



## The State of Cap-and-Trade Spending in the Sierra Nevada

In 2014-2015, auction proceeds from California’s Cap-and-Trade system provided over \$870 million to fund projects across the state that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These funds, administered through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), were distributed by 12 different state agencies. Eight of these agencies reported allocating nearly \$530 million of that money in competitive grants and awards in areas including Sustainable Communities & Clean Transit, Energy Efficiency & Clean Energy, and Natural Resources & Waste Diversion.

### Highlights in Sierra Nevada Spending

- **46 projects** in the Sierra Nevada received a combined total of **\$21,304,207** from the GGRF.
- The Sierra **received only 1.98% of total GGRF funds** and is **only eligible to apply for 49% of the total funds**.
- **13 of the 22 counties** in the Sierra received funding, with Nevada County receiving the most, followed by El Dorado and Placer counties.
- The Sierra fared best in funding for Natural Resources & Waste Diversion, receiving around a quarter of the grants awarded by CalFIRE and the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

### GGRF Spending by Program

Program		California Amount Awarded	Sierra Nevada Awards	Percentage Awarded to Sierra Nevada
<b>Sustainable Communities &amp; Clean Transit</b>	Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)	\$ 224,278,000	\$ 0	0.00%
	Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)	\$ 24,165,592	\$193,814	0.80%
	Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC)	\$ 150,816,939	\$ 8,000,000	5.30%
	Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP)	\$ 6,178,495	\$1,344,000	21.75%
<b>Energy Efficiency &amp; Clean Energy</b>	State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)	\$ 17,891,816	\$254,294	1.42%
	Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP)	\$ 11,091,526	\$ 0	0.00%
	Water Action Plan – Water Energy Efficiency	\$ 28,000,000	\$ 218,594	0.78%
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Waste Diversion</b>	Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass Grant Program	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 0	0.00%
	Organic Grant Program	\$ 14,521,000	\$ 0	0.00%
	Wetlands & Watershed Restoration	\$ 21,318,473	\$ 5,340,077	25.05%
	Sustainable Forests	\$ 25,129,535	\$ 5,953,428	23.69%
<b>TOTAL FUNDS SPENT</b>		<b>\$ 1,073,657,376*</b>	<b>\$ 21,304,207</b>	<b>1.98%</b>

\* The Sierra Nevada Region was only eligible to apply for \$529,385,876 of GGRF money through the programs listed above, which amounts to 49.21% of total funds.



## Disadvantaged Communities and GGRF

In 2012, Governor Brown signed SB 535, a bill that requires at least 25% of the funds spent by the GGRF to directly benefit Californians living in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and a minimum of 10% of projects to be located in and providing benefits to DACs. The GGRF uses methodology called CalEnviroScreen 2.0 in order to determine those DACs.

CalEnviroScreen 2.0's methodology determines DACs using a combination of environmental characteristics such as  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration, along with population characteristics like poverty and unemployment rates. Scores assigned by CalEnviroScreen 2.0 are not numeric, but are instead based on the distribution of all scores across the state of California.

By focusing on pollutants and other criteria that are not measured or do not occur in rural communities, CalEnviroScreen 2.0 overlooks disadvantaged people in the Sierra Nevada from consideration for GGRF funds. Only three of the Sierra Nevada's 22 counties contain eligible census tracts, for a total of 54 eligible tracts. In contrast, Los Angeles County contains 854 eligible tracts.

## Defining Disadvantaged People in the Sierra Nevada

### What is a Disadvantaged Community?

For the purposes of distributing GGRF funding, a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) is a community that ranks in the top 25% of scores assigned by [CalEnviroScreen 2.0](#).

### How many Disadvantaged Communities are there in the Sierra Nevada?

Under the context of SB 535, CalEnviroScreen 2.0 largely focuses on the urban centers in California. This causes the Sierra Nevada region to be virtually excluded from money designated from the GGRF for disadvantaged populations. According to CalEnviroScreen 2.0, there are **zero** DACs in the Sierra Nevada Region.

### How do other government programs view the Disadvantaged Communities?

California's Department of Water Resources defines a DAC as one that is less than 80% of the California's median income.

Under this definition, there are **180** DACs in the Sierra Nevada region. 120 of these communities also fit the more strict definition of a Severely Disadvantaged Community, which has a median income that is less than 60% of the state's median income.



# GGRF FY 15 Projects in the Sierra Nevada



*The Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (“Sierra CAMP”) works to reduce the burden of climate impacts on communities and ecosystems throughout the Sierra Nevada region, and in the downstream urban communities that depend on those rural resources. Learn more at [sbsierracamp.org](http://sbsierracamp.org).*

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