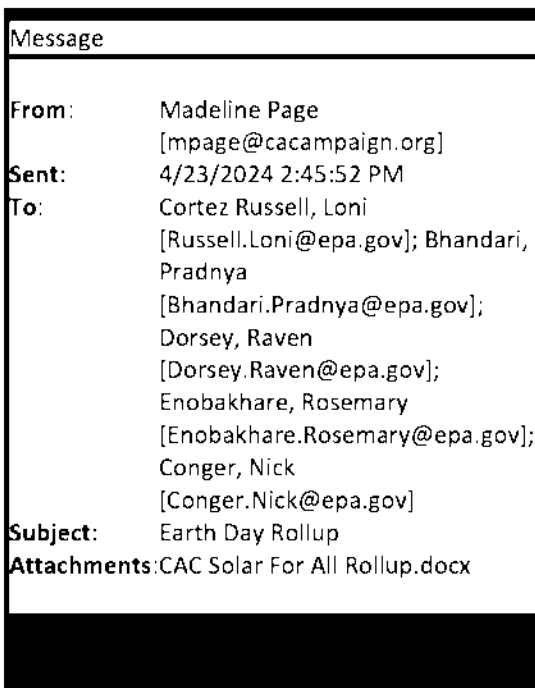




Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Happy Earth WEEK!

Passing along the attached rollup of statements from our community on the Solar for All announcement. And below, flagging some great social videos for Earth Day we worked on with MOCs to celebrate IRA and the climate and clean energy accomplishments made so far, and the work ahead on Solutions for Pollution.

Cheers,
Maddie

- [Whitehouse](#)
- [Kelly](#)
- [Hank Johnson](#)
- [Horsford](#)
- [Stabenow](#)
- [Warnock](#)
- [Susie Lee](#)
- [Titus](#)
- [Beyer](#)
- [Pocan](#)
- [Casten](#)
- [Scholten](#)
- [Carper](#)
- [Tonko](#)
- [Heinrich](#)
- [Smith](#)
- [Merkley](#)
- [Stevens](#)

- [Jayapal](#)
- [Van Hollen](#)
- [Schatz](#)

--

Maddie Page (she/her)

Director, Administrative Advocacy

Climate Action Campaign

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[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

~~2020-06-02~~

Statement Rollup: EPA's Solar For All and Earth Day



[TOC \h \u \z \t "Heading 1,1,Heading 2,2,Heading 3,3,Heading 4,4,Heading 5,5,Heading 6,6,"]

C40 Cities

“Funding from the EPA’s Solar For All program will transform lives in cities across America.” **said Kate Johnson, Head of US Federal Affairs at C40 Cities.** “Projects funded by this program will help alleviate the burden of high utility bills for lower income households and create good jobs – all while slashing climate pollution. We look forward to working with mayors to implement clean energy projects and build a stronger, more inclusive future for all.”

Clean Energy Business Network

CEBN Celebrates EPA Award of \$7 Billion in Solar for All Grants to States, Tribes, and Coalitions

Washington, D.C. – **Lynn Abramson, President of the Clean Energy Business Network**, provided the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency announced selected awardees for the Solar for All program within the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The 60 awardees are projected to leverage the \$7 billion in funding to spur solar projects for over 900,000 low-income households across the country.

“The Solar for All Program will not only push solar deployment further to reduce emissions, spur jobs, and boost resilience, it will also bring these benefits to communities that have historically lacked access to the clean energy economy. We applaud this important step in implementing the Inflation Reduction Act and look forward to working with stakeholders across the country to navigate this program effectively.”

Climate Action Campaign

Climate Action Campaign Statement on President Biden’s Earth Day Solar for All and Climate Corps Announcement

Washington, DC – Today, on the 54th Earth Day at the Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, VA, President Biden made two important announcements about his work to tackle the climate crisis. He announced \$7 billion for investments through the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Solar for All program that will provide funding and technical assistance for 60 solar projects to municipalities, states, territories, Tribal Governments, and nonprofits. He also announced the launch of ClimateCorps.gov -a website featuring nearly 2,000 Climate Corps positions located across 36 states, DC, and Puerto Rico.

In response, **Margie Alt, Director of the Climate Action Campaign**, issued the following statement:

"Today, communities across the country have cause for celebration. In the coming months, they will see an infusion of investment that will expand access to distributed solar energy for 900,000 households, thanks to the President's Climate and Clean Energy Plan. 'Solar for All' will accelerate the transition from dirty and expensive fossil-powered energy to renewable and affordable solar power. Families will see savings – approximately \$400 per household – and more than 30 million metric tons of carbon pollution will be cut over the next 25 years. These investments will primarily be focused in low-income communities guided by the President's Justice 40 commitments and is projected to create 200,000 new jobs. Additionally, these federal investments will catalyze private capital for solar projects stimulating even more clean energy projects in undercapitalized markets.

"The President also announced the launch of the ClimateCorps.gov – a new website featuring 2,000 new job listings in climate and conservation. Modeled after FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps, the president's American Climate Corps that will put 'more than 20,000 young Americans to work fighting the impacts of climate change today while gaining the skills they need to join the growing clean energy and climate-resilience workforce of tomorrow.'

"We're thankful to the Biden administration for making these priorities a reality. While Republicans in Congress make every attempt to roll back climate progress, climate champions in Congress and throughout the administration are standing strong in their commitment to America's clean energy future; a future where all Americans have access to clean energy, good-paying jobs in the clean energy industry, and see direct savings from this clean energy boom."

Climate Mayors

“Clean energy is a key component to addressing climate change and increasing community resilience. The new Solar For All funding will support historically overburdened communities with clean, affordable, and reliable energy to power a healthier and more sustainable future for American families,” **said Kate Wright, Executive Director of Climate Mayors.** “We are excited to support our mayors to meet this moment and put this unprecedented funding into action.”

Earthjustice

Applauds EPA’s Solar for All Investments

Solar for All grants will unlock access to rooftop and community solar for low-income families

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, the Biden administration announced 60 awardees for the \$7 billion in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ‘Solar for All’ Program. The grants, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act, will go to states, territories, tribes, municipalities, and nonprofits across the country to fund residential distributed solar projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The Solar for All Program will lower energy bills for millions of Americans, provide equitable access to clean energy, reduce pollution, increase power resiliency, invest in local business, and create quality jobs.

Raul Garcia, Earthjustice Vice President of Policy and Legislation, issued the following statement in response:

“We applaud the Biden administration for these historic investments to make solar accessible for an estimated 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the country. The Solar for All program will ensure those communities who have been overburdened by both pollution and high energy costs for decades will not be left behind in the rapid transition to a renewable energy future. The Inflation Reduction Act is transforming communities across the country, and we look forward to working with the Biden administration as this program is implemented to build on this important progress.”

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

Our coalition of Michigan health professionals thanks the EPA for the Solar for All dollars headed to Michigan. Accessible solar means less air pollution and fewer climate change-induced deaths. It also represents an opportunity to address the landscape of energy injustice in our state, where [[HYPERLINK "https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2022/oct/06/detroit-power-outages-impact-minority-low-income-neighborhoods"](https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2022/oct/06/detroit-power-outages-impact-minority-low-income-neighborhoods) \h] and [[HYPERLINK "https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/aceee-01_energy_burden_-_detroit.pdf"](https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/aceee-01_energy_burden_-_detroit.pdf) \h] have disproportionately affected communities of color and low-income residents, additional stressors that interfere with health outcomes. We're hopeful that this investment in solar will facilitate uptake by healthcare facilities and a culture that recognizes climate action as health action. Thank you for helping us keep Michigan healthy.

NRDC

EPA Issues Awards for “Solar for All” Program

WASHINGTON – The Biden Administration today announced award winners for a grant competition it held last year for [[HYPERLINK "https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.gqh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rC5ZbyAOQt-2B2KYStMZu97XVcytFzAhLsGtg-2FgPeRExEVY40piZlHFuLeR4B8kafuLL0zPf3IONAKWT8sp2tulvqM-3DBhxp_qKVfWWHvvNSL3lBgStYRNrnTPh-2FmDEitj-2BW2P6Z7gWrcA-2Fy94Eun40P-2BT5yeqNiRNeYCUC6-2BnUQpmTBEINXQRm24Ld4RoXI-2FAQh-2FkuXa7SgY8-2FKPTtIYYH3lQguk7IZC2b93zE0kWKk2kWYfMpDOQVb9khYBQ1Nf50tZY-2F8D4maDxIF923ENlVteB5kyhhp-2BUYix-2BaqPaQoigecqxS4Kz04rPA90ENleJvJTGYPQ3gNHMpIFs9PRkYOP2i5oK-2BLcxFlSekjnaTuMrsogWRmoTH5JnlWXZYs8c7sk-2BrtwH3dJ3gwwJPLQveXQwFj-2FdfBHHTMS02QhUcehgNlz-2BISKQ-3D-3D_;;!!NO2lcQ!DNjdweIWlaE2wH-kk-SQyFOPL8Bxp6THnno8_hSO7zQfrJUjTqFLz2zgLIU6KduMWcgJZ-NNpj8\\$"](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.gqh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rC5ZbyAOQt-2B2KYStMZu97XVcytFzAhLsGtg-2FgPeRExEVY40piZlHFuLeR4B8kafuLL0zPf3IONAKWT8sp2tulvqM-3DBhxp_qKVfWWHvvNSL3lBgStYRNrnTPh-2FmDEitj-2BW2P6Z7gWrcA-2Fy94Eun40P-2BT5yeqNiRNeYCUC6-2BnUQpmTBEINXQRm24Ld4RoXI-2FAQh-2FkuXa7SgY8-2FKPTtIYYH3lQguk7IZC2b93zE0kWKk2kWYfMpDOQVb9khYBQ1Nf50tZY-2F8D4maDxIF923ENlVteB5kyhhp-2BUYix-2BaqPaQoigecqxS4Kz04rPA90ENleJvJTGYPQ3gNHMpIFs9PRkYOP2i5oK-2BLcxFlSekjnaTuMrsogWRmoTH5JnlWXZYs8c7sk-2BrtwH3dJ3gwwJPLQveXQwFj-2FdfBHHTMS02QhUcehgNlz-2BISKQ-3D-3D_;;!!NO2lcQ!DNjdweIWlaE2wH-kk-SQyFOPL8Bxp6THnno8_hSO7zQfrJUjTqFLz2zgLIU6KduMWcgJZ-NNpj8$) \h], a \$7 billion program within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deploy residential and community solar, integrated storage and cover related upgrades in underserved and disinvested communities throughout the country.

