

MISSION STATEMENT



CFEE STUDY TRAVEL PROJECT 2022

Iceland



In Spring 2022, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE) will lead a bi-partisan delegation of elected officials and labor, environmental, business, and local government leaders to Iceland. Through a carefully crafted itinerary of site visits, meetings, and facility tours, CFEE will facilitate an extraordinary multi-day journey for California leaders to meet and learn from their Icelandic counterparts in the areas of climate change, renewable energy, and food security.

Direct Air Capture of CO₂ | Long known as the Land of the Fire and Ice, Iceland is staking its claim to also be the Land of Carbon Capture with its recently opened “Orca” Direct Air Capture (DAC) facility. The state-of-the-art project is powered by geothermal energy, and it can vacuum up to 4,000 metric tons of atmospheric carbon dioxide every year, making it the largest DAC facility in the world. Like several places in the world, the unique geology of the surrounding basaltic lava fields allows for the captured molecules to be pumped below ground and, when combined with a specialized watery solution and allowed to cool and harden, becomes a rocky CO₂ composite that is permanently locked away.

As climate scientists tout the need for significant carbon removal efforts to head off the most dire consequences of climate change, California is ready to learn more on what regulatory, financing, and scientific challenges must be addressed to follow Iceland’s lead.

Food Security Through Urban Farming and Sustainable Fishing | As an isolated arctic nation, Iceland is pioneering new ways to build its domestic supply of produce, fish, and meat to offset its reliance on imported food. An indoor farming industry is emerging that is capable of growing a variety of greens, bananas, and other crops, often times in urban settings thanks to the efficient use of space that comes from verticalizing greenhouse operations. Iceland is also investing heavily in new fishing practices and aquaculture farms to develop a more sustainable supply of locally-sourced seafood for both domestic consumption and international export.

Though California is a global agricultural powerhouse today, unreliable water supplies and climate impacts are threatening its future. Iceland’s progress on improving food security has insights for California as it responds to its own need to become more sustainable in its use of water, land, and natural resources.

Geothermal Energy | Iceland continues to make use of its domestic zero carbon resources by tapping into its abundant geothermal reserves. Approximately 66 percent of Iceland's energy is sourced from geothermal energy, including 90 percent of its heating needs.

With California continuing to chase carbon neutrality, Iceland offer lessons on the types of policies and the thoughtful project streamlining that are helping to expand and modernize their fleets of renewable resources.

About the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE)

CFEE is a nonprofit coalition of labor, environmental, local government, and business leaders that conducts intensive public policy conferences, legislative briefings, multiparty workshops, and international study travel projects for California State legislators, regulatory commissioners, and members of the Governor's Cabinet.

CFEE brings together these leaders to facilitate focused, balanced, and solutions-oriented conversations designed to address the fundamental environmental and economic issues in California.

San Francisco | Sacramento

www.cfee.net

415.788.1786



CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND THE ECONOMY