

AMERICAN CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS High School Students

**SAN MATEO
YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION**

SILICON VALLEY YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION'S SAN MATEO COUNTY CHAPTER.



FINALIST'S PROFILE

San Mateo Youth Climate Action

Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action's San Mateo County Chapter

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San Mateo Youth Climate Action (SMYCA) is Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action's San Mateo County Chapter. Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA) is a youth-led, inter-regional and intergenerational nonprofit organization that empowers teens and young adults to combat climate change with interdisciplinary policy and education initiatives.

In a time when the climate crisis is as dire as ever, it's important to consider how best to make long-term, far-reaching impact. And while we think globally, we need to start locally. Cities need to set precedents, evolve, and adapt to this changing landscape, and youth have the greatest gift to influence them – their voice. Leveraging the power of the “youth voice,” SMYCA has promoted enhanced climate

policy and literacy initiatives throughout the county, including city-wide building electrification ordinance and numerous sources of community engagement.

Recent initiatives span from expanding civic engagement through our city council notification services, to our ongoing dialogues with elected officials. Primary policy focuses for early Spring are fossil-fuel divestment in cities, as well as continuing electrification work. Although these processes can take time — weeks, months, years — they're necessary and the most necessary steps toward a prouder future.