Solar for All is one of three major programs created under the Inflation Reduction Act's \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), a first-of-its-kind effort to combat climate change, advance environmental justice and accelerate the equitable clean energy future.

The following is a statement from [[HYPERLINK](#)

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"https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.gqh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rC-2BhoQDpgB3-2FVyXgVxsyMXa8lX5ewMHvWlqfEc97l67CNWYryTOSHKR3Br-2Bx-2BLCO495n-2FlzA5louePFmT5bbMACA4YKqX8BH4tQtsA-2FrkdWdKm3RG-2B2HsCiN3lKQTp5sAJ50B9G-2FefUbP9rpWTekw5V7WzXSkwTKwf7FCb0wXy-2BAICDFI116b0uklEzAPJMTVEaE-2BIMjkq0Ehs5NcTxMOKLXiaEa2lrNEFYZwaL67BNQQEBQC_qKVfWWHvvNSL3lBgStYRNrnTPh-2FmDEitj-2BW2P6Z7gWrcA-2Fy94Eun40P-2BT5yeqNiRNeYCUKC6-2BnUQpmTBEINXQRm24Ld4RoXl-2FAQh-2FkuXa7SgY8-2FKPTtIYYH3lQguk7lZC2b93ze0kWKk2kWYfMpDOQVb9khYBQlNf50tZY-2F8D4maDxIF923ENlVteB5kyhhp9JBHh7LY-2Bklp80KQW97fzlv9taOJ-2BsGYewC3VNkQ07Ov8uDqAPxwoyoBh7wLMBwRvIUdKK32kc0R7lBIVLbPgfccEdKNLoj6l34E7EvhGylrH3NjIUpGK9lTiiyWzLzaSr3pFsFPIJz-2B5EtJlrWvYQ-3D-3D__;!!NO2lcQ!DNjdweIWlaE2wH-kk-SQyFOPL8Bxp6THnno8_hSO7zQfrJUjTqFlz2zgLIU6KduMWcgJN3WObaA\$" \h],
president and CEO of NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council):

"The benefits of solar and storage—lower energy bills, the ability to keep your refrigerator running during power outages, asset ownership, and more—have not been equally distributed in our country. This will help to change that reality, expanding the opportunity for underserved and disinvested communities across our country to realize the benefits of solar and storage."

The GGRF aims to transform how communities around the country access finance for low- and zero-emission projects. It will help rapidly deploy clean energy projects to areas that, without these investments, could be left behind in the clean energy transition.

Earlier this month, EPA made awards through a \$14 billion [

The GGRF will catalyze billions of dollars of additional public and private co-investment in clean energy projects nationwide and help modernize the U.S. financial system by transforming ‘green’ investments into ‘mainstream’ investments and building a more equitable clean energy future with significant benefits for underserved communities.

A blog on Solar for All will be posted [https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.gqh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rCxq4rbwlaydusE-2F4RqtGUfNbG070XlBVIUK7jsMATu3Y8RbTOQopKNdIS-2B7EldIK8asx9xu-2BP-2F-2FHRamsZxFTjRYdMf8uJLn2LVFX5RGuDpa7o3Eb_qKVfWWHvvNSL3lBgStYRNrnTPh-2FmDEitj-2BW2P6Z7gWrcA-2Fy94Eun40P-2BT5yeqNiRNeYCUKC6-

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 SQyFOPL8Bxp6THnno8_hSO7zQfrJUjTqFLz2zgLIU6KduMWcgJ4rjEo0s\$" \h] and its
 three funding streams.

Solar United Neighbors

"We're ready to get to work," said Anya Schoolman, Executive Director, Solar United Neighbors. "This investment will help more families save money and take control of where their energy comes from."

Union of Concerned Scientists

Biden-Harris Administration Announces "Solar for All" Grantees, Mobilizes Capital for Solar Projects in Low-Income, Disadvantaged Communities

WASHINGTON (April 22, 2024)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)[
 HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-
 announces-7-billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential" \h][HYPERLINK
 "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-7-
 billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential" \h] today, a part of the Greenhouse Gas
 Reduction Fund (GGRF) in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The \$7 billion grant

competition—implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—is designed to drive investments in clean distributed solar energy for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) strongly advocates for the acceleration of renewable energy deployment across the country, with a particular focus on ensuring the benefits of a transition to clean energy are shared equitably with everyone in our society and do not leave behind vulnerable, historically burdened communities. UCS provided feedback for state office applications to the SFA program, including the Illinois Finance Authority, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and the Maine Governor's Energy Office. UCS also facilitated learning sessions with national groups such as GreenLatinos.

A recent[[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/ucs-study-finds-us-can-reap-significant-economic-health-benefits-meeting-climate-goals"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/ucs-study-finds-us-can-reap-significant-economic-health-benefits-meeting-climate-goals) \h][[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/ucs-study-finds-us-can-reap-significant-economic-health-benefits-meeting-climate-goals"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/ucs-study-finds-us-can-reap-significant-economic-health-benefits-meeting-climate-goals) \h] found that for the U.S. to meet its climate goals—including cutting economywide heat-trapping emissions in half by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050—total distributed solar capacity would need to more than quadruple from 33 GW in 2021 to 134 GW in 2035 (14% of total solar capacity), and increase nearly 7-fold to 225 GW in 2050 (11%). UCS estimates that at least 25 gigawatts (GW) of solar could be installed on 3.6 million households in low-income and disadvantaged communities by 2035 due to the SFA program and other incentives for low-income households in the IRA.

For more information on SFA and other clean energy programs in the IRA, see this[[HYPERLINK "https://blog.ucsusa.org/brady-watson/earth-day-2024-the-climate-benefits-of-the-inflation-reduction-act-are-worth-celebrating/"](https://blog.ucsusa.org/brady-watson/earth-day-2024-the-climate-benefits-of-the-inflation-reduction-act-are-worth-celebrating/) \h][[HYPERLINK "https://blog.ucsusa.org/brady-watson/earth-day-2024-the-climate-benefits-of-the-inflation-reduction-act-are-worth-celebrating/"](https://blog.ucsusa.org/brady-watson/earth-day-2024-the-climate-benefits-of-the-inflation-reduction-act-are-worth-celebrating/) \h] by[[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/brady-watson"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/brady-watson) \h][[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/brady-watson"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/brady-watson) \h], senior campaign coordinator for the Climate and Energy Program at UCS.

Below is a statement by[[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/paula-garcia"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/paula-garcia) \h][[HYPERLINK "https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/paula-garcia"](https://www.ucsusa.org/about/people/paula-garcia) \h], **senior energy analyst and energy justice lead at UCS.**

"The Solar for All grant program is a key part of the larger suite of clean energy investments advanced by President Biden and Congress that will help the United States combat climate change. Directing investments toward low-income and disadvantaged communities is imperative to ensuring a just transition to clean energy. If we don't prioritize these populations, we risk exacerbating historical injustices and piling additional burdens on those who have been disproportionately affected by environmental harm.

"The announcement of these grants is an important step forward. While UCS research has shown clearly that more ambition is needed to meet climate goals, phase out fossil fuels and advance environmental justice, the Solar for All program will help create much needed momentum toward ensuring the many benefits of a decarbonized economy, including public health protections, reduced consumer energy costs and increased energy resilience, are reaching everyone."

To speak with García please contact UCS Communications Officer Sanjali De Silva via email at sdesilva@ucsusa.org or by phone at +1 303-396-7325.

Sierra Club

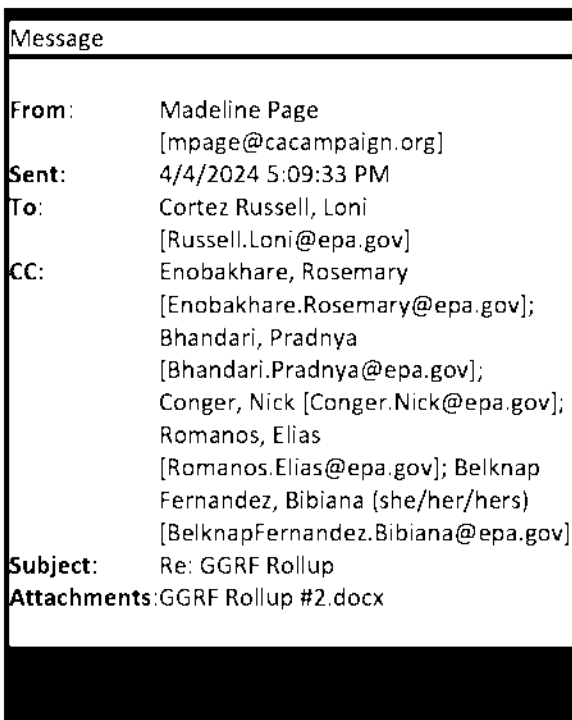
Washington, DC – Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-7-billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential"](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-7-billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential) \h] \$7 billion in funding awarded to states, territories, municipalities, and eligible nonprofits through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's Solar for All program. The competition, created by President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, would enable low-income and disadvantaged households across America to access the benefits of low-cost, clean solar energy—benefits that include home energy savings, energy resilience, improved air quality, wealth building, and quality jobs.

The climate law authorized \$7 billion in funding for the program, but by last year's deadline for applications EPA had received requests totaling more than \$38 billion. A total of 50 states and territories, 57 municipalities, and 113 eligible nonprofits applied for funding through the program. A full list of recipients of Solar For All awards can be found [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all"](https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all) \h].

The EPA estimates that the 60 Solar for All recipients will enable over 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed solar energy, generating more than \$350 million in annual savings on electric bills for overburdened households and reducing more than 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions cumulatively, from over four gigawatts of solar energy capacity unlocked for low-income communities over five years.

In response, **Sierra Club Executive Director Ben Jealous** released the following statement:

"The effects of the climate crisis are not equal. And, until now, the opportunities to seize the power and benefits of clean energy have not been equal. Today, the Solar for All program's specific focus on assisting low-income and disadvantaged communities—areas historically underserved and subjected to disproportionately dirtier air—will help reduce barriers to clean energy and provide better health outcomes. The massive amount of requests for funding that this program received—from red, blue, and purple states alike—makes clear that there is huge demand for clean energy nationwide and we must continue to fund and expand programs like this to help achieve our climate goals. The Inflation Reduction Act is working, and today's announcement is proof of the progress we're making."



