Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program

What is the purpose of the Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program?

The purpose of the Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program is to award grants to fairgrounds operated by the network of California fairs or modifications or upgrades that do one or both of the following activities:

(a) Enhance the ability of those facilities to serve as multirole community, staging, and evacuation centers to provide community resilience benefits during a disaster, state of emergency, local emergency, or de-energization event.

(b) Deploy communications and broadband infrastructure at those facilities to improve their capability to serve as multirole community, staging, and evacuation centers and enhance local telecommunications service.

How is the Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program funded?

California voters passes Proposition 4 which enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 and authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of $10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate-smart, sustainable, and resilient farms, ranches, and working lands, park creation and outdoor access, and clean air programs.

Of the funds made available by Chapter 5 Extreme Heat Mitigation of SB 867, $40,000,000 is available to the Department of Food and Agriculture for grants to fairgrounds operated by the network of California fairs.

What will the Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program funds be used for?

Of the full $40,000,000 appropriation, the Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program will award $37,200,000.00 to projects on fairgrounds within the network of California Fairs. About $2,800,000 is expected to be used for program administration.

The Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program focuses investments on disadvantaged communities (DACs), severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), and vulnerable populations (VPs). For the purpose of this bond program, "Disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income. "Severely disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income. "Vulnerable population" means a subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts.

The Fairgrounds Climate Bond Program Grants may support planning and direct implementation activities that lead to the development of updated climate-resilience centers.

Examples of planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- Feasibility Studies
- Environmental Reviews
- Project Design
- Budget Development

Examples of direct implementation activities include, but are not limited to:

- Activities associated with the retrofit of existing buildings, such as:
  - Heating and Cooling Systems
  - Roofing Systems
  - Broadband
  - Back-up Power
  - Underground Water and Sewer Systems