

Award Announcement

Edison International Home Hardening Program, Year 2

\$922,000.00

Funding two (2) projects in the Southern California Edison service area.

FEBRUARY 24, 2026



*Funding provided by Edison International, the Parent
Company of Southern California Edison*

Funding Summary

\$922,000.00 | 2 Grants Awarded



Award Announcement

California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) is pleased to announce two grant awards for year 2 of the Edison International Home Hardening Program. Funding for this program is provided to CFSC from Edison International. The Edison International Home Hardening Program will continue to support home hardening education and resource development, as well as direct home retrofits in communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara, helping residents across these counties to live safely with wildfire.

CFSC awarded a combined total of \$922,000.00 in grant funds to Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) and Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) to educate, empower, and mobilize individuals in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties through planning, risk reduction, home hardening education, assessments, and retrofits.

From Pilot to Framework: The Home Hardening Program Mission

The California Fire Safe Council, through the Fire Safe Communities Program, seeks to prevent community ignition and help residents to live safely with wildfire through preparedness and mitigation activities. Communities stand a better chance at surviving catastrophic wildfires when all resiliency-bolstering activities and neighborhood-scale protections are in place. These activities include: Hardening Homes; Creating Defensible Space; Mobilizing Community Mitigation; Reducing Fuels; Boosting Forest Health and Landscape Resilience; Planning for Evacuation; Outreach and Education; and Community Capacity Building

CFSC is leveraging best practices and resources developed through the Edison International Home Hardening Program to provide home hardening retrofits and technical assistance to communities across California in the future. CFSC will work closely with VRFSC and SBCFSC to develop a framework for statewide implementation by researching and compiling available techniques, best practices, training, software, and home hardening resources.

Through a combination of resources and on-the-ground best practices, CFSC has bolstered neighborhood-scale protections in communities across California and support local Fire Safe Councils and other practitioners as they develop impactful home hardening programs. [Learn more](#) about CFSC's Fire Safe Communities Program.



The Awards

Edison International Home Hardening Program



Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council

Total Award Amount: \$461,000.00



The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SBCFSC) was formed in 1997 to unify public and private organizations in Santa Barbara County to educate, motivate, and coordinate to minimize losses associated with wildfires. Since its founding, the SBCFSC has worked to promote wildfire safety throughout Santa Barbara County through education and action.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council operates several programs focused on home hardening and creating defensible space to reduce fire risks in the community. These programs include both direct services and educational initiatives designed to help homeowners improve the safety of their properties. The Community Chipping Program helps homeowners reduce hazardous vegetation on their properties by providing free chipping services; the Home Evaluation Program provides homeowners with personalized assessments to improve their defensible space and home hardening efforts; and the Defensible Space Assistance Program specifically targets low-income, elderly, and high fire risk residents who may be unable to perform the necessary defensible space work on their own.



The Edison International Home Hardening Program has supported the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as they integrate financial support with educational efforts to directly address the growing need for home hardening retrofits. The Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council will continue to empower residents to take the necessary steps to protect their homes and families, focusing on vulnerable populations such as the elderly, low-income, and those in high-risk areas, and ultimately enhancing the overall fire resilience of entire communities.





The Awards

Edison International Home Hardening Program



Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council

Total Award Amount: \$461,000.00

The [Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council](#) (VRFSC) is a grassroots community-led nonprofit organization that mobilizes residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire, through collaborative planning, programs, mitigation, and education.

The Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) currently operates two core programs aimed at supporting wildfire risk reduction through home hardening and defensible space creation: the Home Wildfire Assessment Program and the Resident Grant Program. These programs work together to educate, support, and assist Ventura County residents – particularly those most vulnerable to wildfire impacts – in understanding their risks and taking action. The Home Wildfire Assessment Program provides free, on-site assessments for residents, and the Resident Grant Program supports residents with the highest wildfire vulnerability, using a layered mapping and scoring approach to evaluate applications and to complete the work recommended in the assessments.

The Edison International Home Hardening Program has strengthened wildfire resilience at both the household and neighborhood level, with a particular focus on those most vulnerable to wildfire impacts in Ventura County. This program builds upon VRFSC's existing foundation of home wildfire assessments and resident grant support, but with an expanded strategy that emphasizes neighborhood-scale protection, targeted outreach, low-cost home hardening improvements, and the promotion of noncombustible Zone 0 retrofits in anticipation of upcoming building code changes. The program is also building capacity and put VRFSC in a position to perform additional home hardening retrofits in the future.





Mitigation in Action

Edison International Home Hardening Program

Year 1 of the 2023 Edison International Home Hardening program delivered targeted structural mitigation assistance to residents living in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). This effort focused on reducing primary home ignition pathways and addressing financial barriers that often prevent homeowners — particularly older adults — from completing critical retrofits.

One participating household resides on approximately two acres within a VHFHSZ and previously experienced smoke damage and a two-week evacuation during the 2017 Thomas Fire. In addition to wildfire exposure, the homeowners faced insurance non-renewal and escalating coverage costs, compounding the financial burden of needed mitigation work.

Following a home assessment, key vulnerabilities were identified in exterior wooden components susceptible to ember intrusion. With a \$3,500 grant, the homeowners hired a licensed contractor to:

- Repair and reseal deteriorated wooden fascia boards
- Retrofit and harden deck fascia assemblies
- Seal associated gaps and joints to reduce ember entry points

These improvements directly addressed combustible and exposed structural elements, which are recognized ignition vulnerabilities during wind-driven wildfire events. By sealing and reinforcing these components, the project reduced the likelihood of ember penetration into attic spaces and under-deck areas — common sources of structural ignition.

This investment represents a strategic use of limited grant funding to reduce risk at the parcel level while contributing to neighborhood-scale resilience. The participating homeowners also committed to completing additional mitigation measures independently, demonstrating the program’s role in catalyzing broader defensible space and home hardening actions.

Home Fascia Board



Before



After

Gable Truss Exposure



Before



After



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Since 2018, the California Fire Safe Council has partnered with Edison International to provide more than \$1,600,000 in grants to organizations in the Southern California Edison service territory.

These programs have helped to build wildfire resilience by increasing the capacity for local Fire Safe Councils and others to lead, staff, plan, organize, and implement wildfire readiness within their communities.



Helping Californians to live safely with wildfire.