



Local Governments Empowering Our Communities

Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network Pilot

September 20, 2023



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Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network

- New pilot program **open to Bay Area cities and counties** to build local energy resilience and inform design of BayREN's new Public Sector Program
- Convene local jurisdictions, regional agencies and other partners to support the **development of a network of local libraries throughout the Bay Area** that can also function as Community Resilience Centers (CRC) based on local needs

Input into the Business Plan

Strategic Planning: In 2021, BayREN undertook a strategic planning process, culminating in the BayREN 2025 Strategic Plan



Stakeholder Engagement: BayREN engaged multiple stakeholders through a series of approximately 15 meetings and listening sessions



Community Resilience Center Focus groups: BayREN conducted additional listening sessions to assess support needs for CRCs

BayREN's Equity Definition



For BayREN, equity means **addressing systemic barriers** to energy efficiency and electrification, especially for, and in collaboration with, equity priority communities and those who disproportionately face energy burdens, climate impacts, and are underrepresented in policy and decision-making.

Defining Resilience Hubs/CRCs – USDN

- **Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities augmented to:**
 - support residents and
 - coordinate resource distribution and services before, during, or after a natural hazard event.
- **Other benefits:**
 - Reduce GHG emissions and improve local quality of life
 - Reduce burden on local emergency response teams
 - Improve access to health improvement initiatives
 - Foster greater community cohesion
 - Increase the effectiveness of community-centered institutions and programs
 - Opportunity to build local community power and leadership

What We Heard

- Local government planning processes can be slow, complex and require a lot of buy in. **Its very difficult to move quickly** and respond to evolving community needs related to resilience hubs.
- Local government staff have **little capacity to work on resilience hubs and little capacity to staff them** during and after disasters. Many local government staff do not live in the jurisdiction in which they work.
- Local governments **want to ensure more equitable access to resilience hubs by power-shifting** so that local, community organizations and leaders play key roles
- Local governments need to be able to access planning and implementation support and funding to **upgrade all types of buildings to become resilience hubs**, not just municipal/public buildings.
- Many Bay Area local governments are in very early planning stages and still considering how to define goals and identify potential sites for local resilience hubs. They need support to do this and **would benefit from regional coordination to avoid duplication and leverage scarce resources.**

New Public Sector Programs – launching 2024

- **Integrated Energy Services:** Technical assistance to support integrated energy solutions for public buildings and CRCs
 - Energy concierge for local governments
 - **Energy Roadmapping – for municipal buildings and CRCs**
- **Targeted Decarbonization Resources Program:** Focuses on providing information and support for public building decarbonization
 - Decarbonization showcase
 - Education and financing, including testing rebate options

BayREN Resilient Libraries Network

Pilot initiative



Pilot Goals



Facilitate energy efficiency, distributed energy resources and other related improvements and upgrades for libraries to increase local resilience



Create a network of Community Resilience Centers across the Bay Area that can share challenges and learn from each other



Better position participants and the region for future funding opportunities

Why Libraries?

- **Municipal buildings** that are established and accessible gathering places for local communities
- Provide **valuable educational resources** which can be built on and expanded to incorporate local resilience
- Libraries are often **welcoming facilities for diverse populations**

The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.

- T.S. Eliot

Benefits of Participation



- **Join a network** of Bay Area libraries working to improve community resilience based on local needs
- **Community engagement and facilitation support** to develop community driven goals for your Community Resilience Center (CRC)
- Receive **free engineering technical assistance and recommendations** to identify energy upgrades to improve your library building's efficiency, resilience, and ability to provide cooling and clean air
- Work directly with resilience funding and finance experts to **identify relevant funding sources to support your CRC** and implement recommended energy upgrades

Site Assessment Report Outline

- **Goals for CRC**
 - Who do you plan to serve?
 - What resources will your site provide?
- **Site Energy Assessment**
 - Efficiency
 - Resilience
 - Health (Clean Air, Cooling)
- **Energy Upgrade Recommendations**
- **Funding/Financing Opportunities Identification**
 - Energy
 - Other non-energy goals

Meet the BayREN Resilient Libraries Network!



**COUNTY OF
SAN MATEO**



- Alameda County - 81st Avenue Branch Library
- Alameda County – West Oakland Library
- Marin County – Fairfax Branch Library
- Marin County – Novato Branch Library
- San Mateo County – East Palo Alto Library
- Santa Clara County – Biblioteca Latinoamericana Library (BLA) San Jose

Partner Spotlight

American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)

Rachel Jacobsen, Deputy Director

Lessons Learned

Readiness, Ownership and Forecasting

Lessons Learned - Readiness

- **Technical assistance works best when you have access data and staff buy-in**
 - CRCs that have access to detailed information and data about the building and supportive staff will get more out of technical assistance
- **Hard to tell the chicken from the egg....**
 - Our pilot was attractive to sites that are in very different stages of development
 - Site assessments can help make the case to explore a CRC but also are often needed to make the case to explore

Section 1: Library Site Information

- **Building information**
 - location, vintage, square footage, hours, services, ownership
- **Community Needs Assessment?**
 - Not required but should review if available
- **Estimate of annual energy use and other energy information**
 - Building features/audits (e.g. solar, battery back up?)
 - Recent energy upgrades?



If selected to participate, BayREN will request the following site information

- Monthly energy consumption data (natural gas, electricity, other fuels) for the years 2019 and 2021
- 15-minute interval data for major electric meter
- Drawings sets for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing
 - If entire drawing sets are not available, please provide:
 - Mechanical schedule
 - Lighting fixture schedule
 - Electrical single line diagrams
 - Plumbing schedule
- Preferably a site escort on the day of our site visit

Lessons Learned - Forecasting

- **Developing a CRC requires planning but also forecasting – # of emergency events, power outages, building plans etc.**
 - One site requires a full rebuild, one site may be renovated in 10 years, and one site may be moved entirely
 - Local governments need support to forecast how often the CRC will be activated and to understand what their “critical needs” will be during activation. Not an exact science.



Spotlight: East Palo Alto Library

Meeting Community Needs

- EPA library already serves meals, provides access to AC, filtered air, power to charge devices and computer access to the most disadvantaged residents in San Mateo County.

Expanding an Existing Community Hub

- SMC Office of Sustainability has done extensive outreach to various community groups that already provide services in partnership with EPA Library – the pilot is enabling them to further collaborate and partner to meet community needs

Support to Improve Plans and Identify Funding

- There are existing plans to upgrade EPA but these need to be updated and funding needs to be identified to implement

Lessons Learned - Ownership

- **Pilot required a city or county staff to be CRC Lead and recommended building a CRC team**
 - All of our CRC Leads have worked hard to move these efforts forward, but all have other full-time jobs and would benefit from more support/capacity
- **Community engagement needs to be ongoing**
 - Developing a CRC is a long process – building strong communication channels with your community is key

CRC Team

Examples of stakeholders that could join the CRC Team include but are not limited to:

- **Community members, representatives and/or residents** that will co-develop the goals for the Community Resilience Center and provide guidance on local community needs.
- **Library staff at the library site** that can co-develop goals for the Community Resilience Center and provide guidance on community needs and existing library resources and priorities.
- **County Office of Emergency Services** staff that will co-develop goals for the Community Resilience Center and provide insight on how to coordinate this initiative with existing OES efforts.



Next Steps

- Finalizing site assessments and matching each site with funding experts to provide guidance
- Final reports will include:
 - Energy upgrade recommendations
 - Funding and financing recommendations
- Lessons learned
 - Designed to inform new Public Sector Programs

Thank you!

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