



A letter from

# Jonathan Parfrey

**Executive Director** 

What happens in LA-doesn't stay in LA

Around the world, people flock to theaters to watch movies produced in LA or they curl up on sofas to binge on shows made here. Or they bond with friends by playing video games developed in Santa Monica, or come of age listening to LA-made music, or grow-up wearing clothes designed in LA. Our creative culture bursts

beyond our region's borders and pervades the world.

Unfortunately, LA exports bad stuff as well. LA pretty much invented sprawl, traffic and smog. Our car-centric version of modern life has been replicated all too often, in too many cities, causing carbon emissions from transportation to steadily rise even as we make progress in other sectors.

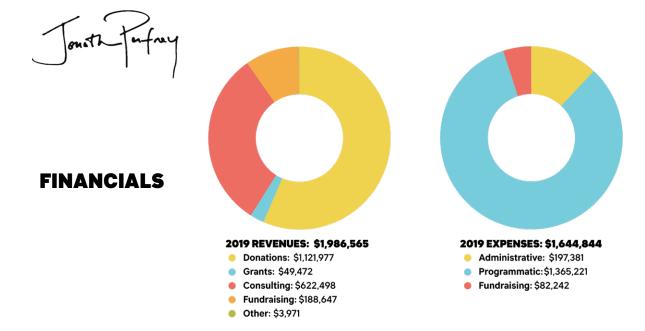
Snapshot 2020 — our chief export is no longer aerospace or entertainment, it is no longer one single product or industry...today, our chief export is an attitude. LA equals scrappy optimism. Los Angeles embodies the promise that you can remake your life for the better. What a potent idea!!

True to form - our big bad city is now being remade.

LA was once coal polluter #1. Today, LADWP is on track to becoming fossil free. In the land of freeways, we are opening new rail lines and installing new bike lanes. Our buildings and streets are literally becoming cooler — in part thanks to Climate Resolve, there are now 30,000+ cool roofs and over 100 cool streets in the Southland.

The state of activism in Los Angeles is good — but clearly not good enough. Tonight, thousands of people will sleep in tents under our freeways. Long-time residents are being priced out of their neighborhoods. Heat waves and wildfires, now year-round, are having lasting impact on our lives. We can, and must, do better.

In the following pages, you'll see examples of Climate Resolve's scrappy ambition as we test new ideas, build new projects and reach new constituencies in the fight of our lifetime.



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# **Policy**

#### **Advancing New Policy**

Climate Resolve Deputy Director, Bryn Linblad, led a coalition of 49 organizations, many of which are members of the ClimatePlan coalition, to suggest a new transportation policy agenda for California. Governor Newsom plucked key ideas from the policy document to issue an executive order (N-19-19), which directs the California State Transportation Agency to reduce vehicle miles traveled through smart growth investments.

#### LA County Sustainability Plan + LA's Green New Deal

Climate Resolve worked with both the City and County of Los Angeles on their recent sustainability plans. We advocated for new urban cooling technologies such as **Cool Streets**, which are now central features of the region's cooling agenda. Both City and County plans have established targets for increasing the mileage of cool surfaces on our streets.

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# **Policy**



# Climate Resolve assembled best practices on integrating climate adaptation and equity with local planning processes

#### **Planning for a Changing California**

Climate Resolve is a co-author of the newly updated California Adaptation Planning Guide—a guide to equip local jurisdictions with tools to develop climate adaptation programs. The guide references planning resources and includes findings from the latest climate science. Importantly, it provides best practices on integrating climate adaptation and equity with local planning processes. To support the guide, Climate Resolve gathered and synthesized the critique of 200+ climate professionals to improve the state guidance.

#### **EnviroMetro**

Climate Resolve coordinates the EnviroMetro coalition, which works to establish green transportation policy in LA. The coalition helped establish LA Metro's Sustainability Council, which Climate Resolve co-chairs. The council issued Metro's climate action plan, laying the groundwork for getting Metro to zero emissions.

## **Education**



# Climate Resolve participated in over 60 events and reached over 2700 local residents.

#### **Connecting with LA's many communities**

Climate Resolve engaged with LA's diverse neighborhoods on climate change. Thanks to a grant from LADWP, Climate Resolve raised awareness about extreme heat and its impact on the most vulnerable. In 2019, we participated in over 60 events and reached over 2700 local residents and its impact on the most vulnerable, while offering accessible energy and water solutions that residents can implement at home to save money and resources.

