

Achieving Resilient Communities (ARC)



Description

Communities in California are facing climate threats from wildfires, heat, drought, harmful algal blooms, and flooding, furthering disproportionate health outcomes. Proactive, localized efforts must be made to build resilience in the communities most impacted by these threats. In response, **the ARC project seeks to make measurable improvements in community resilience, namely related to heat and smoke, across California.**

ARC actions include:

- 1) Invite farmworkers to share and document their experiences working in high temperatures and smoky conditions.
- 2) Inform workers of self care practices during dangerous work conditions and their legal rights to protection.
- 3) Promote creation and distribution of fire and heat warning systems in a broad array of languages to reiterate rights and guide safe practices.
- 4) Design and test water cooling prototypes in the field to achieve consistent cool water to reduce risk of heat illness and to provide prototype lessons to equipment manufacturers.
- 5) Research, publish, and promote best management practices to protect workers in polytunnels.
- 6) Create a resilience hub and cooling center at the Terra Bella Unified School District to serve as a center for community heat protection and education.
- 7) Create and facilitate a statewide learning community focused on improving and implementing protections from heat and smoke for farmworker communities.

Objectives

- Build resilient farmworker communities by addressing the impacts of heat and smoke.
- Raise awareness through storytelling of farmworkers impacted by extreme weather events.
- Expand resources to other counties.

Partners

- Brokaw Ranch Company
- CA Extreme Heat & Community Resilience Program, Governor's Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
- Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy
- Cigna Foundation
- Good Farms
- Lideres Campesinas
- Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project
- North Bay Jobs with Justice
- Public Health Alliance of Southern California
- Reiter Affiliated Companies
- StoryCenter
- Terra Bella Unified School District
- Tracking California
- University of California Berkeley & UC ANR
- Ventura County Farm Bureau
- Ventura County Farmworker Health Collaborative
- Ventura County Farmworker Resource Center
- Western Center for Agricultural Health & Safety, UC Davis