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Update #2!

On Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 10:40 AM Cortez Russell, Loni <Russell.Loni@epa.gov> wrote:

~Bibiana

Thank you for sending

Loni Cortez Russell

Associate Administrator

EPA Office of Public Engagement and Environmental Education

Cell: 202-819-3990 | she/her

On Apr 4, 2024, at 9:26 AM, Madeline Page <mpage@cacampaign.org> wrote:

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good Morning! Happy GGRF Day.

Please see Margie's statement below, community roll-up and toolkit attached. More to come.

Maddie

Washington, DC - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced awardees for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's (GGRF) \$20 billion green finance programs (\$14B for the National Clean Investment Fund and \$6B for the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator). These funds will be invested in community-owned solar projects, small business loans for fleet electrification, loans for single-family homes to

make improvements like energy-efficient windows, heat pumps, and other weatherization improvements, and loans for existing building decarbonization. The following is a statement from **CAC Director, Margie Alt**, on this announcement:

"We congratulate the EPA and today's awardees. These funds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) will be put to work across the country to fight climate change in our communities, including in our own backyards. This program will provide funding for important projects to combat climate change, reduce pollution, help accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy, and create new jobs. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is an example of the impactful, forward-thinking investing that Americans want and that President Biden, EPA Administrator Michael Regan, and the Democrats in Congress have delivered. This is smart investing in people who are close to the problems and can implement appropriate solutions that cut costs, save energy, and propel us toward a clean energy future."

About the Climate Action Campaign

CAC is a vibrant coalition of dozens of major national environment, environmental justice, and public health groups, working together to drive ambitious, durable federal action based on science, to address the climate crisis. Our goal is to reduce climate pollution and accelerate the transition to clean energy in ways that support justice, jobs, health, and economic opportunity for all.

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Statement Rollup: GGRF Announcement



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Statement on the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Awardee Announcement

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced awardees for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's (GGRF) \$20 billion green finance programs (\$14B for the National Clean Investment Fund and \$6B for the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator). These funds will be invested in community-owned solar projects, small business loans for fleet electrification, loans for single-family homes to make improvements like energy-efficient windows, heat pumps, and other weatherization improvements, and loans for existing building decarbonization. The following is a statement from **CAC Director, Margie Alt**, on this announcement:

"We congratulate the EPA and today's awardees. These funds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) will be put to work across the country to fight climate change in our communities, including in our own backyards. This program will provide funding for important projects to combat climate change, reduce pollution, help accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy, and create new jobs. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is an example of the impactful, forward-thinking investing that Americans want and that President Biden, EPA Administrator Michael Regan, and the Democrats in Congress have delivered. This is smart investing in people who are close to the problems and can implement appropriate solutions that cut costs, save energy, and propel us toward a clean energy future."

C40 Cities

"The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is a historic opportunity to invest in communities and create a cleaner and more just energy system for all," **said Kate Johnson, Head of US Federal Affairs at C40 Cities**. "Cities are uniquely positioned to ensure that the projects funded by GGRF recipients deliver the maximum benefit to people on the ground – cleaner air, good paying jobs, and lower energy bills. C40 applauds the EPA's action, and encourages all GGRF recipients to partner with

mayors to advance transformative, community-driven projects that will improve people's lives."

Center for American Progress

"The administration today is standing up major new investment programs to make climate and clean energy projects a reality for communities across the country. These awards offer dedicated funding for the underserved and low-income communities that need it most. House Republicans voted countless times in a futile attempt to block this funding from being put to good use, but the Biden administration has now moved this vital program beyond the reach of partisan politics. It will fund programs that have the flexibility and permanence to deliver on the benefits of the clean energy economy for years and years to come." – **Trevor Higgins, senior vice president for Energy and Environment at the Center for American Progress**

Climate Mayors

"Equitable access to clean and affordable energy is foundational to a sustainable future for cities," **said Kate Wright, Executive Director of Climate Mayors.** "This unique fund will allow cities to fully leverage community and private sector partnerships to make historic strides in creating green jobs, reducing air pollution and lowering energy bills for residents. We thank the Biden Administration for making that a possibility, and providing an additional tool to help our Mayors continue to lead the way towards a brighter future."

Climate Power

Climate Power En Acción deputy executive director Antonieta Cadiz issued the following statement: "Today's announcement will help people get the resources they need to make a difference in their communities. President Biden's clean energy plan is already creating new opportunities across America, and there is so much more work to be done. Today's awardees have the deep knowledge and experience to bring the clean energy future to life, particularly in low-income, Black, and brown

communities — those who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. President Biden knows that the climate crisis has disproportionately affected marginalized communities, and their leadership is crucial to right the wrongs of historic environmental injustice and inaction. The investments announced today will bring cleaner air, lower energy costs, and quality jobs to the communities most impacted by the toxic legacy of corporate polluters.”

Earthjustice

Earthjustice Praises Announcement of New Climate Funds Awardees to Turbocharge Climate and Environmental Justice Investments in Disadvantaged Communities

\$20 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act marks an unprecedented investment in local projects that reduce emissions, advance environmental justice, and lower energy costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, the Biden Administration announced \$20 billion in new climate funding to fund local projects to reduce emissions, advance environmental justice, and lower energy costs for millions of families. The funding is from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, created by the Inflation Reduction Act to spur investments in local climate solutions.

Today’s funding comes from a \$20 billion fund that includes two programs. The National Clean Investment Fund will provide \$14 billion to entities and projects focused on pollution reduction with a specific focus on buildings, transportation, and power generation. The Clean Communities Investment Accelerator will provide \$6 billion to community lending programs, helping them gain important expertise in green financing to better serve disadvantaged communities. In addition, these investments will also help spur at least seven-times as much private sector funding into projects.

The EPA is expected to announce further funding for rooftop and community solar programs through the \$7 billion Solar Access for All program in the near future.

After the announcement, **Earthjustice Legislative Director for Climate and Energy, Chris Espinosa** issued the following statement:

"We applaud the Biden Administration for today's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund awards and especially commend them for ensuring that 70 percent of this funding will benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities. As we quickly transition to a clean energy economy, we cannot leave large parts of the country behind. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is a critical piece of the IRA to invest directly in low-income and disadvantaged communities that have long faced the disproportionate burden of pollution, energy development, and the worst impacts of climate change. These investments, plus the major private capital investments they will leverage, will spur sustainable development and job growth, lower energy costs for families, and empower communities with the funding they need to fight climate change and clean up their air, water, and land. While celebrating these funds, we look forward to upcoming awards under the Fund's \$7 billion Solar for All program, which dedicates 100 percent of its funding to low-income and disadvantaged communities."

Environmental Defense Fund

New Agriculture Finance Sustainability Coalition partners with multi-billion dollar awardee of the EPA's National Clean Investment Fund

The coalition will accelerate financing of agriculture solutions to combat the climate crisis

Washington, D.C. – April 4th, 2024) The Agriculture Finance Sustainability Coalition, a new partnership between agriculture, environmental groups and financial institutions, supported a significant awardee of the [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-20-billion-grants-mobilize-private-capital-and"](https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-20-billion-grants-mobilize-private-capital-and) \h]. [[HYPERLINK "https://weareclimateunited.org/news/climate-united-award"](https://weareclimateunited.org/news/climate-united-award) \h], which it will use to mobilize financing and private capital and accelerate market activity to combat the climate crisis.

The Agriculture Finance Sustainability Coalition includes members Akiptan, Compeer Financial, Couser Cattle Company, Environmental Defense Fund, Farmers Business Network, Farm Credit Council, Farmer Mac, Growers Edge, Intertribal Agriculture Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Milk Producers Federation, Native Agriculture Financial Services and Soil and Water Outcomes Fund.

Farmers and ranchers consistently cite financial barriers as an impediment to their adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies. Together, the members of the coalition are collaborating to identify climate-smart agriculture projects that meet the qualified project criteria of the National Clean Investment Fund, and agricultural finance institutions that are positioned to deploy financial solutions to farmers across the country.

“Farmers and ranchers are essential allies in generating climate solutions, but they need the right kind of financial support to do so,” says Maggie Monast, senior director for climate-smart agriculture at Environmental Defense Fund. “Funding from the National Clean Investment Fund will de-risk and catalyze replicable, scalable and equitable financial solutions that accelerate climate-smart agriculture implementation. The EPA’s announcement is a major step forward and will generate benefits for farms, ranches and rural communities across the nation.”

Agricultural climate solutions that may be financed through this opportunity include renewable energy technologies, farm energy efficiency upgrades, technologies to capture or reduce livestock methane emissions, farming practices that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer use on crops, and more.

The National Clean Investment Fund places a strong emphasis on equity, and reaching communities that face challenges in accessing mainstream sources of capital. The coalition will use this funding opportunity to assist farmers and ranchers who face barriers in accessing capital and support them in expanding access to essential financial services. For example, Akiptan is a Native American Community Development Financial Institution that provides loans and technical assistance to those in Native Agriculture.

“Akiptan's mission is to transform Native agriculture and food economies by delivering creative capital, leading paradigm changes, and enhancing producer prosperity across Indian Country. We support producers holistically with flexible, long-term capital and the technical assistance they need to succeed. The partnerships we will develop with farmers and ranchers as part of the National Clean Investment Fund will allow Akiptan to expand our patient approach to capital with the producers we serve, enabling them to grow their businesses and thrive,” says Skya Ducheneaux, executive director at Akiptan.

Several members of the coalition are prepared to deploy financial solutions to farmers, which will leverage private capital and enable farmers to access the flexible financing they need to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies. “Farmers are already operating on thin margins, and access to appropriate financing is essential for them to navigate the pressures of the future – including climate change. The flexible capital offered through the National Clean Investment Fund offers an opportunity for Farm Credit cooperatives to tailor their financing to the needs of their farmer member-owners who are leading the way in implementing climate solutions. Our collaboration in the Coalition is a natural outgrowth of Farm Credit's mission to support rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow,” mentions Todd Van Hoose, president of Farm Credit Council.

