

A TALE OF THREE VALLEYS

Silicon Valley, Coyote Valley, and the French Silicon Valley -
Integrated Climate Strategies through Adaptive Land Use
Tuesday, September 11, 2018



Before it was Silicon Valley, the Santa Clara County was a mecca for farming. As the 20th century gave way to the 21st, urban sprawl consumed much of the prime soils of the valley floor. Today, preserving the remaining open space is the key to mitigating climate change and its impact on this vital economic engine.



The *Tale of Three Valleys* tour will showcase how multiple groups across the world are working together to build landscape level climate mitigation and resilience in high growth areas like Silicon Valley and the French Silicon Valley, just south of Paris. This day-long tour includes two stops:

- A San Jose hub to highlight climate-friendly transit, jobs, and housing land use strategies
- An al fresco farm to table lunch overlooking the 7,400-acre Coyote Valley just south of downtown San Jose

Both will provide practical insights into tools that we are using that can be adapted to your own climate-fighting efforts at home.

Five strategies that prove natural infrastructure conservation and agricultural preservation strategies can coexist on the fringes of San Jose will be the focus of our day. On this bus tour and farm to table lunch, you will learn:

- How to evaluate historical ecology in order to develop effective land protection strategies in the face of high demand for housing.
- How to position land conservation as a winning strategy to optimize agricultural interests, improve wildlife resilience and positively impact water resources.
- How enlightened government policy can simultaneously support the needs of a growing population and natural resource conservation.
- How tools such as greenhouse gas quantification, hydrological analysis, and wildlife monitoring build the case for conservation.
- How low carbon agricultural certification brings conservation and agricultural interests together.

Tour Route and Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Check-in and board Motorcoach, Moscone Center, San Francisco
9:00 a.m.	Depart Moscone Center towards San Jose
10:30 a.m.	Arrive in downtown San Jose for a short presentation
11:30 a.m.	Depart downtown San Jose for Coyote Valley
12 – 12:30 p.m.	Driving tour through Coyote Valley
12:30 p.m.	Arrive at Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve
12:45 p.m.	Lunch is served
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Presentations
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Guided Trail Walks
2:15 p.m.	Return to Motorcoach for departure to San Francisco
4:30 p.m.	Arrive back at Moscone Center

The Background Story

Using the strategies outlined, we are working to preserve the remaining open space in Coyote Valley through climate smart mitigation and adaptation land use strategies. These efforts maximize the climate benefits of the remaining natural infrastructure, and complement the City of San Jose's focus on developing jobs, housing, and transportation in the urban center of the city.

Located just south of San José, Coyote Valley is rich with natural and working lands that provide important benefits to urban residents such as wildlife-friendly agricultural production, carbon sequestration, ground water storage and recharge, the potential for improving downstream flooding in high water years, and providing a viable passage for wildlife between two mountain ranges across the valley floor. Climate mitigation strategies are already in place here by way of the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan and the Climate Smart Plan, both of which offer multiple solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



But this is not just a local issue. In a remarkable parallel, a French non-governmental organization - Terre et Cité is working to preserve agriculture and wildlife passages just 20km south of Paris on the Plateau de Saclay, close to an area known as the "French Silicon Valley". Terre et Cité is developing climate-based agricultural preservation tools of its own, working closely with local researchers and other stakeholders. Here, too, greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation strategies integrate urban and rural infrastructure solutions by considering them as a comprehensive whole. The work of both the Authority and Terre et Cité offers significant opportunities to learn from

respective experiences and share best practices that can benefit other global organizations facing similar challenges.

Participants

Capacity for this tour is limited to 112 guests. Please register by August 29th. The tour is hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, and Terre et Cité, with support from Peninsula Open Space Trust and the League of Women Voters.

What to Bring and Expect

The tour will depart at 9:00 am sharp and will return at 4:30 pm. This is an all-day event and the cost is \$20 USD. Sturdy, closed toe walking shoes, comfortable clothing, sun protection, and a hat are recommended. Snack, refreshments, and lunch are included. A restroom is available on the bus. Facilities will also be available during lunch. Photos are welcome.

About the Global Climate Action Summit

The Global Climate Action Summit will take place from September 12-14, 2018 in San Francisco, California and the affiliate events will take place from September 10-14. The Summit brings together state and local governments, business, and citizens from around the world to showcase climate action taking place, thereby demonstrating how the tide has turned in the race against climate change and inspiring deeper national commitments in support of the Paris Agreement.

More Information and Registration at:

news.openspaceauthority.org/a-tale-of-three-valleys