

# Building Resilient Communities Initiative

April 2026 edition



## Welcome to MCF's Building Resilient Communities Initiative (BRCI) inaugural newsletter!

Here you'll find periodic updates and insights about our strategic investments in climate resilience in Marin County.

Now in its third year, the Initiative holds fast to a vision that all of Marin, including our priority communities, are healthy, livable, and resilient to long-term climate impacts.

Read on to learn more!

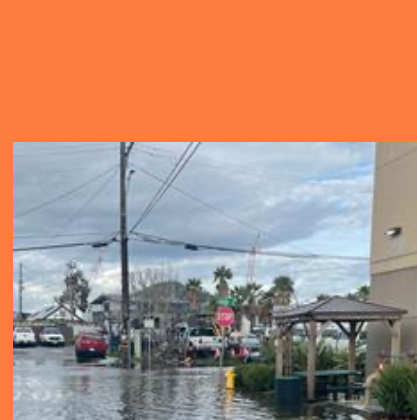
## What We're Learning



2025 was a year of disruption and renewed clarity. Here are some lessons we carried forward:

### Act with urgency - *and* think long-term.

The **2026 New Year storms and flooding** impeded the power grid and 911 call service; inundated roads, and disrupted people's daily lives – yet another reminder that climate impacts are here now, and delayed action only worsens outcomes, especially for those with fewer resources.



Flooding in the Canal neighborhood, Jan. 2026. Photo credit: John Rising, Canal neighborhood resident.

**Affirm a Collective Approach:** Our grantee partners have shown how proactive, community-based climate resilience can help Marin become healthier, safer, and more livable, especially our frontline communities. Their hard work underscores the need to join forces and leverage more resources for urgent and long-term climate action.

**Influence Broader Conditions.** When necessary, strategic advocacy can help overcome policy barriers to climate progress. We recently submitted public comments on proposed state laws to speed up Prop 4 / Climate Bond funding distribution, permit coastal adaptation projects more efficiently, and improve CalEPA's CalEnviroScreen to better represent Bay Area environmental risks.

## Where We're Headed



**We are adapting to a shifting landscape.** Rapid policy and public funding shifts required us to evolve strategy in 2025.

BRCI now supports community-scale climate resilience projects in three key issue areas: sea level rise and flooding; wildfire; and clean energy resilience.

We also engaged **Coastal Quest** to query dozens of climate leaders from across Marin and to gather case studies of how other regions are responding to increasing climate risks at the pace and scale required.

Some key connected themes emerged:

- **Support Local Government Leadership:** Counties in particular are well positioned to drive regional climate resilience.
- **Promote Collective Action:** Build cross-sector collaboration and centralized coordination for unified vision and action.
- **Imbed Equity Structurally:** Promote inclusive participation and engagement practices.
- **Increase Funding:** Expand access to resources for at-risk communities and places, and develop new, consistent resource streams.

**We are developing a bold new partnership:** We are excited to share that MCF and the County of Marin are now working together to develop a countywide collaborative to better align climate resilience efforts across Marin's jurisdictions, sectors, and partners.

The collaborative builds on several years of foundational work by the County, including the 2024 Sea Level Rise Governance Study, and the recent landscape assessment conducted by Coastal Quest. It will serve as an umbrella to align existing efforts, advance priority projects, and position Marin to compete for significant upcoming funding opportunities, including Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) resources – particularly critical given the Marin's estimated \$17 billion need for sea level rise adaptation alone.

## Join Us!

### Unlock Prop 4 Climate Bond Funding Opportunities

Webinar on April 28

Stay tuned for opportunities to engage in the collaborative – like this interactive webinar we are co-hosting with the County and Coastal Quest on Tuesday, April 28, on Prop 4 / Climate Bond funding opportunities for multiple climate hazards.

[Register here](#) by April 25.

## BRCI Grantees

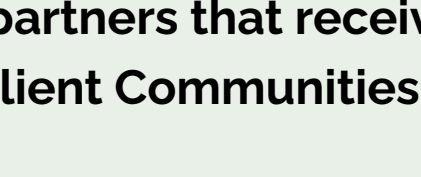
We couldn't do this work without our partners who help us keep our ears to the ground and our eyes on the horizon.

### 2024-2026 Phase I Grantee Cohort



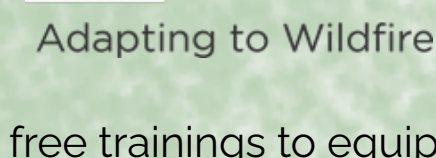
[Click here to learn about projects led by BRCI's Phase I Grantee Cohort](#)

Here are a few more partners that received MCF support from the Building Resilient Communities Initiative in 2025:



Adapting to Wildfire

**Fire Safe Marin** is creating free trainings to equip Marin-serving contractors with industry best practices in home hardening and fire-smart landscapes, so that local homes are better protected from fire and jobs can be filled locally.



