

# MISSION STATEMENT

CFEE Study Tour

Fall 2023



# France



In Fall 2023, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy (CFEE) will lead a bi-partisan Delegation of California State Legislators and labor, environmental, business, and local government leaders to **France**.

Through a carefully crafted itinerary of site visits, meetings, and facility tours, California leaders will learn from their French counterparts in the areas of:

- **Onshoring Climate Jobs and Critical Industries**
- **Nuclear Power and Green Hydrogen**
- **High Speed Rail, Public Transit, and Housing Policy**
- **Climate Adaptation of Farms, Forests, Rivers, and Urban Spaces**

Our mission is to share best practices on these issues, and others, and return to California with lessons to support our state's evolving environmental and economic agenda.

**ONSHORING CLIMATE JOBS & CRITICAL INDUSTRIES** | With new geopolitical realities taking shape along with the buildout of renewable energy supply chains, the global economy is experiencing a once-in-a-century transformation at warp speed. With 10 million new climate jobs up for grabs in the next decade according to the World Economic Forum, France is leading the charge on a European-wide strategy to attract climate and critical industry jobs that boost their local workforce, energy security, and economic growth.

The Delegation will meet with labor leaders, government officials, and business executives to understand French best practices in workforce and community development, partnering with the private sector, and competing globally for key industries. The group also plans to visit leading-edge projects ranging from carbon capture, solar panel recycling, and manufacturing for renewable energy technologies. What must California do to take advantage of this historic environmental and economic opportunity?

**NUCLEAR POWER & GREEN HYDROGEN** | France is a global leader in nuclear energy, deriving 70 percent of their electricity from 56 reactors nationwide. In addition to providing baseload zero-carbon energy, the French envision the potential for small modular reactors to help produce green hydrogen as it diversifies and decarbonizes its energy mix. France will invest nearly eight billion dollars through 2030 to reach a goal of having low or zero carbon hydrogen comprise 20-40 percent of the country's total hydrogen consumption.

By meeting with energy leaders and touring nuclear facilities and hydrogen production sites, the Delegation will explore France's unique pathway to net neutrality and consider California's own journey – should the Golden State similarly embrace the virtues of nuclear and hydrogen?

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**HIGH SPEED RAIL, PUBLIC TRANSIT, & HOUSING POLICY** | In 1981, France opened the world's second high speed rail that today carries 110 million passengers each year across its 1,740-mile network. The 200-mph railway also serves as the backbone for a broader transportation ecosystem that connect the French people to their homes, work, and social lives via metros, buses, bikes, and walkable communities.

The California Delegation will meet with high speed rail operators, transit agencies, and local officials to learn how France continues to build out its world class transportation system renowned for its connectivity, convenience, and affordability. The group will also ride the high speed rail and several of the "first" and "last" mile options to experience the system firsthand and see how housing policy is linked to transportation infrastructure.

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## **CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR FARMS, RIVERS, FORESTS, & URBAN SPACES** |

Like California, France is increasingly bearing the brunt of a climate-impacted world. From major heat waves and drought in 2022 to anticipated mega flooding in future years, the French are focused on adapting its agriculture, working lands, and urban spaces for the new normal.

The Delegation will meet with farmers, conservation leaders, and urban planners to see how France is preparing to live with weather extremes brought on by climate change. Visits to farms, conservation projects, and redesigned city centers and living spaces will showcase France's progress in the race against time. What can California learn from the French adaptation experience?

### **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 challenges in California.*

**San Francisco | Sacramento**

**[www.cfee.net](http://www.cfee.net)**

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