Elected Officials to Protect America

“No one should have to suffer the injustice of living on the frontlines of the climate crisis. The Inflation Reduction Act's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) recognizes the power of federal funding to ensure worthy projects are scaled up to levels where their impact can make major differences for communities across the country who for far too long have been neglected.” **Christian Brock, CEO of Elected Officials to Protect America.** “Elected Officials to Protect America is grateful and excited to see the GGRF empower leaders in Justice40 communities to create economic opportunities with good paying jobs, while transitioning to a clean energy economy for all.”

Green the Church

We celebrate the announcement of the awardees for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). Our communities across the country are going to receive an infusion of investments helping to accelerate the transition to clean energy in their homes, towns, and businesses, fueling economic opportunity and job creation, and revitalizing communities across the country, especially in places that have long been neglected. The GGRF builds on the successful track records of green and community-based lenders across the country and will provide federal funding to help scale projects that push us closer to a pollution-free nation. This announcement is especially important for African American congregations and communities historically overburdened by pollution. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is one way the Biden administration is meeting its commitment to the Justice40 principles, and Green the Church is grateful to the EPA for such action! **-Rev. Dr. Ambrose Carroll, Founder, Green the Church**

GreenLatinos

GreenLatinos Climate Justice & Clean Air Director, Irene Burga released the following statement: “Growing up in a predominantly Latine and highly polluted part of Los Angeles county, I’ve witnessed first-hand the dire impact of pollution on the health, safety and ability to prosper in Latine communities. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund provides a lifeline, offering a chance for a cleaner, healthier future where every Latine family can access clean air and sustainable energy. For too long, our communities have suffered from pollution and environmental disparities, hindering our dreams and well-being. This fund provides the crucial financial support needed to deploy clean energy and pollution reduction projects, offering cleaner air, safer neighborhoods, and economic opportunities. Facing potential cuts, we must unite to defend this program, ensuring our community thrives in a pollution-free world, now and for future generations.”

Institute for a Progressive Nevada

Institute for a Progressive Nevada Executive Director Shelby Swartz issued the following statement: “Today’s announcement is a watershed moment for climate and clean energy funding in this country. Communities nationwide – especially Black, Latinx and other communities that have for decades faced the brunt of pollution – are going to see an injection of federal investments that will help accelerate the necessary and crucial transition to clean energy. That transition will happen in their homes, their towns, their businesses – building on a track record of successful green and community-based lenders across the country. The federal funding will help scale projects that push us closer to a pollution-free future, reduce energy costs, and improve the health of all Americans. The GGRF is one way the Biden administration is meeting its commitment to the Justice40 principles, and we are excited to see these investments break ground later this year.”

Interfaith Power & Light

“The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), established by the Administration’s Inflation Reduction Act, will provide critical funding to create jobs, reduce pollution, and lower energy costs for families. This funding represents an important step forward toward a more equitable clean energy future by ensuring that two-thirds of this funding is directed to communities that have historically struggled to gain access to capital. Interfaith Power & Light celebrates today’s announcement and the efforts by the Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to invest in protecting our communities and our Sacred Earth.” – **Rev. Susan Hendershot, President of Interfaith Power & Light**

LCV, Chispa, and NCLCV

“The Biden-Harris administration is continuing to deliver on their promise to accelerate our country’s progress towards a clean energy future and ensure that a healthier, more prosperous future benefits communities previously left out,” said **LCV Vice President of Federal Policy, Matthew Davis**. “While extremist MAGA Republicans continue to attack the President’s affordable clean energy plan, these investments from the historic Inflation Reduction Act will jumpstart local projects and help cut energy costs for families, create clean energy jobs, and decrease pollution in

communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and volatile fossil fuel prices. We look forward to these investments catalyzing building energy efficiency and clean energy projects on the ground and are thrilled that over half of these projects will go to historically excluded communities, including communities of color, communities with low wealth, and rural communities.”

“Chispa is excited to welcome the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund investments. These will address critically needed green energy funding for our communities of color that need it most, resulting in cleaner air, lower energy costs for all, and more local jobs,” **said Chispa Senior Director Estefany Carrasco González**. “With local improvements such as community-owned solar, small business loans for local employers to electrify their vehicles, and home loans for families to improve their home’s comfort and energy efficiency, we’re starting to see an inclusive green energy future for all as a reality.”

“We thank Vice President Kamala Harris for coming to North Carolina and announcing the launch of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; and it couldn’t come at a better time,” said **NCLCV Executive Director Carrie Clark**. “According to the[
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“https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flink.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com%2FIs%2Fclick%3Fupn%3Du001.Hz02mx6XGx9M9RsRegMjCj2ZVJvQWtP2txgTHRies3M3XPGgZYP9QBOF8DnjuQnSpBBw_Qgcif3Jq8IU7Nwpk8NwDWjw8sfA6UvqkrInlcc-2FYwAPOry7uq04TinB-2F8JNIWUPoEVDsOHs-2BJ9bGt9AYGsosRmpsFkWU9ztTI-2BVAIquctJY96YAggxItE2KG6gVbU6qLiWOE039pdWIPE0MeuOecMZezPrRaufD2LzYTfrbEzVwIFZM-2FHxTPOehIMC8WjaWEwVMpnriRZlvFXuWPzbshxvuRGdYIMlGM0euwVWhlXXjTh07aSIJLvOc2Ah8xDDFeAn4sHU6fuulICCZFHIBD0UBpgNs-2BZCv2rrZ6Pxx3oxxvSkTqaW3IK2pACThstTLsZLqCmtxwWbD5HLX-2BnHKjHeZJppzAqz3ia8muhbbtpgvgRCnvk92xCgQ83u9GXC5&data=05%7C02%7CmDavis2%40lcv.org%7C519f7595a48e44c0b20308dc54addcdd%7Cf597c4f672664bd6b19cfc485de304ad%7C0%7C0%7C638478352951574091%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAILCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBtIl6klhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C&sdata=dryVh7YZ4lxJM%2BFO5HV2MJzGLAJilhs9kDQLgQ0lhYA%3D&reserve

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2BJ9bGt9AYGsosRmpsFkWU9ztTI-

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2FHxTPOehIMC8WjaWEwVMpnriRZivFXuWPzbshxvuRGdYIMIGM0euwVWhIXXjTh07aSIJLvOc2Ah8xDDFeAn4sHU6fuulICCZFHIBD0UBpgNs-

2BZCv2rrZ6Pxx3oxxvSkTqaW3IK2pACThstTLsZLqCmtxwWbD5HLX-

2BnHKjHeZJppzAqz3ia8muhbtpgvgRCnvk92xCgQ83u9GXC5&data=05%7C02%7CmDavis2%40lcv.org%7C519f7595a48e44c0b20308dc54addcdd%7Cf597c4f672664bd6b19cfc485de304ad%7C0%7C0%7C638478352951574091%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljoiv2IuMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwILCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dryVh7YZ4lxJM%2BFO5HV2MJzGLAJilhs9kDQLgQ0lhYA%3D&reserved=0" \h], North Carolina is one of the top five states facing the most expensive climate disasters. But North Carolina has also ranked first in the nation for business two years in a row, and first in the nation in rural clean energy jobs. If we want this success to continue, we must address the climate crisis. This announcement addresses the heart of the climate crisis and will help ensure North Carolina continues to be a great place for families and businesses to thrive."

Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action

[HYPERLINK "https://www.michigancca.com/" \h] (MiCCA) celebrates the announcement of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is a significant step towards prioritizing the health and well-being of communities across the nation. This key component of President Biden's climate and clean energy plan provides important resources in our fight against climate change and its detrimental impacts on public health.

By directing funding towards projects aimed at reducing pollution and lowering energy costs for families, the GGRF is fostering a cleaner and healthier environment

for all. Given the disproportionate health impacts of those living closest to fossil fuel pollution, it is appropriate that a significant portion of this funding be allocated to communities that have historically struggled to access capital for pollution-reducing projects, including communities of color, low-income, rural, Tribal, and energy transition communities.

The projects to be funded under the GGRF, such as community-owned solar initiatives, fleet electrification for small businesses, and home weatherization improvements, will not only mitigate greenhouse gas emissions but also improve air quality and lower healthcare costs associated with pollution-related illnesses. Furthermore, by expanding access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, the GGRF will accelerate the adoption of clean transportation solutions, further reducing harmful emissions and improving respiratory health for communities who suffer the highest concentration of vehicle pollution.

MiCCA celebrates the strides made by the GGRF through the Inflation Reduction Act towards a more sustainable, equitable, and healthier future for all. -**Elizabeth Del Buono, MD, President, Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action**

NRDC

EPA Issues Awards for Crucial Clean Energy Finance Program

WASHINGTON – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the award winners for two of three grant competitions it held last year to distribute funds from a \$27 billion financing program created by the Inflation Reduction Act known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). This is a first-of-its-kind effort to combat climate change, advance environmental justice and accelerate the transition to an equitable clean energy future.

“This is an unprecedented investment in communities that have been overlooked for far too long,” said [[HYPERLINK "https://www.nrdc.org/bio/manish-bapna" \h](https://www.nrdc.org/bio/manish-bapna)], **president and CEO of NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council)**. “Neighborhoods and regions around the country are primed to see significant benefits; from new jobs

and business growth to notable energy savings, putting money back in the pockets of hard-working people.”

“It’s a sizeable down payment on cleaner air, improved livelihoods and a safer climate,” Bapna said.

The GGFR aims to transform how communities around the country access finance for low- and zero-emission projects. It will help rapidly deploy clean energy projects to areas that, without these investments, could be left behind in the clean energy transition.

“We congratulate EPA on reaching such a historic milestone for this critical financing program which targets almost 70% of funds to low-income and disadvantaged communities,” said [

“[, **Senior Policy Analyst at Just Solutions and the founder of the** \[](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://justsolutionscollective.org/expert/sylvia-chi/_;!!NO2lcQ!GEVziYski3ifV0wH5MpDyDJa6k3uiPgF3167a2A5mcD4N_4gEwgg6UJ0kXSHINb4xJPGInmE4F2n$\)

“[. “We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the GGFR awardees to ensure this program delivers significant and tangible benefits to the communities across our country that bear a disproportionate burden from pollution and climate change.”](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://justsolutionscollective.org/ggrf-best-practices-pledge-and-equity-alliance/_;!!NO2lcQ!GEVziYski3ifV0wH5MpDyDJa6k3uiPgF3167a2A5mcD4N_4gEwgg6UJ0kXSHINb4xJPGIm0Gb68N$\)

EPA’s awards today are in two of the three major GGFR programs:

- A \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund that aims to help transform the clean energy financing market, including by providing financing to individuals and families, nonprofits, businesses, community lenders and others for reducing pollution across all sectors with a priority focus on buildings, transportation and distributed power generation;
- a \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, a community lending program to expand the clean finance ecosystem through community lenders with the experience, expertise and relationships needed to deploy capital in

underserved markets; and,

Awards are yet to be announced by EPA in the third GGRF program:

- A \$7 billion Solar for All program to deploy residential and community solar, integrated storage and cover related upgrades in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The GGRF will catalyze billions of dollars of additional public and private co-investment in clean energy projects nationwide and help modernize the U.S. financial system by transforming 'green' investments into 'mainstream' investments and building a more equitable clean energy future with significant benefits for underserved communities.

