



ENHANCING THE TAHOE BASIN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Work on the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Round 1 grant began in September of 2011. We have initiated significant regional level changes and have created a new framework for local planning coordination and implementation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB32 and SB375. SGC Round 2 funding is being requested to continue preparation of new local plans, codes and zoning within the Tahoe Basin and for regional level implementation activities.

Round 1 SGC funding focuses on establishing a collaborative group, developing baseline data and outreach plans, setting up indicators, targets, and adaptation strategies, and supporting community based planning. With the unique regional development and transportation planning authority vested in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) and collaborative partners along with the guidance and funding of the existing SGC Round 1 grant and matching funds, the TMPO will accomplish the following:

- Reduce the development footprint by promoting infill and compact development by providing policy incentives for transferring development rights from environmentally sensitive areas to a mixed-use commercial core. This will reduce the need for automobile usage, improve air and water quality, revitalize urban and community centers, protect natural resources, strengthen the economy, and allow for better infrastructure planning. The incentives will promote development where people can walk, bike and ride transit as alternatives to using an automobile. This will facilitate the restoration of environmentally sensitive “sending areas” to naturally functioning land. Redevelopment in target areas will also include state-of-the-art water quality improvements that will result in additional environmental improvements.
- Promote public health, equity, increase affordable housing, and strengthen the economy through conducting health impact, housing, and livability assessments. Tahoe Livability Planning will be developed by agencies and the public and will include a sustainability vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives and strategies.
- Promote water conservation and energy efficiency through developing GHG reduction targets, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, climate change action plans, shrinking the development footprint and strategizing complete streets, transit, parking management, connectivity to bicycle/pedestrian trails and waterborne transit in the target areas through the new Regional Transportation Plan.

The SGC Round 1 funding will make a significant impact on the regional level framework for reshaping the development footprint, intensifying target areas and creating a more sustainable region. To continue this progress the Round 2 proposal includes three major projects:

- Update local government plans, codes and zoning – This will further local government planning efforts that have been initiated, but not completed, using Round 1 funding. To the degree possible, common policies, regulations and zoning maps that are consistent with the Tahoe Regional Plan will be created for use by the City of South Lake Tahoe, Eldorado County and Placer County. The proposed project further implements SB375 through housing analysis and public outreach.
- A regional transferrable development rights tracking and inventory system – This task proposes an online system to facilitate marketable development rights trading to implement and facilitate the goals and objectives for the first bullet point of Round 1 funding listed above.
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting – This will be a real-time monitoring system with an annual report that will include socioeconomic, environmental and related sustainability indicators for the Tahoe Basin. It will be created, implemented, and maintained through the efforts of all participants in the Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative.

The combined effort of Round 1 and Round 2 tasks will satisfy the Program Objectives and regional collaboration efforts accelerating the implementation of AB32 and SB375 in the Tahoe Region. Moving beyond Round 2, local governments (City of South Lake Tahoe, Eldorado County and Placer County) will be in the position to take the lead in achieving sustainability by continuing their local planning efforts.