# **Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network Initiative**

## Application to Participate



## 

## Application Checklist

**Required Components**

**All applications must include the following:**

☐ [Local Government Lead Contact Information](#Contact_Info)

☐ [Section 1: Library Site Information](#Section_1)

☐ [Section 2: Project Need](#Section_2)

☐ [Section 3: Engagement & Support](#Section_3)

**OPTIONAL COMPONENTS**

Applicants may submit the following as relevant to their application:

☐ Letters of Support from community stakeholders and other partners

# **Application Criteria and Selection Process**

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) is launching the Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network pilot initiative to help inform a larger scale program that was proposed in the [BayREN Portfolio Application](https://www.bayren.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/A2203XXX%20-%20BayREN%20-%20Application%20for%20Approval%20of%20Business%20Plan.pdf) filed with the California Public Utilities Commission. While there is limited funding for this pilot program, qualified jurisdictions that are not selected in this initial phase may be put in the pipeline for consideration if additional funding is identified.

**The Resilient Libraries Network application process will open on June 28th and applications will be due by Friday, September 30th at 5pm.**

The Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network will develop a network of energy efficient and resilient local libraries that can also function as Community Resilience Centers (CRCs) to deliver resources before, during and/or after a natural hazard related events based on local needs.

**Benefits of Participation:**

* Join a network of Bay Area libraries working to improve community resilience based on local needs.
* Receive community engagement and facilitation support to develop community-driven goals for your Community Resilience Center.
* Receive engineering technical assistance and recommendations to identify energy upgrades needed 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 Community Resilience Center and implement recommended energy upgrades.

**Eligibility to Participate:**

* The pilot is open to Bay Area cities and counties.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Each application must include a Bay Area City or County staff member who will act as the Local Government Lead and primary point of contact for BayREN.
  + **Local Government Lead** – Acts as primary point of contact for BayREN and participates in participant convenings. This must be a city or county staff member who can connect BayREN with necessary energy use information about the library site to complete the site assessment.

**Expected Engagement Efforts:**

BayREN encourages applicants to build a “CRC Team” of relevant stakeholders that the Local Government Lead can partner with to both develop community driven goals for their CRC and implement energy upgrades and other activities to realize these goals. Please note:

* The Local Government Lead will be the primary point of contact for BayREN throughout the duration of the initiative from November 2022 through November 2023.
* Only the Local Government Lead is required to participate in two Resilient Library Initiative Network convenings in November of 2022 and November of 2023. All CRC Team members are encouraged to participate in these convenings if desired.
* At minimum, BayREN is seeking applications from jurisdictions that have engaged and solicited input from relevant community stakeholders and staff at the library site.
* BayREN encourages applicants to also engage their County Office of Emergency Services (OES) staff to coordinate this CRC effort with other ongoing County emergency response efforts. If an applicant is not able to coordinate with their County OES office prior to applying but is selected to participate, BayREN will help facilitate this coordination with your County OES office in late 2022.

**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.

**Equity Priority Communities and Frontline Communities**

BayREN wants to support the development of CRCs that will serve communities who are most impacted by climate change and have the least resources to deal with these impacts. BayREN looks to the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) Equity Priority Communities framework for examples of demographic factors that identify communities most in need of CRCs. MTC has [defined](https://bayareametro.github.io/Spatial-Analysis-Mapping-Projects/Project-Documentation/Equity-Priority-Communities/) and [mapped](https://mtcdrive.app.box.com/s/mgzdaox2kgtqxsya6gk8554oc9dvval9) Equity Priority Communities throughout the Bay Area based on the demographic factors outlined in Table 1 below. MTC defines an Equity Priority Community as those census tracts that have a concentration of BOTH people of color AND low-income households, OR that have a concentration of 3 or more of the remaining 6 factors (#3 to #8) but only IF they also have a concentration of low-income households.

BayREN also looks to the American Society of Adaptation Professional’s (ASAP) working definition of Frontline communities[[2]](#footnote-2) for guiding principles and a framework to understand which communities would benefit most from BayREN’s support to develop a Community Resilience Center (CRC).

## *People and communities [on the frontlines/at the forefront] of climate change are those that experience the consequences of climate change first and worst. They include people who are both highly exposed to climate risks because of the places they live and have fewer resources, capacity, safety nets, or political power to respond to those risks because of widespread discrimination, promoted by histories of colonialism, white supremacy, domination of nature, and economic exploitation. They include Black people, Indigenous Peoples, people of color, people with low incomes and from low-income backgrounds as well as other individuals and communities such as immigrants, those at-risk of displacement, old and young people, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, incarcerated people, renters, people with disabilities, and chronically ill or hospitalized people. Equitable and effective climate adaptation measures are those owned and controlled by people who hold these identities, backgrounds, and characteristics and integrate their knowledge and lived experience.*

**Frontline Communities: People & Communities at the Forefront of Climate Change (ASAP)**

BayREN is seeking applications from jurisdictions that will serve Frontline Communities AND/OR are in Equity Priority Communities OR that can demonstrate that their library site will serve populations that align with some of the demographic factors that define Frontline and Equity Priority Communities. For example, a library site could be in an area that is not designated as an Equity Priority Community by MTC but that serves a population that is majority people of color and majority limited English proficiency. In question #1 of *Section 2: Project Need*, applicants will be asked to provide qualitative information on the Equity Priority Community and/or Frontline Community demographic characteristics for the communities that their library site serves. Quantitative information (e.g. concentrations of specific demographic factors) is not required but is welcomed if Local Government Leads are able to access this data and feel that it adds value to their narrative response.

