

Richard Chien

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Twenty years of local and regional government experience focused on environmental policy development, climate mitigation and resilience planning, advancing racial and social equity, and program implementation, largely focused on the built environment; preceded by work in the fields of architecture, sustainability consulting, and city planning.

EXPERIENCE

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

San Francisco, CA

Advanced Projects Advisor, Planning and Climate Protection Division

January 2024 – Present

- Lead the Equity Subcommittee of the Air District's [Implementation Working Group](#), a stakeholder engagement process charged to assess market readiness and equity impacts of future implementation of the zero-NOx building appliance standards ([Rules 9-4 and 9-6, passed in 2023](#)) for residential and commercial space and water heating equipment in the Bay Area.
- Lead development of the Buildings Sector of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the Bay Area metropolitan statistical area, under the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.

San Francisco Environment Department

San Francisco, CA

Senior Environmental Specialist, Climate Program

January 2017 – January 2024

- Serve as the project manager for the City's [2021 Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#). Coordinate the technical work of over 80 personnel from 20 city departments to develop strategies and actions to eliminate citywide emissions by 2040; draft majority of narrative content for report; administer all consultant contracts; help design and deliver robust public engagement program; support the development and implementation of a racial equity assessment tool specifically created for the CAP.
- Lead efforts to transition from CAP planning to implementation, including: develop a reporting and monitoring system to track CAP implementation progress; finalize of a set of CAP indicators, with a focus on equity metrics; coordinate and develop content for a public-facing online reporting dashboard; oversee additional technical analyses to estimate emissions reductions impacts of CAP implementation; help plan and support on-going community and stakeholder engagement.
- Oversee the development and communication of the city's communitywide geographic greenhouse gas and consumption-based emissions inventories.
- Oversee annual climate reporting to external organizations such as ACEEE, C40 and Carbon Disclosure Project.
- Represent the department with external organizations such as C40, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, Green Cities California, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and others.
- Supervise two full-time climate program staff and an annual fellow, and provide core administrative support for the team's work.

Senior Environmental Specialist, Green Building

February 2008 – December 2016

- Partner with city departments, other local governments, community-based organizations, and the private sector to advance projects and programs that support climate, sustainability, and equity goals and outcomes.
- Develop program and project work plans; manage schedules, milestones, and deliverables; track budgets and expenditures.
- Assist in obtaining and administering grant funding, and develop additional resources to support program initiatives and projects.
- Key projects: [Sustainable Chinatown](#) (2014-19); Bay Area Regional Energy Network (2011-17); GreenFinanceSF Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program (2011-16); [Existing Commercial Buildings Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinance](#) (2011).

Environmental Specialist, Green Building

January 2004 – February 2008

- Support and lead green building policy development efforts including San Francisco Green Building Code for New Construction (and all subsequent iterations); priority permitting program for projects that exceeded Green Building Code; coordinate relevant sustainability efforts across different city departments; develop and deliver training and education programs for public and private building professionals.

Van der Ryn Architects

Project manager, architectural designer, sustainability consulting

Sausalito, CA

May 2001 – September 2003

Freebairn-Smith & Crane

Project coordinator, architectural designer

San Francisco, CA

January 2001 – May 2001

Buttrick Architects

Project coordinator, architectural designer

San Francisco, CA

July 2000 – December 2000

Charlie Barnett Associates

Project coordinator, architectural designer

San Francisco, CA

June 1999 – July 2000

Wilson Associates Design-Build

Architectural designer, construction apprentice

San Francisco, CA

April 1998 – March 1999

Herring and Worley Inc.

Architectural drafter, model builder

San Carlos, CA

March 1997 – April 1998

City of Hayward Planning Department

Planning Associate

Hayward, CA

June 1994 – May 1996

San Mateo County Planning Department

Planning Intern

Redwood City, CA

March 1993 – August 1993

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND LEADERSHIP

San Francisco Institute of Architecture

San Francisco, CA

Master of Architecture, 1997

University of California, San Diego

La Jolla, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies and Planning, 1990

- LEED® Accredited Professional, Building Design and Construction BD+C, 2002-2012
- Board member, Build It Green, 2007-2008
- Build It Green Certified GreenPoint Rater/Certified Green Building Professional, 2007
- Yestermorrow Community Design-Build Studio, Warren VT, 2003
- Taliesin West Design Studio, Scottsdale AZ, 1996

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC) Conference, "Chasing the Twin Goals of Carbon Reduction and Racial Equity," Long Beach, CA, 2019
- PACE Nation Summit, Denver CO, 2017
- GreenerBuilder Conference, "Energy Retrofits," South San Francisco, CA 2014
- California PACE Symposium, Los Angeles, CA 2013
- ACEEE 2nd Annual Energy Efficiency Finance Forum, San Francisco, CA 2009
- USGBC Greenbuild Conference, Chicago IL 2007
- West Coast Green Conference, San Francisco, CA 2006
- Los Angeles Municipal Green Building Conference, Downey CA 2006