A blog on the topic will be posted [[HYPERLINK "https://www.nrdc.org/bio/adam-kent/epa-announces-awards-national-clean-energy-finance-network" \h](https://www.nrdc.org/bio/adam-kent/epa-announces-awards-national-clean-energy-finance-network)], and here is [[HYPERLINK "https://www.nrdc.org/bio/adam-kent/iras-1-year-anniversary-toasting-game-changing-finance-program" \h](https://www.nrdc.org/bio/adam-kent/iras-1-year-anniversary-toasting-game-changing-finance-program)] and its three funding streams.

PennFuture

PennFuture is excited to see the progress made today in the Biden Administration's climate and clean energy plan with the awardees of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. This financing program will help Pennsylvania communities overburdened by legacy industrial pollution to recover by implementing clean energy projects in their areas and reduce pollution.

GGRF will create job opportunities in the clean energy sector while also providing Pennsylvanians with investments in home and business upgrades to lower their energy costs.

We are grateful that more than two-thirds of all GGRF funding will be allocated to projects in communities that frequently face difficulty in accessing capital for projects that reduce pollution and decrease household energy expenses. These

communities include people of color, low-income, disadvantaged, rural, Tribal, and energy transition communities.

Sierra Club

“Today’s announcement is a game-changer in ensuring meaningful clean energy and clean technology investments are possible in every community in America — particularly in low-income communities, communities of color, and areas that far too often are overlooked. By making this kind of capital available, the Biden-Harris administration is showing that a clean energy future that puts people first is a reality that is within our grasp. This is another major victory for President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act and one of the many reasons the Sierra Club fought so hard to make this law a reality. I thank Vice President Harris and Administrator Regan for their continued work in implementing this landmark law,” said **Ben Jealous, Executive Director of the Sierra Club**

Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter

“Sierra Club is excited to see today’s announcement of the awardees for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which will help communities throughout the U.S. with investments to facilitate a more rapid transition to clean energy. These dollars will be focused on Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other communities that have experienced the worst impacts of pollution. Scaling up clean energy via this program will help to reduce pollution and energy costs, while improving the health of everyone, especially those in these overburdened communities.”

Sandy Bahr, Director, Sierra Club – Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

“Establishing the National Clean Investment Fund is pivotal in catalyzing the transition to an equitable, decarbonized economy. Using seed money from public funding to unlock additional private sector investment and new low-cost financing is a cornerstone in the transition to clean energy, and this program ensures the associated benefits are accessible to all,” said **Steve Clemmer, the director of**

energy research and analysis at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). “This is a unique opportunity to empower all communities, businesses, and families to benefit from the clean energy transition. While the NCIF is a significant step forward, UCS research shows clearly that even more ambition by all levels of government is needed to meet U.S. climate goals and advance environmental justice.”

Urban Sustainability Directors Network

“Sustainability, climate resilience, and equity are the pillars of a future where every community can thrive,” **said Deneine Powell, Executive Director of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.** “Through the EPA’s greenhouse gas reduction grant competitions, we are leveling the playing field and ensuring that support and energy equity reach those most vulnerable to climate change. This announcement marks a critical step towards empowering communities nationwide, fostering partnerships that drive innovation in green technology, and securing a healthier, more sustainable environment for all.”

West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Today’s announcement of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) awardees marks another significant step in the right direction for West Michigan and environmental justice communities nationwide. With \$20 billion allocated to green finance programs, including the National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, the GGRF will empower individuals, nonprofits, small businesses, and lenders to drive impactful projects. From community-owned solar initiatives to electrification loans for small businesses and homes, these investments will reduce pollution, lower energy costs, and create quality jobs. Importantly, over two-thirds of GGRF funding will prioritize communities historically marginalized in accessing capital for pollution-reduction projects. This underscores the GGRF’s commitment to advancing environmental justice and catalyzing inclusive economic growth. As we celebrate this milestone, let us recognize it as another step in the right direction towards a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.”

**#ActOnClimate #DefendOurClimate #GGRF @POTUS @EPA @EPAMichaelRegan –
Deirdre Nieves, West Michigan Environmental Action Council**

Appointment

From: Carolyn Kelly [Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu]
Sent: 6/27/2024 7:58:14 PM
To: Carolyn Kelly [Carolyn.Kelly@nau.edu]; Sussman, Eric (he/him/his) [Sussman.Eric@epa.gov]; Berry, Laura [berry.laura@epa.gov]; Laura McKelvey [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Mehrdad.Khatibi@NAU.EDU; Childers, Pat (he/him/his) [Childers.Pat@epa.gov]; Angela Benedict [angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov]; billietoledo@pbbnation.org; brandy.toft@llojibwe.net; Caleb Minthorn [calebminthorn@ctuir.org]; tara.weston@santaana-nsn.gov; jarchuleta@utemountain.org; Lozada, Tiffany [tlozada@pci-nsn.gov]; lucas.bair@spokanetribe.com; marvin@wabanaki.com; Josh.Paul@penobscotnation.org; randall.ashley@cskt.org; stevesmith@shinnecock.org; ssmallwood@jiv-nsn.gov; Vallen Cook [vallenc@grandportage.com]; Brozusky, Sandra [Brozusky.Sandra@epa.gov]; Kaufman, Amanda [Kaufman.Amanda@epa.gov]; Ward, Hillary [Ward.Hillary@epa.gov]; Chappell, Regina [Chappell.Regina@epa.gov]; itep-t@lists.nau.edu; ntaa-member-tribes@lists.nau; NTAA-MEMBER-TRIBES@LISTS.NAU.EDU; Kurt Lyons [kurt.lyons@winnebago-nsn.gov]; Dana Hummell [dana.hummell@quapawnation.com]; jsouthard@morongo-nsn.gov; Stacy.Boone@shakopeedakota.org; rosa.vargas@ktttribe.org; jose.gallegos@ktttribe.org; Vicente.Godfrey@sanmanuel-nsn.gov; Lovina Redner [lovinare.dner@chickahominytribe.org]; Katie Swan [katie.swan@yakama.com]; Andrea Gelatt [agelatt@jillgrantlaw.com]; Amie_Dittentholer@yakama.com; ParsonsJ@choctawnation.com; Lisa Gover [Lisa.Gover.DEQ@gric.nsn.us]; amysmok@ebci-nsn.gov; klawson@muscokeenation.com; Bessler, Andy (he/him/his) [Bessler.Andy@epa.gov]; Payne, JamesJ [payne.jamesj@epa.gov]; Simon Andrews III [atcenviromental@asacarsarmiut.org]; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Patulski, Meg [patulski.meg@epa.gov]
CC: annwyatt@klawocktribe.org; Salazar, Vicky (she/her/hers) [Salazar.Vicky@epa.gov]; Taryn Bell [Taryn.Bell@nau.edu]; christopher.lee@nau.edu; Kelsey Joan Jensen [Kelsey.Jensen@nau.edu]; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Julie Meikowski [Julie.Meikowski@nau.edu]; Kira Dowell [KDowell@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov]; Eric Jordan [Eric.Jordan@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov]; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Aguilar, Kyle [Kyle.Aguilar@isletapueblo.com]; jerome.proctor@santeeoep.com; Kelsey Elizabeth Morales [Kelsey.Morales@nau.edu]; Carma Huseby [carma.huseby@llojibwe.net]; Nikki Cooley [Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu]; danny.martinez@wstribe.org; Mansel Adelbert Nelson [Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu]; Hubbard, Secody [Hubbard.Secody@epa.gov]; kschumacher@kootenai.org; EPA Assistant [epaassistant@klawocktribe.org]; rgomez@ak-chin.nsn.us; Catherine Buchanan [catherinebuchanan@brb-nsn.gov]; Dickerson, Phil [Dickerson.Phil@epa.gov]; Heather Bartlett [Heather.Bartlett@nau.edu]; jbilly@avcp.org; melinda.ronca-battista@nau.edu; Summer Dutton [sdutton@delawarenation-nsn.gov]; laura.laumatia@cdatribe-nsn.gov; Ashley G Gries [Ashley.Gries@nau.edu]; dwallick [dwallick@palatribe.com]; lexi.freeman@potawatomi.org; sgaughen@palatribe.com; dana.adkins@chickahominytribe.org; melissarobinson@choctawnation.com; Kody Harper [Kody.Harper@crit-nsn.gov]; Michael Z King [Michael.King@nau.edu]; mhutson@southernute-nsn.gov; Craig Kreman [ckreman@quapawnation.com]; c.duriscoe@bigpinepaiute.org; igap@ugashikvillage.com; jmcinnis@moheganmail.com; dlewis@yan-tribe.org; Christal Marie Black [Christal.Black@nau.edu]; sarahs@stcroixjibwe-nsn.gov; ssmallwood@jamulindianvillage.com; Joe Cebe [Joe.Cebe@fcp-nsn.gov]; philipdefoe@fdlrez.com; epdes2@coyotevalley-nsn.gov; Mark Lambert Daniels [Mark.Daniels@nau.edu]; schaudhary@navajo-nsn.gov; jennifer.williams@nau.edu; nyazzie1@navajo-nsn.gov; ASells@utemountain.org; Nancy-John@cherokee.org; Cathy Sloan [csloan@quapawnation.com]; jennifer.heminokeky@fortsillapache-nsn.gov; courtney.hessell@gtb-nsn.gov; Jeremy Freise [jeremy-freise@cherokee.org]; ctorres@viejas-nsn.gov; josephine.kamkoff@nau.edu; Lisa.Hopinkah@santaana-nsn.gov; Hardie, Hayden [Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov]; David Chagluak [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Dannenberg, Matthew [matthew.dannenberg@hq.doe.gov]; abrown@pueblooftesuque.org; Frank Spurgeon [Frank.Spurgeon@lajolla-nsn.gov]; twolfe@pechanga-nsn.gov; Manion, Andrea [Manion.Andrea.L@epa.gov]; ariel.lazore@srmt-nsn.gov; Marissa Leslie Adams [Marissa.Adams@nau.edu]; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; John Nelson [nelsonj@elk-valley.com]; Bonilla, Eimy [Bonilla.Eimy@epa.gov]; Derr, Rebecca (she/her/hers) [Derr.Rebecca@epa.gov]; Kim Shaw [Kim.Shaw@nau.edu]; Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu; epatech@klawocktribe.org; Amanda Suzanne Kapp [Amanda.Kapp@nau.edu]; Robin Bouschor [rbouschor1@saulttribe.net]; Gillian Mittelstaedt [gmittelstaedt@thhnw.org]; Zane Jacobs [Zane.Jacobs@nau.edu]; jwalker@nwbsoshone.com; lhood@campo-nsn.gov; Tanda Roberts [TRoberts@plpt.nsn.us]; Delbert Altaha Jr [DelbertAltaha@wmat.us]; brittney.nomee [brittney.nomee@cdatribe-nsn.gov]; Diego Cordero [dcordero@chumash.gov]; klarson@swinomish.nsn.us; Cathy Sloan [Cathy.Sloan@quapawnation.com]; tbalden@yuroktribe.nsn.us; Kelly Jendrisak [kelly.jendrisak@itcaonline.com]; Nathan Kilger [airquality@badriver-nsn.gov]; Clarice.Madalena@jemezpuablo.org; aleknagikigap@hotmail.com; Bobbie Todd [btodd@rappahannocktribe.org]; Maxwell Benning [Maxwell.Benning@nau.edu]; Michael Aude [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Kumar, Anjali (she/her/hers) [Kumar.Anjali01@epa.gov]