**Table 1: Equity Priority Communities**

| **Demographic Factor** | **Demographic Factor Definition** | **Concentration Threshold** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| People of Color | People of Color populations include persons who identify as any of the following groups as defined by the Census Bureau in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget: American Indian or Alaska Native Alone (non-Hispanic/non-Latino); Asian Alone (non-Hispanic/non-Latino); Pacific Islander Alone (non-Hispanic/non-Latino); Black or African-American Alone (non-Hispanic/non-Latino); and Other (Some Other Race, Two or More Races, non-Hispanic/non-Latino); and all Hispanic/Latino persons. | 70% |
| Low Income  (< 200% Federal Poverty Level -FPL) | Person living in a household with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level established by the Census Bureau. | 28% |
| Limited English Proficiency | Person above the age of 5 years, who do not speak English at least “well” as their primary language or had a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English at least “well”, as defined by the U.S. Census. | 12% |
| Zero-Vehicle Household | Households that do not own a personal vehicle. | 15% |
| Seniors 75 Years and Over | Self-explanatory. | 8% |
| People with Disability | The U.S. Census Bureau defines disability as: Hearing difficulty- deaf or having serious difficulty hearing (DEAR); Vision difficulty- blind or having serious difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions (DREM); Ambulatory difficulty- having serious difficulty walking or climbing stars (DPHY; Self-care difficulty- having difficulty bathing or dressing (DDRS); Independent living difficulty- because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping (DOUT). | 12% |
| Single-Parent Family | Families with at least one child. To determine whether or not single-parent families exceed tract concentration thresholds, **the share of single parent families is calculated as a share of all families regardless of whether or not they have any children.** | 18% |
| Severely Rent-Burdened Household | Renters paying > 50% of income in rent. To determine whether or not severely rent-burdened households exceed tract concentration thresholds, **the share of severely rent-burdened households is calculated as a share of all households regardless of occupancy status (renter or owner).** | 14% |

# **Application Procedure**

BayREN has funding to support a limited number of applicants for this pilot initiative and encourages applications from local governments who have intention to carry out at least some of BayREN’s energy upgrade recommendations within three to five years after receiving them.

* **Applicants should complete and submit an application via email to** [**aseville@bayareametro.gov**](mailto:aseville@bayareametro.gov) **by 5pm on September 30th, 2022.**
* **Emailed applications should include the subject line: Resilient Libraries Network Pilot Application.**
* **Late applications will not be considered.**

## Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

To be considered to participate in the Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network Initiative, jurisdictions must demonstrate that:

1. The proposed CRC library site does not have any known physical, ownership or operational barriers that would limit the implementation of recommended energy upgrades.
2. The CRC will serve local communities that are most impacted by climate change and have the least resources to deal with these impacts.
3. The Local Government Lead has demonstrated that they have actively engaged with relevant library staff and community stakeholders that understand and can represent the needs of the communities that the CRC will serve.

By applying, the Local Government Lead is also demonstrating that they are committed to actively participating for the duration of the initiative and sharing lessons learned with other participants.

BayREN has created a selection committee comprised of BayREN staff and consultants that will review all applications. This committee will score each application based on the following criteria using a 1-10 scale for a total of 30 possible points:

**Section 1: Library Site Information (10 points)**

* Applicant has provided all required site information to help BayREN assess whether there are any physical, ownership or operational barriers that would limit applicant’s ability to implement the energy upgrade recommendations BayREN will provide.
* The library site will receive higher points for this section if it shows strong potential for energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction (e.g. if the building is very energy inefficient).

**Section 2: Project Need (10 points)**

* Applicant has identified the communities that they plan to serve and indicated how this CRC would benefit these communities.
* Applicant has outlined the goals that they developed with their CRC Team and indicated how these goals reflect the needs of the communities this CRC will serve.

**Section 3: Engagement & Support (10 points)**

* Applicant has engaged relevant library site staff, community members and other relevant stakeholders to identify and understand the needs of the communities this CRC plans to serve.

The BayREN Selection Committee will follow a consensus-based decision-making process to select pilot participants in which all the criteria above are considered equally. Additional factors that the BayREN Selection Committee may consider when making final selections include:

* **Geographic diversity**
  + BayREN would like to build a geographically diverse Resilient Libraries Network to ensure that every Bay Area County has access to the benefits of participation in the initiative that seeks to advance community resilience throughout the Bay Area.
* **Diversity and Strength of Partnerships**

BayREN seeks applicants who demonstrate efforts to develop strong and diverse partnerships with relevant organizations, agencies, and individuals to ensure that CRC goals are community driven and informed by knowledge of local climate change impacts and existing emergency response capacity and resources

# **Application Form**

The Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network pilot is open to Bay Area cities and counties.[[3]](#footnote-3) Each application must include a Bay Area City or County staff member who will act as the primary point of contact (the Local Government Lead) for BayREN and, if selected will participate in the two convenings[[4]](#footnote-4) of the Bay Area Resilient Libraries Network in November 2022 and November 2023.

