air	Los Angeles

<b>Explore Ecology</b>	The Explore Ecology School Gardens Program has installed and now maintains six large capacity vermicomposting (worm) bins in six schools within the SB Unified School District. Tons of food waste are recycled into compost and are diverted from the landfill, in line with the AB 1826 California bill calling for major reduction in food waste. Funding is requested to install large bins in two additional schools during the grant period.	Waste Diversion	Santa Barbara
<b>Cal State Fullerton Philanthropic Foundation</b>	The Titan Smart Tree is self-sustaining carbon capturing system developed to absorb and store carbon dioxide from indoor/outdoor atmospheres leaving the air fresher. This system, in the form of an artificial tree, monitors CO2 levels continuously and absorbs excess CO2 above an acceptable level.	Air/Energy	Orange
<b>Climate Registry</b>	TCR's existing Greenhouse Gas Reporting for Small Businesses project will develop GHG reporting guidance and membership opportunities for small businesses in Southern California. A new suite of communications and outreach tools funded by SoCalGas would deepen the impact of this ongoing project, allowing TCR to engage a broad and diverse range of small businesses in Southern California around the benefits of managing energy and greenhouse gas emissions.	Air/Energy	Los Angeles
<b>YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles Westchester Family YMCA</b>	The Westchester Family YMCA will be environmental champions and stewards for youth and families in surrounding communities of Westchester, Inglewood, Lennox, and Loyola Village, providing uniquely new STEM education to afterschool and summer camp participants. The Y will educate on biogas/waste/diversion through hands-on kits, to increase awareness, and to collaborate with SoCalGas to support increasing college and career readiness in STEM, which may include: career day field trips, academic day visits to partner college campuses, or volunteer-led workshops and presentations.	Waste Diversion	Los Angeles
<b>CHOC Foundation</b>	The Breathmobile Program is Orange County's only mobile asthma clinic dedicated to increased asthma control for low-income children at Orange County schools and community sites. The Breathmobile brings a range of diagnostic services, education, evaluation, and treatment to more than 300 school-aged children monthly, removing barriers to consistent and comprehensive asthma treatment and providing continuity of care for children and their families.	Air	Orange
<b>Amigos De Los Rios</b>	Project would demonstrate 'Emerald Necklace' multi-objective urban greening at four eastern Los Angeles County sites: two Pasadena Unified schools, one Monrovia Unified School, and one South Gate regional park. Tree canopy, habitat, and green infrastructure provide mental health, academic performance, physical education and recreation benefits.	Air	Orange

<b>BREATHE California Of Los Angeles County</b>	The Blue Sky LA program will help the organization clean Southern California's air as Los Angeles prepares for the 2028 Olympics. The organization will engage Los Angeles residents through monthly volunteer opportunities and will promote collaboration while establishing Los Angeles as a global leader in the reduction of harmful pollutants.	Air/Energy	Los Angeles
<b>Trust For Public Land</b>	The Trust for Public Land's Parks for People—Los Angeles Program improves health, equity, and climate-resilience for underserved communities by creating exemplary urban parks and other green spaces in partnership with residents and stakeholders.	Air	Los Angeles
<b>The Santa Monica Bay Foundation</b>	The organization's Table to Farm Composting for Clean Air program is a solution for food waste and air pollution in the South Los Angeles community. As part of the program the Bay Foundation will install four edible garden beds in South Los Angeles parkways, and will educate the community on gardening and food equity.	Air	Los Angeles
<b>Olinga Learning</b>	Wings of Knowledge is a year-round educational program that empowers youth to improve their rural communities. Teams of students would design, manufacture, and deploy technology solutions that help local growers/ranches save water, fertilizer, and energy.	Air/Energy	Northern
<b>Orange Country Conservation Corps</b>	This project will teach young adults to plant 50 trees, care and train in the field of arboriculture, while improving the environment.	Air	Orange
<b>Back To Natives Restoration</b>	Back to Natives will address the challenge of clean air and water by restoring habitat with locally native trees with the volunteer help of students from low income communities. Habitat restoration along Santiago Creek in Santa Ana and Cuesta Kato in Dana Point will include removal of nonnative invasive plants and planting wetland plants and trees consume and process some common water pollutants.	Air	Orange