Subject: NTAA/EPA Air Policy Update Call
Attachments: June 27_2024 NTAA_Policy Call Agenda.docx; 6.27.24 OEJEER Update Slides for the National Tribal Air Association.pdf
Location: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Start: 6/27/2024 6:00:00 PM
End: 6/27/2024 8:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

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Agenda to come as we get closer to the date.

Carolyn Kelly is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://nau.zoom.us/j/84031220441?pwd=empCSytTc1ErVkkxLOTI4bXVjWk8yUT09>

Meeting ID: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Password:

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 253 205 0468 US
+1 719 359 4580 US
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 444 9171 US
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US
+1 689 278 1000 US
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968 US
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 360 209 5623 US
+1 386 347 5053 US
+1 507 473 4847 US
+1 564 217 2000 US

Meeting ID: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Find your local number: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia Sydney)
103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
149.137.68.253 (Mexico)
69.174.57.160 (Canada Toronto)
65.39.152.160 (Canada Vancouver)
207.226.132.110 (Japan Tokyo)
149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)
Meeting ID: 840 3122 0441
Password: 202901

Updates for the National Tribal Air Association

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

June 27, 2024

By Andy Bessler

*OEJECR Tribal Stakeholder
Coalition Coordinator*





COMMUNITY, EQUITY & RESILIENCY

Building Environmental and
Climate Justice through Engagement

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGISTER & STAY TUNED:

epa.gov/community-equity-resiliency/regional-roadshows

Regional Roadshows

Recent:

➤ **Region 1:** Burlington, VT

➤ **Region 10:** Anchorage, AK: Jun 26,
9AM – 3PM

Coming:

➤ **Region 5:** Milwaukee, WI: Aug 15,
2 – 6PM

Region 3: Baltimore, MD

Region 7: Salt Lake City, UT

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

- **The White House is offering consultation opportunities for Tribal Nations to provide feedback on Executive Order 14112. To learn more, go [here](#)!**
 - *Tribal Consultation for feedback on E.O. 14112, "Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations To Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self Determination."*
 - *Informational Webinar for Tribes only is set for July 8, 2024, at 3:30pm ET*
- **EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples**
 - **On or near the last Wednesday of every month at 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM ET. Features OEJECR Updates, Best EJ Practices, and Tribal Presenters**
 - **Don't miss the next webinar on August 28th on IK, EJ and water!**
 - **What topics would like to see on future webinars?**



EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights

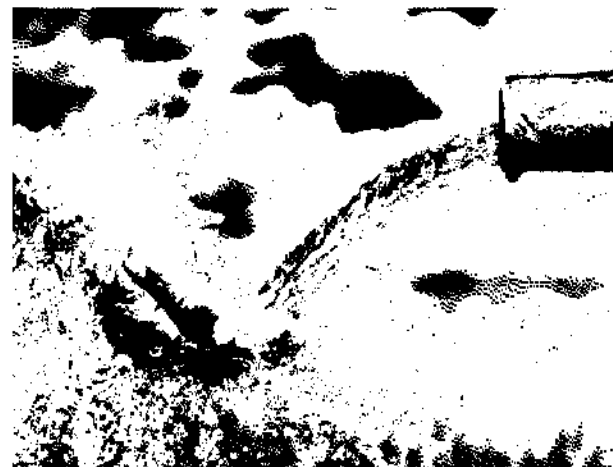
- **Reminder of OEJECR Web Resources**
- **Environmental Justice Clearinghouse**
- **EPA External Civil Rights Docket**
- **The Environmental Justice Scorecard**
- **Resources to Help Communities webpage**



HISTORIC EJ Grants for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **Tribal and Territory Grants: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act**
- **Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles Grant Program (Closes July 25, 2024)**
- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers Program (EJ TCGM)**
- **Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program (EJ CCG)**





Office of Environmental Justice &
External Civil Rights



COMMUNITY

SHARE CHAIRS

Environmental and Climate Justice

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Program Overview

Community Change Grants (CCG)

EPA received \$3 billion (b.) through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to fund environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities.

- \$2.8 b. for grants including \$2 b. for the Community Change Grants Program (CCGP).
- \$200 m. for technical assistance related to the grants.
- \$300 m. (estimated) for Target Investment Area (TIA) B for projects benefitting Tribes outside Alaska-Section II.B of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- \$150 m. for Alaskan Tribes/NGO/CBO's.
- Grants cannot exceed three years (no extensions).
- All grants must be awarded by September 30, 2026.
- **Applications are due November 21, 2024**



Final Thoughts



Find partners
and build coalition



Identify meaningful
transformative
projects to address
environmental and
climate justice
concerns that can
be completed within
3 years (Track I)



Identify
governmental
policies and
programs that can
be improved with
community voices
(Track II)



Register on
SAM.gov and
Grants.gov *now*
(this process can
take up to a month)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

You can follow up
with questions at
CCGP@epa.gov



Stay up to date on
webinars by signing up
for EPA EJ listserv by
sending a blank email to
join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov



IRA FUNDED GRANTMAKERS

- CHECK OUT THE [2024-2025 IRA FUNDING GUIDE](#) THAT IS UPDATED REGULARLY!



Environmental Justice
Thriving Communities
Grantmaking Program
(EJ TCGM)

Regional & National
Grantmakers

GRANTS FOR TRIBES AND
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Approximately \$600 m. to be awarded to 11 Grantmakers

9 Regional and 3 National Grantmakers to provide 1000s of subgrants nationwide

80% of each \$50 million Regional Grantmaker award will be redistributed in Thriving Community Subgrants [\$40million]

Tier 1-3 Competitive subgrants available for Assessment, Planning, and Project Development activities ranging from \$150,000 to \$350,000

Non-competitive awards up to \$75,000 provided to severely capacity-constrained CBO

□ Project Timeline

11 cooperative **Agreements** with substantial EPA involvement & oversight

Grantmakers awarded in **Spring 2024**, subgrant applications open in **Summer 2024**

Project Period is 3 years, funds available until 2027 depending on award date

11 GRANTMAKERS



9 REGIONAL

3 NATIONAL

Region 1	Health Resources in Action	MA	Region 1
Region 2	Fordham University	NY	Region 2
Region 3	Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Inc.	MD	Region 3
Region 4	**Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters
Region 5	The Minneapolis Foundation	MN	Region 5
Region 6	*Texas Southern University	TX	Region 6
Region 7	Reference Central National GM		NA
Region 8	JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.	CO	Region 8
Region 9	Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), Inc.	CA	Region 9
Region 10	Philanthropy Northwest	WA	Region 10
National GM East [Regions 1-3]	*Institute for Sustainable Communities	VT	Headquarters
National GM West [Region 8-10]	Climate Justice Alliance	CA	Headquarters
National GM Central [Region 4-7]	**Research Triangle Institute	NC	Headquarters

*RTI will serve as both the Region 4 Grantmaker as well as one of three National Grantmakers

*ICTAC or ICTAC partner

HISTORIC EJ Grants Through the Inflation Reduction Act

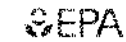
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund:

- **\$27 b. for clean energy projects funding and grants for low-income communities**
- **Solar for All provided \$7 b. to 60 awardees, including 6 Tribal awardees**
- **National Clean Investment Fund awarded \$14 b. to 3 entities to create clean financing institutions**
- **\$6 b. for a Clean Communities Investment Accelerator for 5 awardees including the Native CDFI Network (\$400 million award), a nonprofit that serves 60+ U.S. Treasury-certified Native CDFIs, which have a presence in 27 states across rural reservation communities as well as urban communities and have a mission to address capital access challenges in Native communities.**



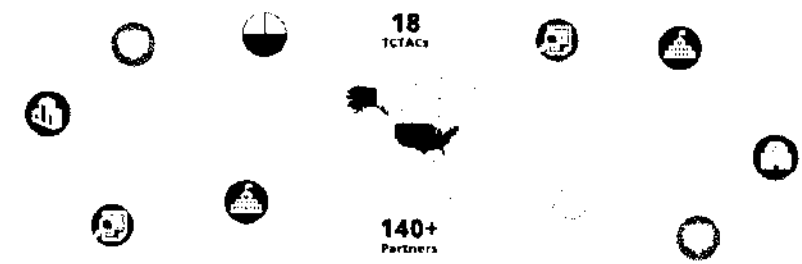
EPA's Historic Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (EJ TCTAC) Program** available over the next 5 years from 3 national and 14 regional TCTAC's.
- **EPA's EJ TCTAC Program** is part of the **Federal Thriving Communities Network Initiative** that is working towards a holistic government-wide framework for providing technical assistance.



Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)

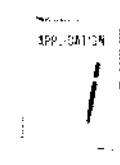
In partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, EPA's TCTAC program is a network of technical assistance centers designed to remove barriers and improve accessibility to environmental and energy justice grant opportunities for communities that are underserved and overburdened.



TCTACs will help communities that are underserved and overburdened to:



Identify
community needs



Prepare
grant applications and manage the funding



Build capacity
to effectively engage with federal agencies



Develop collaborative relationships with federal agencies

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/ej-tctac>
Twitter: @EPA EJ Thriving Communities Program | U.S. EPA



Contact Us!

- To sign up for more OEJECR updates send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- For any questions/concerns, please contact Andy Bessler, OEJECR Tribal Stakeholder Coalition Coordination, at: Bessler.andy@epa.gov
- To register for future webinars and learn more, visit [this page!](#)



Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/23/2024 2:24:54 PM
To: Pete McGuire [peter.mcguire@law360.com]
CC: Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Law360 media inquiry - \$7B solar grants

Good morning, Pete,

Apologies for the delay, Please see our response below, on background.

While EPA has made selections, EPA still needs to process the selected applications in order to make awards under the programs. The time between notification of selection and finalization of the award agreement can take up to 90 days or longer due to the preparation and documentation that must occur prior to formal award in order to ensure effective oversight of grantees after the awards are made. EPA anticipates that awards will be made by September 30, 2024.

Selections made for the three grants competitions: Solar for All, National Clean Investment Fund, and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator fully obligates the \$27 billion allocated by Congress.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Pete McGuire <peter.mcguire@law360.com>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Law360 media inquiry - \$7B solar grants

Hi Pete,

I wanted to let you know that we received your inquiry and will be back in touch.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Pete McGuire <peter.mcguire@law360.com>

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 1:54 PM

To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Law360 media inquiry - \$7B solar grants

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good afternoon,

I'm a reporter for Law360 working today on a story about the EPA's \$7 billion solar grants distributed today for projects expected to benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Would the EPA like to make any additional comment about this program for our story today?

With the disbursement of these grants, is there any funding remaining in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund?

The best number to reach me today is (857) 318 3208. We intend to publish a story online this afternoon. If you need more time to respond we can update the article with additional comment up to 24 hours after publication.

Thanks,

Pete

--

Pete McGuire
Reporter

(857) 318-3208

450 Park Ave. South | Floor 12
New York, NY 10016

Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/26/2024 2:26:41 PM
To: Jessie Blaeser [jblaeser@politico.com]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Quick confirmation on Solar for All and GHGRF, POLITICO

Hi, Jessie,

Please see our response below, on background.

Can you confirm if the \$7 billion in Solar for All awards recently announced represent formal obligations? Or are these awards still under negotiation with recipients?

<https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all>

Yes, the \$7 billion of Solar for All awards are still under negotiation with the selected applicants. While EPA has made selections, EPA still needs to resolve administrative disputes relating to the competition, finalize workplans, and process the selected applications in order to make awards under the programs. By making awards, EPA will have obligated funds under the programs, meeting the statutory deadline to obligate funds by September 30, 2024.

Similar question but for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Can you confirm if the \$20 billion in awards under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund represent formal obligations? Or are these awards still under negotiation with selectees? <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-20-billion-grants-mobilize-private-capital-and>

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund encompasses three programs: the National Clean Investment Fund, the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, and Solar for All. The \$20 billion referenced here corresponds to the National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator programs. The awards for these two programs are also still under negotiation with the eight selected applicants. EPA expects to meet the statutory deadline to obligate funds from all three programs by September 30, 2024.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: Powell, Shayla
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 1:00 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Quick confirmation on Solar for All and GHGRF, POLITICO

Thanks, Angela.

Hi, Jessie,

Acknowledging your inquiry and deadline.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Public Affairs/Office of the Administrator
(Mobile) 202-573-5349

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Quick confirmation on Solar for All and GHGRF, POLITICO

Hi Jessie,

Thank you for your email. I am looping in my colleague Shayla who can assist you with your questions.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry: Quick confirmation on Solar for All and GHGRF, POLITICO

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Hi Angela,

I hope you're doing well! I'm reaching out to confirm two items:

- Can you confirm if the \$7 billion in Solar for All awards recently announced represent formal obligations? Or are these awards still under negotiation with recipients? <https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all>

- Similar question but for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Can you confirm if the \$20 billion in awards under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund represent formal obligations? Or are these awards still under negotiation with selectees? <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-20-billion-grants-mobilize-private-capital-and>

If you could get back to me by the end of the day Friday, 4/26, that would be great.

Thank you so much and let me know if I can clarify anything.

All best,
Jessie

Jessie Blaeser | Data and Graphics Reporter | **POLITICO** | c: 770-712-8060 | t: @jtblaeser

Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2024 2:53:18 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Hi, Jean,

I will check. What is your deadline?

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Thaks for this, Angela. Please keep me in mind when the contract negotiations conclude and when the updated reporting requirements are published. I'll be following that.

Quick check: the GGRF is EPA's largest grant program, is that accurate?

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

I am assisting Shayla in closing this one out, as she is currently offline.

Please see our response attached.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hello all,

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- 1) I understand an updated version of the GGRF reporting requirements is expected out soon? Is there an ETA for that? I don't see it on the GGRF website, but has that already come out?
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Thanks! Feel free to suggest people for me to talk to for this piece. Or I'd love a backgrounder.

Jean

Jean Chemnick

Reporter

E&ENews | Politico

P: (202) 631-6485

Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2024 4:10:54 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]; Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Hi, Jean,

Checking.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 12:10 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Hey – is it fair to say that this 30-person office is solely responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the GGRF? Or to what extent are other offices like the EPA Office of Grants and/or Office of the Chief Financial Officer also involved? What's the most accurate way to characterize the EPA resources dedicated to this program?

Thanks. This story could run tomorrow.

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

I am assisting Shayla in closing this one out, as she is currently offline.

Please see our response attached.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[202.566.2977](tel:202.566.2977) (office)
[202.763.3945](tel:202.763.3945) (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Jean

Jean Chemnick

Reporter

E&ENews | Politico

P: (202) 631-6485

Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2024 9:12:09 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Hi, Jean,

Please see our response below. Thanks!

Yes, in terms of a single fund, GGRF is the largest. EPA's State Revolving Funds manage more in terms of total dollar amount under HJA, but those are split out into separate funds.

The Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is primarily responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the program, with assistance from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. EPA's Office of the Inspector General will also provide some oversight of the Fund.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 12:10 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chernick <jchernick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

I am assisting Shayla in closing this one out, as she is currently offline.

Please see our response attached.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chernick <jchernick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

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Follow me [@chemnipot](https://twitter.com/chemnipot)

Message

From: Jean Chemnick
[jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 5/24/2024 2:49:10 PM
To: Hackel, Angela
[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov];
EPA Press Office
[Press@epa.gov]; Powell,
Shayla
[Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF
story later this week

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Thank you.

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 6:12 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Hi Jean,

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Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202.566.2977 (office)

202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 12:10 PM

To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM

To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202.566.2977 (office)

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From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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Message

From: Jean Chemnick
[jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 5/24/2024 4:08:35 PM
To: Hackel, Angela
[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF
story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hi Angela,

So sorry for all these emails. A couple of other questions for you: When did Jahi Wise step down as head of the GGRF, and where is he now? And when did David Widawsky take over? And is Widawsky a career official, or is he political?

I'd always love to interview Widawsky if there's ever an opening to do that.

Also: Is the GGRF the only grant program that follows this pass-through model where EPA selects a private sector intermediary or intermediaries to administer the grants? Or what are some other examples of that?

I don't know if this is going to run Tuesday, but if it does and if you can't get me the answers by then I'll write around it! I know I'm sending you a bunch of emails on this. But I would like the answer to these things when you can get them to me.

Jean

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

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Please see our response attached.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

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From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/28/2024 8:25:54 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

Hi, Jean,

Please see our response below. Thanks!

1) When did Jahi Wise step down as head of the GGRF? And what role is he playing now? Is he back at the White House? Is he still working on this program at all?

When David Widawsky started as Director of the Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in November 2023, Jahi Wise transitioned away from his position as Acting Director of the Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Jahi now serves as Senior Advisor to the Administrator in the Office of the Administrator at EPA and continues to advise on the GGRF program.

2) I think I've answered my own question (with the help of LinkedIn) that David Widawsky is a career civil servant, and he has been head of the Office of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund since November. Was the office officially established in November, or was Jahi's staff also the Office of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund?

The Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund was officially established on June 4, 2023. Jahi Wise served as Acting Director of the office until David Widawsky started as Director in November 2023.

3) I'm told by a former member of Jahi's team that there were 8 or 10 members of that team that designed the GGRF and put out the NOFOs, plus some staff on detail from other agencies. Am I getting that right? And were they all political appointees at that stage or were some of them career?

The GGRF design team did include some political appointees, however, the majority of the team was non-political employees on term appointments, career employees detailed from within EPA, and career employees detailed from other agencies.

4) I'm told that all of the officials still at the Office of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund now are career, is that accurate?

The Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund no longer employs any political appointees.

5) My sense is that 30 staff members isn't that many for a \$27 billion. How does it compare with the staff administering the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, if that's the closest point of comparison? Feel free to offer context if I'm missing something by comparing the two.

The 35 staff members currently employed by the Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund reflect the staffing resources available in the program's \$30 million administrative cost set-aside, as outlined in the Inflation Reduction Act.

6) What other grant programs follow this kind of pass-through model where EPA selects one or more private sector intermediaries to administer the program and then just exercises oversight? Or is this unique?

GGRF is providing grants to eligible states, Tribes, territories, municipalities, and non-profit entities that will ultimately provide the financial and technical assistance communities need to successfully deploy projects in communities across the country. While GGRF is a uniquely innovative and flexible program, the office has drawn from other established and new EPA programs in which non-profit intermediaries provide subawards, including the [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grant Program](#) and the [Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Program](#).

7) I'm looking at the questions for the record to Energy and Commerce for this piece. It says there were 68 grant awards – I assume that includes all three competitions (even though S4All wasn't out publicly at the time)? Can you

give me a sense of how many awards the grant officers would each be responsible for? Any points of comparison there with other EPA grant programs?

