CEC’S LEGACY: 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

For 50 years, CEC has strategically catalyzed change on the Central Coast, influencing California and beyond.

1970 Founded one of the nation’s first ecology centers
1973 Founded one of the nation’s first learning and research community gardens
1976 Opened one of the nation’s first community recycling centers
1982 Hosted a green building competition for CEC headquarters
1985 Pioneered hazardous waste collection and curbside recycling
1990 Helped pass California’s recycling law, the first in the nation
2001 Built the Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Burro Beach
2004 Shifted CEC’s mission to focus on climate change
2007 Published one of the nation’s first carbon neutrality plans
2010 Installed the first Rethink the Drink water bottle refill station in a local school
2011 Opened the first Solarize program
2016 Published the Santa Barbara County Food Action Plan
2017 Secured city commitments to 100% renewable energy
2018 Achieved Community Choice Energy for most of the Central Coast
2019 Secured our region’s first wind farm
2020 Launched an effort to establish the Central Coast as a global climate leader
Named California Nonprofit of the Year
Awarded City of Santa Barbara Climate Hero
2022 CEO Sigrid Wright named Congressional Woman of the Year

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