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Climate fellowship program being launched for Fairfield, Suisun

Daily Republic Staff

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FAIRFIELD — A new climate fellowship program is starting, designed to create "local climate champions" and to "address gaps in public awareness and local capacity to build climate resilience."

"Neighboring cities Suisun City and Fairfield face intersecting climate challenges of sea level rise, wildfires, and inland flooding that will affect predominantly low-income communities within their borders. Sustainable Solano and Greenbelt Alliance are launching a new climate fellowship program that will help create local climate champions and prepare Suisun and Fairfield communities and ecosystems for a changing climate," according to a statement released by Greenbelt Alliance.

The initial Resilient Roots start-up targets 25 individuals, ages 14 or older, for a climate learning exchange and fellowship program.

"In the face of climate challenges, everyday people are not just witnesses, but the architects of change. With our Resilient Roots program, we're not just nurturing local champions, we're igniting a movement to cultivate resilience and sow the seeds of a sustainable future, not only for Suisun and Fairfield but for the entire state of California," Devin Murphy, Greenbelt Alliance Leadership Development coordinator, said in the statement.

Greenbelt Alliance will administer the \$320,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant for the 14-month educational training program.

"Paid participants will increase their understanding of climate challenges, how planning and policy development works, and hone the skills needed to take action preparing for climate impacts," the statement said.

Selection of the fellowship participants begins in July. The program will begin in September. Participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend. There will be 10 sessions over 14 months for roughly five hours per month.

Interested applicants can submit their letter of interest to bit.ly/resilientroots2024.

"Sustainable Solano is excited to grow our resiliency work in Central Solano, including in Suisun City, around flood risk and in Fairfield around air quality. We look forward to supporting Greenbelt Alliance in offering a comprehensive climate program where residents can build leadership and knowledge to share with and strengthen their communities," stated Allison Nagel, Sustainable Solano co-executive director.

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