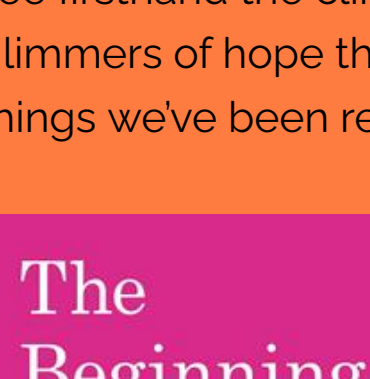
MCF joined other members of the **League of California Community Foundations** to support the **Wildfire Solutions Coalition** to galvanize the resources necessary to protect the health of landscapes and communities all around the state, including in Marin.



**Trust for Public Land** (TPL) partnered with the City of San Rafael, County of Marin, and Canal Alliance on a transformative property acquisition that will enhance climate resilience, public safety, and quality of life for Canal residents for decades to come. 620 Canal Street has long been identified as an ideal waterfront park site and as the southern landing for a proposed bicycle and pedestrian bridge to link this vibrant but under-resourced neighborhood with downtown, schools, and transit, and to serve as a critical evacuation route. MCF's Buck Family Fund, including BRCI, joined several MCF and TPL donors to help make it happen!

## What Inspires Us

So much in the news focuses on polarization around climate. In Marin, we see firsthand the climate risks facing our communities, and increasingly, glimmers of hope that together, we can rise to the occasion. Here are a few things we've been reading and listening to that keep us going:



**The Beginning Comes After the End**  
the latest by Rebecca Solnit

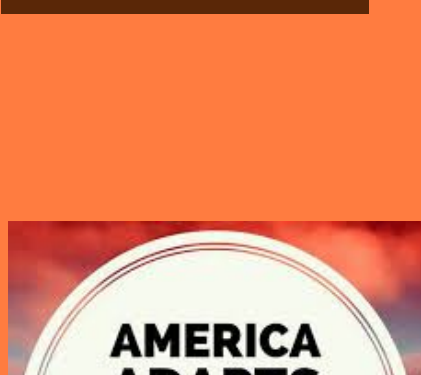
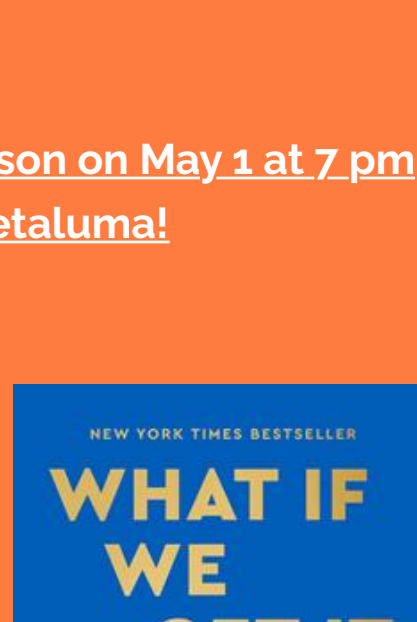
[LEARN MORE](#)

See **Rebecca Solnit** in person on **May 1 at 7 pm** at **Copperfield Books in Petaluma!**

**What If We Get It Right: Visions of Climate Futures**

by Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

[LEARN MORE](#)



**America Adapts: The Climate Change Podcast**

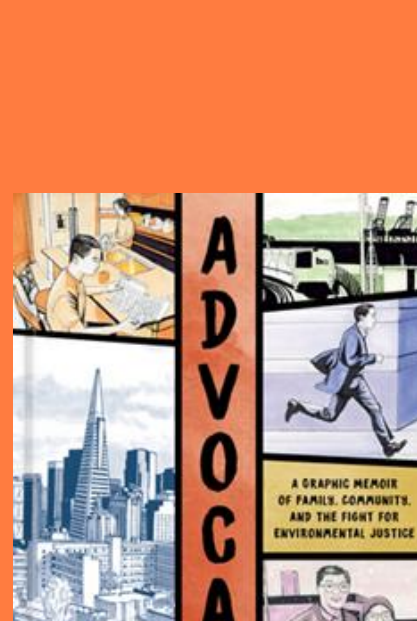
This podcast inspires listeners by spotlighting practical, hopeful stories of how communities, leaders, and innovators are actively adapting to climate change-proving that smart, human-centered solutions are already happening and can be scaled.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**Advocate: A Graphic Memoir of Family, Community, and the Fight for Environmental Justice**

by Eddie Ahn

[LEARN MORE](#)



**Q&A: The Growing Role of Community Foundations in Climate Resilience**

Kresge Foundation's interview with **Community Foundation Climate Collaborative** (MCF is a founding member).

[LEARN MORE](#)

Were you forwarded this newsletter? If so, sign up here to receive future issues!

[Subscribe Here](#)

Let us know what you think about our first edition!

[Share Your Thoughts Here](#)

