Cap and Trade (AHSC) Practice

In 2014, Enterprise Northern California launched an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) practice to further our mission to ensure low-income Californians have access to healthy communities, and affordable homes near quality transit and key destinations. Our practice entails comprehensive technical assistance to AHSC applicant teams whose projects support statewide climate change goals and the needs of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Enterprise’s Year One TA leveraged our policy expertise and AHSC application toolkit to create meaningful partnerships between diverse public agencies and affordable housing developers. We seek to replicate and expand that success in year two of AHSC capacity building and awards.

Technical Assistance Services
Enterprise Northern California’s AHSC TA is available to cross-sector applicant teams whose projects reduce GHGs and advance regional planning goals for equitable housing and community infrastructure. Enterprise is poised to provide select partners with one, some or all of the below listed activities. The scope of our technical assistance is determined through partners’ requests and an initial capacity assessment. The assessment identifies goals, bandwidth gaps, project features and strategic teaming opportunities. Based on our analysis of a partner’s readiness and goals, we develop an application strategy that provides support where it is needed most and a structure for effectively coordinating with local, public agency partners.

What We Do

- **Program Promotion** – Through in-person presentations, papers and virtual meetings with public and nonprofit partners, Enterprise promotes awareness of AHSC goals and partnership opportunities. Our AHSC developer packets, toolkits for public agencies and year one case studies clearly connect AHSC aims for reduced GHGs and increased connectivity to ongoing development efforts. This program promotion can ignite new partnerships across sectors, and provide funding for projects that have been stalled but are high –quality and important to community health.

- **Guideline Clarification** – AHSC integrates housing and transportation projects into one application in ways that can be unfamiliar or confusing to potential applicants. Enterprise TA clarifies program requirements and criteria to AHSC teams to ensure that applications are compliant and competitive.

- **Informational Convenings** – We share best practices for efficient application assembly, impactful scope adjustments and techniques for measuring GHGs – a cornerstone of measuring project success.

- **Comprehensive application assistance** – Our application assistance varies greatly depending on each agency’s needs. Examples of our support include: coordinating developers, identifying the most competitive projects and team formations, timeline communication and responsibility management; narrative development, defining project areas for greatest impact, identifying financing gaps, and decoding guideline language.

- **Local and Regional Project Pipeline Management**—Enterprise is working with MPOs to develop proprietary data forms that efficiently collect and categorize transportation and housing infrastructure data from cities, public agencies and developers. With Enterprise support and tool utilization, partners can identify short and longer-term opportunities for AHSC projects that combine transportation infrastructure with housing in impactful, innovative ways. The data collected from this AHSC tool will also help public partners see concentrations of community development opportunities.

- **Debriefs and Policy Recommendations** -- Enterprise works with partners to evaluate the process and strategies for improvement next year. We are also engaged in statewide conversations about policies and practices that will spread AHSC resources and ensure meaningful investments.

For more information contact Heather Hood or Orissa Stewart-Rose
hhood@enterprisecommunity.org; ostewart-rose@enterprisecommunity.org ■ 415.400.0973 ■ 415.400.0979