

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“Climate Resilient Communities” Centers Local Voices to Empower Community Action**  
*Organization dedicated to lifting the Peninsula’s underrepresented communities expands its offerings through community-based solutions*

**Website:** [www.acterra.org/climate-resilient-communities](http://www.acterra.org/climate-resilient-communities)

EAST PALO ALTO, September 2, 2020—Local families in East Palo Alto and other underserved communities along the Peninsula will be better served by a recent transition of the organization **Climate Resilient Communities**. The organization’s mission is anchoring communities in resiliency, empowering community action, and building community-led solutions for climate change. Climate Resilient Communities was first created as a program of the nonprofit Acterra, an organization with a 50-year history of building community-oriented solutions to environmental problems. “We saw the need to grow our program to better serve the community’s needs,” said **Violet Saena, Founding Director of Climate Resilient Communities**.

At its inception back in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades. “Our goal all along was to help build residents’ knowledge on conserving energy and water in the home, which makes both financial and environmental sense.” said Saena. “Over time we became a trusted voice and pillar in our community,” she added. In Fiscal Year 2020 alone, Climate Resilient Communities helped nearly 100 households connect with these resources via partnerships with community based organizations. Climate Resilient Communities also led a major effort to **build adaptive capacity for East Palo Alto to cope with rising sea levels associated with climate change**. Low-lying areas of East Palo Alto are prone to flooding. Acterra’s work helped identify opportunities to educate the community on the impacts of climate change as well as create community-led pilot strategies.

During a period of transition, Climate Resilient Communities will receive fiscal sponsorship from Acterra. “We are so proud to support Climate Resilient Communities as it continues to expand its services. With multiple threats such as COVID and wildfire hitting communities hard, Acterra recognizes the importance of community building, especially in this moment,” commented Lauren Weston, Acterra’s Executive Director.

More information about Climate Resilient Communities can be found at [acterra.org/climate-resilient-communities](http://acterra.org/climate-resilient-communities) or by emailing [CRC@acterra.org](mailto:CRC@acterra.org).

*About Climate Resilient Communities*

Climate Resilient Communities is a community-based organization that is dedicated to **enacting climate-related solutions that foster unity, connection, and resilience in communities**. Climate Resilient Communities works on the ground with residents, local leaders, and partner organizations.

*About Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet*

Acterra is a San Francisco Bay Area 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Palo Alto that brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet. Acterra works locally to help people save energy, use cleaner power, and reduce their carbon footprint at home, at work, and in the community. For more information, visit [acterra.org](http://acterra.org).

**Media contact:** Wendy Chou, Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet, email: [wendy.chou@acterra.org](mailto:wendy.chou@acterra.org)