



## **Innovative Efforts Take Center Stage at 2026 Napa Climate Summit**

**Napa, February 9, 2026:** The lessons of the 2017 wildfires continue to shape how Napa County plans for a changing climate. Today, that work includes coordinated efforts to reduce wildfire risk, restore and protect watersheds, improve energy infrastructure, and prepare for flooding tied to rising sea levels. The fourth annual Napa Climate Summit, *Resilient Napa*, will bring those efforts together on March 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. at Napa Valley College, highlighting local actions already underway to strengthen resilience countywide. The free public event is hosted by Napa Climate NOW! and Napa Valley College.

County Board of Supervisors Chair Amber Manfree plans to highlight the importance of being proactive in the face of increasing extreme weather events in her introductory remarks.

“Napa’s economy depends on a climate that is conducive to agriculture and tourism,” Manfree said. “Napa County is proactively partnering with many organizations to reduce wildfire risk, prepare for future disasters, manage water resources sustainably, and plan ahead for sea level rise. Our Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan establishes a path to reduce our contribution to global warming.”

A land-based strategies panel will feature a presentation by Joe Nordlinger, CEO of Napa Firewise, on the Valley Stewards Initiative, a first-of-its-kind, public-private strategy proving what’s possible when private investment, public agencies, and local landowners come together to turn good intentions into measurable outcomes at large scale.

Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) will highlight two initiatives that show how watershed restoration directly supports community resilience. Attendees will learn how restoring more than 170 acres of wetlands and floodplains in the Suscol and Huichica Creek watersheds helps protect neighborhoods from flooding and sea-level rise while expanding public outdoor spaces. Napa RCD will also introduce a new, collaborative Napa River Watershed Group, offering insight into how diverse stakeholders are working together to manage shared water resources and reduce wildfire risk across the county.

Lucas Patzek, Napa RCD’s Executive Director, explained, “In Napa County, our local watersheds are the lifeblood of our community, providing 85% of our water and supporting the world-class agriculture and natural beauty that defines our home. By bringing together local leaders, farmers, tribal partners, and residents to restore our creeks and manage our

water collaboratively, we aren't just preparing for climate change—we're honoring our heritage and securing a resilient future for the next generation of Napa stewards."

In a second panel, focused on community resiliency, the Climate Summit sponsor, Pacific Gas and Electric, will provide an update on undergrounding utility lines. There will also be presentations on the hydrogen-powered Resiliency Center in Calistoga, the City of Napa's plans to generate energy from solid waste, and how to grow a skilled workforce to manage the transition to clean, renewable energy for all.

The panel discussions will conclude with a social hour featuring wines produced by Napa Valley College, allowing attendees to connect with speakers and local organizations working on resilience efforts.

Beth Painter, Napa City Councilmember and member of the Climate Summit planning committee, noted, "The speakers will present some leading-edge actions for making us 'Napa-strong' in the face of climate change."

Whether you're a resident, landowner, business owner, student, or simply someone who cares about Napa's future, this Summit offers a practical look at how climate resilience is being built locally. It's an opportunity to learn what's already underway and how individual actions connect to broader community efforts.

Join Napa Climate NOW! on March 26 from 3-6 pm at the Fourth Annual Napa Climate Summit and discover the work being done to prepare our region for a healthy, secure, and protected future. This event will take place at the Main Theater in the Performing Arts Center at the Napa Valley College Campus. Free parking will be available, along with ample bicycle parking.