



# Community- Led Climate Initiatives

Taking Climate  
Action Together



# All Hands on Deck

- Climate action can't and shouldn't be accomplished by one actor.



## Why Community-Led Action?

- Climate action is most successful when community members are involved in all stages, from planning through implementation and monitoring.
- Climate action decisions and prioritization should be led by the people most impacted by climate change.

## Why Partner-Led Action?

- Some climate work cannot happen without leadership from within key sectors.
- Supporting access have access to resources and a strong voice for advocating for change.



The image features a large, thin white circle centered on a black background. Inside this circle, the text "Local Examples" is written in a white, sans-serif font. To the left of the circle, there are two horizontal wavy lines. Below the circle, on the left side, is a small solid orange circle. To the right of the circle, there is a small orange circle with a white outline. In the bottom right corner, there is a rectangular area filled with a grid of small white dots.

# Local Examples



# Olympia Community Solar

- A non-profit that leads efforts to install community solar projects and encourage an equitable transition to renewable energy.
- Their “Solarize” program offers discounted group purchase rates and home energy audits.





# TCAT – Cooling Thurston

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- A non-profit organization focused on climate mitigation and adaptation through service programs and advocacy.
- The “Cooling Thurston” program is a partnership with local community groups and senior living establishments to provide free portable heat pumps to the County’s most vulnerable residents.

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Cooling Thurston program funded through a HEAL grant through Front and Centered





# Restoring Earth Connection

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- A non-profit organization in Thurston County that conducts a variety of educational and advocacy-focused programs in pursuit of climate justice and sustainability.
- Recent programs include the 10-Month Climate Challenge that offers a new idea for interrogating and changing how we interact with the world each month, and the contest to find “Olympia’s Biggest Tree,” which offered the chance to educate the community on the benefits of protecting large trees.





# LOTT Clean Water Alliance

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- A non-profit corporation that provides wastewater management services to the four jurisdictions.
  - Recently utilized Department of Commerce grant funding to separately meter their services building to set a baseline that will be used for future electricity usage reductions.
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# Thurston Conservation District

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- Provides free services to County residents to improve land stewardship practices.
  - Offers workshops and other educational events, including six events on regenerative agriculture practices in 2024.
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# Intercity Transit

- A regional provider of public transportation services.
- Has established several programs to increase public transit use, including a zero-fare pilot program, a Vanpool/Rideshare program, and an ongoing project to update fixed routes to better meet community needs.







# National & Global Examples



# Lawrence Pa'lante: Safer Cooler Streets

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- A collaborative, community-led effort established a new community garden and kicked off a cool roofs campaign in an area identified as an urban heat island.
  - The Pa'lante resident taskforce led the conversion of an abandoned gas station into a “cool island,” an initially temporary pop-up green space that is still there.
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Funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & C40 Cities





# Tempe, AZ

- A youth-focused initiative (“Cool Kids, Cool Places, Cool Futures”) includes a youth council that works with the city, climate justice focused education led by the Indigenous Design Collective, and sustainability actions led by student groups at participating schools

Funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & C40 Cities





# Eigg, Scotland

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- Implemented a fully renewable power grid that combines hydro, wind, and solar that provides 90-95% of the island's power needs throughout the year.
- Excess power in winter is directed to community spaces to power electric heaters for free.

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Eigg Electric is a community owned, managed and maintained power utility.