#### Creating a Cool Canoga Park

Climate Resolve helped develop a new urban cooling project in Canoga Park, a community in the San Fernando Valley adjacent to a Metro Orange Line Station. In this area, extreme heat days over 95 degrees are expected to rise by 50% over the next 40 years. The project focused on four objectives: improving walking and biking safety; reducing heat and its impacts; capturing and managing water; and providing community amenities. We engaged with over 600 community members through 19 presentations, 3 workshops, door-to-door flyering, and in-person/online surveys.



## **Education**



#### **Economic development and climate**

Climate Resolve spoke at three major events organized by the California Community Economic Development Association (CCEDA) about climate change and how it is impacting low- and moderate-wealth communities and how to become resilient to climate impacts.

#### Symposium on climate science and social equity

Climate Resolve produced, fundraised-for, and handled communications for California's Strategic Growth Council's 2019 Climate Change Research Symposium. The all-day event highlighted best practices for advancing actionable science through meaningful community engagement for its 200+ participants.

#### Wildfire: What Cities Can Do

Climate Resolve held a colloquium featuring climate scientists, policymakers, and wildfire experts, examining how wildfire risk can be reduced. Attendees also heard from local and state government leaders, as well as national and local organizations about actions that can protect life and property from wildfire.



# **Action**

#### **High Desert Corridor**

Climate Resolve won a major victory this year by defeating a senseless freeway in northern LA County. The highway would have turned the high desert into a sprawling mess, dramatically increasing greenhouse gas emissions. By tirelessly litigating the project, Climate Resolve, along with several local environmentalist groups and activists, prevented it from being built.

#### **Tejon Ranch lawsuit**

In 2019, Climate Resolve filed suit over the proposed Tejon Ranch Centennial development, located 45 miles north of the San Fernando Valley, the nearest major jobs market. Automobile emissions from this project, unless mitigated, will doom California's climate goals.

#### **Directly reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

Climate Resolve was hired by a large real estate firm to coordinate a greenhouse gas mitigation program for a major development, enabling it to become the first Net Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions community in California. Energy efficiency initiatives will reduce up to 30,000 metric tons of GHG in low-income communities throughout Los Angeles County. To do so, Climate Resolve initiated a partnership with the nonprofit GRID Alternatives to provide free PV solar arrays with new cool roofs for homeowners in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

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# **Action**



To address the health impacts of extreme heat in urban areas, Climate Resolve has identified reflective surfaces that help cool down city streets. Implementing these innovative coatings is helping offset the harmful effects of the heat-absorbing and heat-trapping asphalt that covers our city.

#### **Cool parking lot**

Roughly 40% of the land in LA is covered in heat-absorbing and heat-trapping asphalt. As extreme heat days rise, this leaves our city with insufficient time to cool off at night. To address the health impacts of extreme heat in urban areas, Climate Resolve has identified reflective surfaces that help cool down city streets. Implementing these innovative coatings helps offset the harmful effects of the heat-absorbing and heat-trapping asphalt that covers our city. The parking lot of our office at the La Kretz Innovation Campus proved to be a perfect testing ground. Climate Resolve and the City's General Services Department are testing several materials (sourced from GuardTop, GAF, ePave and ThermaCote) to evaluate performance. The highest ranked material will ultimately be used on the entire lot.

#### **Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities**

The State of California's Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program (AHSC) is the most comprehensive and holistic climate investment program in the state. It funds projects that support infill and compact development, which reduce GHG emissions. Climate Resolve advised the Department of Housing and Community Development on 25 projects statewide, by directing them to applicable data and recommending strategies for efficient implementation.

# **Vision**



#### **Sustainability at Metro**

Climate Resolve, via EnviroMetro, led a successful action alert campaign pressuring LA Metro to hire its first ever Chief Sustainability Officer. The new CSO has the opportunity to push forward greener transportation investments in Metro's \$7.2 billion budget.

#### Updating LA's community plans

Climate Resolve is working daily to make Los Angeles a more resilient city, and we're helping to do that on a block-by-block basis. Climate Resolve is advising on how community plans can be updated to include measures that address climate change. LA's microclimate makes each community's needs unique, which is why we are offering tailored proposals to each plan.

#### **Urban cooling**

Climate Resolve is working to curb extreme heat with an integrated approach. We've inspired local governments to implement cool streets throughout the city. We are also part of a collaborative effort called Bus Shelter Blitz, which seeks to install and upgrade high-quality transit and public right-of-way amenities in low-income, transit-dependent neighborhoods.

