



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 21, 2026

Contact:

Phil Pitchford

Public Information Officer

951-826-5975

ppitchford@riversideca.gov

City of Riverside's Sustainability Leadership Continues to Attract National Investment and Recognition

Nearly \$150,000 in grants and technical support reinforces Riverside's emergence as a leading green technology and climate innovation hub

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside's continued leadership in sustainability, climate innovation, and green economic development is attracting growing national recognition and outside investment, with nearly \$150,000 in new grants and technical assistance awarded in recent weeks to support clean energy, climate resilience, and workforce innovation initiatives.

The recent awards further validate Riverside's strategy to position itself as a leader in the green technology economy, leveraging sustainability not only as an environmental imperative, but as a driver of economic growth, workforce development, and long-term community resilience.

Most recently, Resilient Cities Catalyst (RCC), in partnership with Climate Resolve and California Forward (CA FWD), selected Riverside as one of only four winning projects statewide for funding and technical support through the California Resilience Implementation Accelerator.

The award provides the City with \$20,000 in seed funding, pro bono project development assistance, and direct connections to additional funding partners to help move projects from planning to implementation.

The funding will support Riverside's [Northside Agriculture Innovation Center](#), a community-driven project that combines emerging agricultural technologies, solar infrastructure, educational programming, and workforce training to strengthen the long-term viability of urban agriculture and food system resilience in the face of extreme heat, drought, and growing economic pressures located in the City's Northside neighborhood.

Selected from more than 60 applications statewide, Riverside's success reflects increasing confidence from outside organizations in the City's ability to deliver innovative, scalable climate solutions.

“These investments are not happening by accident,” Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson said. “Riverside has made a deliberate commitment to sustainability, innovation, and building a green technology ecosystem that creates opportunity for our residents while addressing the climate challenges of the future. National organizations are recognizing that leadership and choosing to invest in our city because they see Riverside as a place where innovative ideas can become real-world solutions.”

The latest award builds on more than \$125,000 in additional grants and technical support Riverside has recently secured to advance clean energy and sustainability initiatives.

Among those investments:

- [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) selected Riverside to participate in its global Youth Climate Action Fund, providing \$50,000 to empower residents ages 15–24 to develop community-based climate solutions aligned with city priorities. Riverside joins more than 300 cities across 34 countries participating in the initiative.
- [ICLEI USA](#) and [Coalition for Green Capital](#) awarded Riverside \$76,042 to help develop public-private partnerships focused on expanding clean energy infrastructure and financing opportunities. Riverside was the only California city selected to receive this funding.

The Youth Climate Action Fund will support innovation competitions, youth-led sustainability projects, and technical assistance efforts designed to cultivate the next generation of civic and climate leaders. Cities that successfully deploy the initial funding may become eligible for an additional \$100,000 in future support.

Meanwhile, Riverside’s clean energy partnership initiative positions the City to compete for millions more in implementation funding tied to future renewable energy and infrastructure projects.

“These awards demonstrate that Riverside is not simply participating in the clean energy transition — we are helping lead it,” City Councilmember Steven Robillard said. “We have intentionally built a culture of innovation around sustainability, and organizations across the country are recognizing Riverside as a city capable of turning ambitious ideas into measurable results.”

The City’s sustainability momentum builds on years of strategic investments in renewable energy, electrification, climate resilience, green workforce development, and international partnerships focused on advancing clean technology and economic innovation.

By continuing to attract outside funding, technical expertise, and public-private collaboration, Riverside is strengthening its position as a hub for climate innovation and demonstrating how local governments can simultaneously grow their economies and advance meaningful environmental progress.