

HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT

AFFORDABLE HOMES ARE A CRUCIAL PART OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Build Smart, Reduce Waste

- Thanks to California's strong environmental building requirements, affordable home builders cut down on utilities, water, and other resources used in construction and throughout the lifespan of a development.
- Leveraging density bonuses and inclusionary policies, affordable homes promote urban infill to maximize resource usage.



TRANSIT-ORIENTED AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES HELP MEET CLIMATE GOALS

- Affordable home residents are more likely to use transit given the opportunity. Low-income households drive 25-30% fewer miles when living within 1/2 mile of transit than those living in non-transit oriented hubs, decreasing traffic and greenhouse gas pollution.
- Ensuring that low-income residents have housing options near transit is an absolute necessity to maximize climate benefits, meet our state's climate goals, reduce local and regional air pollution, and meet our clean air standards.
- Compared to spread-out suburbs, transit-oriented affordable housing diminishes urban sprawl, saves energy, reduces automobile dependence, curtails tailpipe emissions, slows the spread of pavement across watersheds, and conserves land.



Join us to build homes for a sustainable California

CHC is working with a growing statewide coalition of stakeholders to increase affordable housing construction to provide sustainable housing opportunities for families and to ensure the environmental quality of communities all over the state.

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MANY WORKING IN ENVIRONMENTAL JOBS ARE LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK TO AFFORD HOUSING IN CALIFORNIA

New data shows many in environmental professions can't afford to rent a basic one-bedroom apartment in California. We are pricing out many crucial professions from our communities. These jobs cannot be outsourced and the housing predicaments hurt ecosystems and communities.



PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

Those working in professions protecting the environment struggle to find affordable housing near their workplaces in California. Rising rents have far outpaced modest wage increases for over 50,000 working in the environmental occupations, leaving them living paycheck to paycheck. This is not surprising given the generally high cost of housing throughout the state relative to household income.

Those working in environmental professions struggle to find affordable* rentals:

- Nursery and Greenhouse workers cannot afford to rent a one-bedroom home in any of California's 25 Metro Areas
- Forest and Conservation Technicians can afford to rent a two-bedroom home in 11 of 25 Metro Areas
- Pesticide Handlers and Vegetation Control Workers can afford to rent at two-bedroom home in 12 of 25 Metro Areas



The average salaries in 2016 for the following occupations were not enough to afford to rent or own an average one-bedroom home in California:**

- Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors
- Forest and Conservation Technicians
- Vegetation Control Workers
- Nursery and Greenhouse workers
- Pesticide Handlers and Sprayers

*To be affordable, the cost of rent and utilities must not exceed 30% of household income

**Household affordability estimates from HUD's FY 2015 Fair Market Rents. Available at www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html
Wage data is from Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages (OES) semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and occupational wage rates for wage and salary workers in California, by industry. Available at: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>