



Climate Pollution Reduction Planning: Implementation Grants

Project Solicitation:

On Sept 20, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a \$4.3 billion competition for states, local governments, tribes, and territories to fund projects, policies and programs aimed at reducing climate pollution.

These implementation grants build on \$250 million in Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grants (CPRG) the EPA awarded earlier this year. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) received the \$1 million-dollar CPRG planning grant for the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area to create the **SPC Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan**. This planning process will kick-off in late 2023 and will cover the 10-county SWPA region, including the City of Pittsburgh.

Projects seeking CPRG Implementation Grant funding must:

- Be identified during the SPC Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan process, in order for the project's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction measure(s) to be included in SPC's priority climate action planning document (PCAP)
- Must be competitive to receive EPA funding
- Proposed projects must fall within the geographic confines of the 10-county SPC region

Program Objectives:

- Implement ambitious, actionable emissions reduction measures that will achieve significant, cumulative GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and beyond
- Achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria and hazardous air pollutants), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits
- Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be "scaled up" across multiple jurisdictions

Applications can include GHG reductions from the following sectors: Electric Power, Transportation, Industry, Residential & Commercial Buildings, Waste and Materials Management, Agriculture/ Natural and Working Lands:

- Applications may include multiple reduction measures across one or more of the above sectors. A new, stand-alone GHG reduction measure that will be implemented solely through CPRG funding;
- An expansion of a GHG reduction measure that is already being implemented, where the expansion of the measure will be funded through CPRG funding; and,
- A new GHG reduction measure for which the applicant has already secured partial funding and needs additional funding from the CPRG program to secure the total funding needed to fully implement the measure.

Interested project sponsors should reach out to SPC by Dec 15th to ensure participation in the PCAP process. SPC will hold a project sponsor workshop in early January, and logistical information on this will be announced soon.

More information on CPRG Planning and Implementation Grants can be found at www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants.

For more information please contact:

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Funding:

Funds will be available across five funding tiers. Applications will be evaluated and selected for award on a tier-by-tier basis.

Tier	Grant Ranges(million)	Funds Targeted for Each Tier (billion)	Anticipated Number of Grants to be Awarded
Tier A	\$200 to \$500	\$2	4 - 10
Tier B	\$100 to <\$200	\$1.3	6 - 13
Tier C	\$50 to <\$100	\$0.6	6 - 12
Tier D	\$10 to <\$50	\$0.3	6 - 30
Tier E	\$2 to <\$10	\$0.1	10 - 50
	TOTAL	\$4.3 billion	30 - 115

Application Requirements:

Applications may be from the lead organization for planning grant or another eligible applicant that did not receive a planning grant. However, **eligible applicants should participate in the PCAP development process (as part of the SPC Regional Climate Pollution Reduction Plan), since since the eligible project's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction measure(s) must be listed in the PCAP.** Eligible entities wishing to pursue implementation funding as a coalition must do so under a Memorandum of Agreement.

Projects will be evaluated on the impact and cost-effectiveness of GHG Reduction Measures as well as expected outputs and outcomes, community benefits, specifically to low-income and disadvantaged communities, and engagement, quality of jobs and workforce development, programmatic capability and past performance, and budget and timely expenditure of grant funds.

Notices of Intent to Apply (NOI) are requested for submission to EPA by February 1, 2024, but are optional and non-binding at this time; these NOIs will assist EPA in managing the grant review process.