**Local Government Lead Contact Information**

***Acts as primary point of contact for BayREN and participates in Resilient Libraries Network convenings. This must be a city or county staff member who can connect BayREN with necessary energy use information about the library site to complete the site assessment.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Title** |  |
| **City or County Department or Agency** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Phone Number** |  |
| **Bay Area City or County Employer** |  |

BayREN encourages applicants to build a “CRC Team” of relevant stakeholders that the Local Government Lead can partner with to both develop community driven goals for their CRC and implement energy upgrades and other activities to realize these goals.

**Please use the table below to list your CRC Team members and indicate whether you are including a letter of support for the application from this Team member.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and Title** | **Team Role (e.g. Community member/representative, library staff, County OES staff etc.)** | **Letter of Support Provided?** |
|  | E.g., Library site staff | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  | E.g., Community member/representative | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
|  |  | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

## Section 1: Library Site Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Library site location (street address) |  |
| Year library was built |  |
| Square footage of library building |  |
| Regular Hours of Operation |  |
| Does this Library site already provide local resilience services (e.g., access to cooling on extreme heat days, access to clean air on poor air quality days etc.) | Yes  No  If yes, please describe what services are currently provided at this site: (250 words or less) |
| Does your library site have a Community Needs Assessment?[[5]](#footnote-5) | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Does the Library site already have solar panels? | Yes  No  If yes, please tell us when the solar panels were installed at this site: |
| Does the Library site already have battery back-up power? | Yes  No |
| If the library site is not owned by the jurisdiction who is acting as the Local Government Lead Applicant, a letter of support from owner of the library site is included as part of this application to demonstrate that they support the city/county’s participation in the initiative. | Yes  No  N/A  Library site is owned by Lead Applicant’s jurisdiction |
| Please provide an estimate of the annual energy usage for this library site for the year 2021. | kW electricity  Therms natural gas  Other (please specify) |
| If selected to participate, utility bills and 15-minute interval data for the library site from the most recent year available and the year 2019 can be provided to BayREN. | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Have any Energy Audits been conducted for this Library site in the last five years? If selected to participate, BayREN will request access to these Energy Audits. | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| Please provide a description and dates of any recent energy upgrades or renovations made in the last five years to the library building. This includes any changes made to the site’s mechanical, electrical or plumbing system. (250 words or less): | |

## Section 2: Project Need

1. Describe the communities that will be served and how they will benefit from this CRC. Include any relevant information on the demographic characteristics of the census tracts that make up these communities to illustrate whether you consider them Frontline Communities.[[6]](#footnote-6) If your library site is in an Equity Priority Community as defined by MTC please note this. **(500 words maximum).**
2. Please outline the goals that you and your CRC Team have developed for your Community Resilience Center (CRC) based on local needs. Your response should at minimum address the following questions **(500 word maximum):**
   1. What are the resilience related needs of the communities that your CRC will focus on addressing?
   2. When will your CRC operate? (e.g. during extreme heat days, at times when air quality falls below moderate levels on the Air Quality Index[[7]](#footnote-7) etc.)
   3. What resources will your CRC provide in addition to the resources your library already provides? (e.g. access to air conditioning, access to filtered air, access to power to charge devices, access to educational materials on climate resilience etc.)

## Section 3: Engagement and Support

1. Please provide a description of the process you engaged in to develop your CRC goals and note key stakeholders who were involved. If applicable, please address how your library site’s *Community Needs Assessment* informed your goal development process. **(500 words maximum).**

1. BayREN serves all Bay Area cities and counties who are PG&E customers for electricity and/or gas distribution. The City of Healdsburg and the City of Palo Alto have their own utilities that provide both electricity and gas distribution and therefore are not eligible to participate in this pilot. Jurisdictions that purchase electricity through a CCA are eligible to participate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17A8xIbHE8FPVFW7vhylrOm8bnK2ulJYfsBLrN5OJMVw/edit?usp=sharing> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. BayREN serves all Bay Area cities and counties who are PG&E customers for electricity and/or gas distribution. The City of Healdsburg and the City of Palo Alto have their own utilities that provide both electricity and gas distribution and therefore are not eligible to participate in this pilot. Jurisdictions that purchase electricity through a CCA are eligible to participate. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. BayREN plans to either hold these convenings totally virtually or provide a hybrid option. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. In Section 3: Engagement & Support applicants will have the opportunity to comment on whether their library’s Community Needs Assessment helped to inform their CRC goals. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) working definition of People & Communities at the Forefront of Climate Change: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17A8xIbHE8FPVFW7vhylrOm8bnK2ulJYfsBLrN5OJMVw/edit?usp=sharing [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. https://www.baaqmd.gov/about-air-quality/current-air-quality [↑](#footnote-ref-7)