Yes, the 68 total grant awards span the three GGRF programs: the National Clean Investment Fund, the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, and the Solar for All program. The number of grants each project officer is responsible for under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is comparable to other grant programs within the agency, though the total amount of funding under each award varies.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

Hi Jean,

Thank you again for your call and for sending these along. Much appreciated! We are working on these for you and Shayla will do her best to get back to you by noon on Tuesday.

Please let us know if there is anything additional you need us to look into for you.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hi Angela,

So, here's a full list of questions. I'm going to ask my editor not to run this until Wednesday – that should give us both needed time. As soon as you can get this would be great. Thanks again!

- 1) When did Jahi Wise step down as head of the GGFR? And what role is he playing now? Is he back at the White House? Is he still working on this program at all?
- 2) I think I've answered my own question (with the help of LinkedIn) that David Widawsky is a career civil servant, and he has been head of the Office of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund since November. Was the office officially established in November, or was Jahi's staff also the Office of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund?
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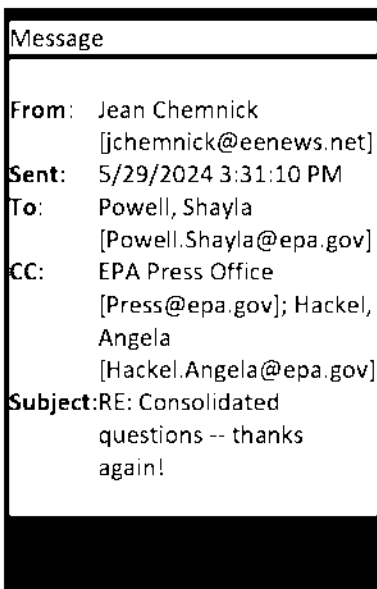
Jean Chemnick

Reporter

E&ENews | Politico

P: (202) 631-6485

Follow me [@chemnipot](#)



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Otherwise, thanks for this! Budgeted at the moment to run on Friday.

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 4:26 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi, Jean,

Please see our response below. Thanks!

1) When did Jahi Wise step down as head of the GGRF? And what role is he playing now? Is he back at the White House? Is he still working on this program at all?

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Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Jean Chernick <jchernick@eenews.net>
Cc: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

Hi Jean,

Thank you again for your call and for sending these along. Much appreciated! We are working on these for you and Shayla will do her best to get back to you by noon on Tuesday.

Please let us know if there is anything additional you need us to look into for you.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202.566.2977 (office)
202.763.3945 (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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Jean Chemnick

Reporter

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Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/29/2024 3:37:56 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

Hi, Jean,

I will check. What is your deadline, please?

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Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:30 AM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
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Jean Chemnick
Reporter
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From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 4:26 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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[202.566.2977](tel:202.566.2977) (office)
[202.763.3945](tel:202.763.3945) (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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Reporter

E&ENews | Politico

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Message

From: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/29/2024 8:24:27 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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The Inflation Reduction Act established an administrative funding level of \$30 million for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. EPA is operating the program within these limits and the 35 staff members currently employed by the Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund reflect this. The FY 2024 and 2025 President's Budgets include a request for additional resources to support administration of the fund.

A comparison between GGRF and the SRF program would lack important context. Each program is unique and administrative needs will differ.

Respectfully,

Shayla R. Powell
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 573-5349
powell.shayla@epa.gov

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:55 AM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

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From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Consolidated questions -- thanks again!

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

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Reporter

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Message

From: Jean Chemnick
[jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 7/17/2024 1:57:06 PM
To: Powell, Shayla
[Powell.Shayla@epa.gov];
Hackel, Angela
(she/her/hers)
[Hackel.Angela@epa.gov];
Carroll, Timothy
[Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: This finally ran!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I appreciate your responsiveness on this! I know I kept giving you deadlines that turned out to be not the real deadlines – this was a very strange editing process involving a bunch of Politico editors.

[POLITICO Pro | Article | IRA's biggest climate program has 'decimal dust' for oversight](#)

RA's biggest climate program has 'decimal dust' for oversight

EPA has until September to spend \$27 billion. But the agency is short on cash needed to avoid expensive mistakes.



BY:
JEAN CHEMNICK
7/17/2024 06:21 AM EDT



President Joe Biden's administration has until Sept. 30 to spend \$27 billion on a green finance program. It has a tiny amount of money for oversight. Susan Walsh/AP

CLIMATEWIRE | EPA is racing to deliver a fortune in taxpayer money through its largest-ever climate grant program.

But the initiative is hamstrung by a shoestring operating budget, exposing the \$27 billion program to charges of empty oversight and potential waste — and the prospects of a Republican feeding frenzy over President Joe Biden's climate law if the program stumbles.

The surge in spending aims to reshape impoverished areas of the U.S. by financing the installation of renewable energy and improving building efficiency, but the program has the smallest amount of money under the Inflation Reduction Act to hire staff and track the money after it exits federal coffers.

Its limits are already being tested.

The EPA team overseeing the program, named the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, has a deadline of Sept. 30 to distribute all of the money to state and local governments and the nonprofit lending institutions it selected to filter the billions of dollars to projects in low-income communities. One reason for the ultra-fast spending schedule was to prevent former President Donald Trump from clawing back the money if he's elected.

The challenges come as the administration labors to distribute huge portions of the IRA's \$369 billion in climate-related funding amid a presidential race that features voter apathy over the legislative cornerstone of Biden's environmental agenda. The budgetary bind gripping the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund highlights what some analysts say is an overlooked risk of quickly handing out staggering amounts of money provided by the climate law: the possibility of mistakes.

"The concern is legitimate. EPA got more money than it could have ever imagined, and time lines — deadlines — that were as close to wildly unrealistic as you can get," said Matthew Tejada, a former deputy assistant administrator at EPA who worked on the program before leaving in December.

Tejada, who's now a senior vice president at the Natural Resources Defense Council, described the program's oversight budget as "decimal dust."

EPA told POLITICO's E&E News that the program's budget is the smallest amount of money allotted to any federal agency for running any IRA program, as a percentage of the initiative's total funding. The agency has so far had enough money to design the program from scratch and choose the recipients of its \$27 billion in funding.

But additional cash will be needed to ensure "proper financial management and robust oversight," agency spokesperson Angela Hackel said in an email.

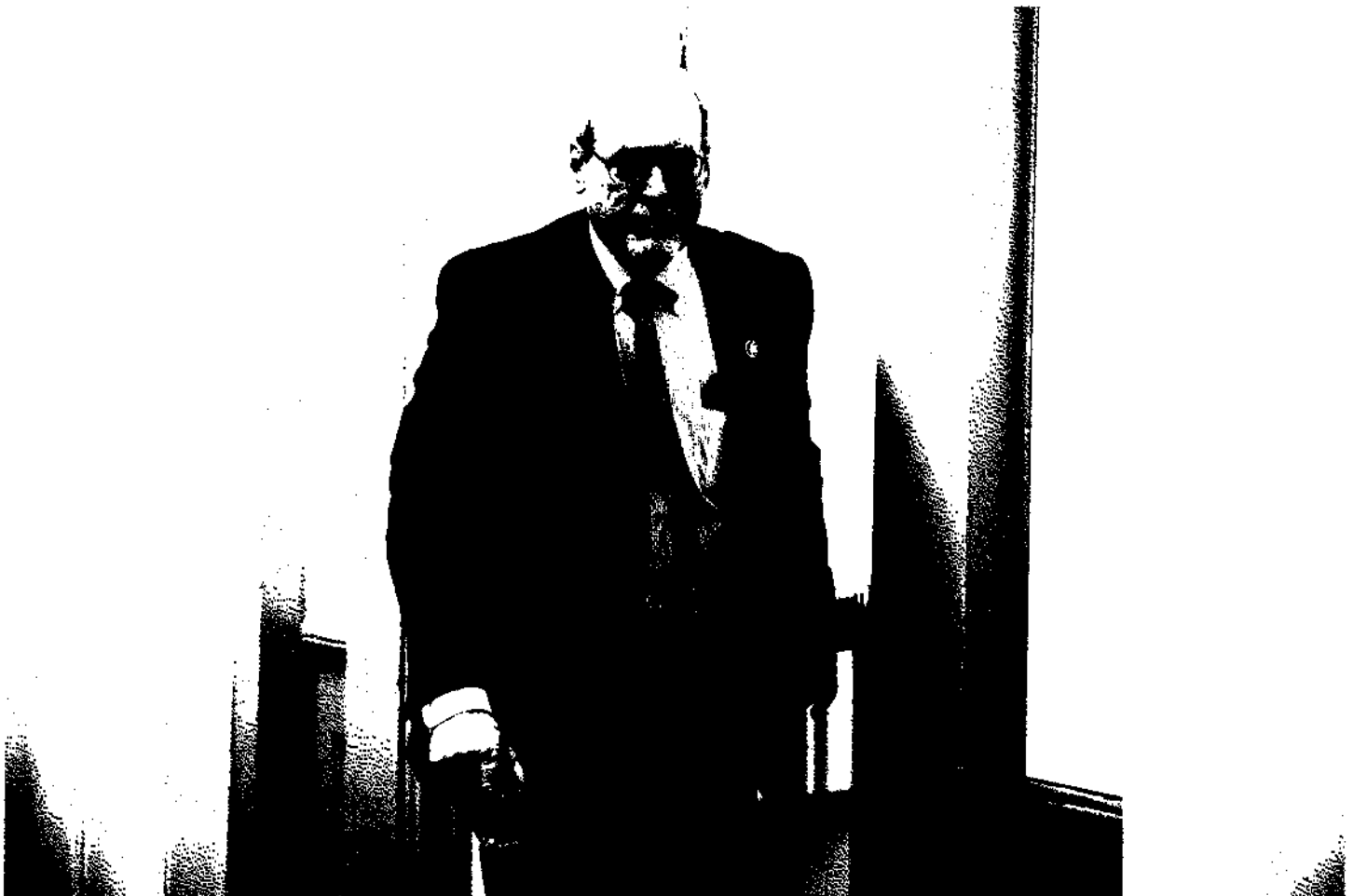
"Thus far, EPA has had the resources necessary to run a rigorous program design process, select highly capable grant partners, and conduct the complex award agreement negotiations that are now underway," she said.

The agency's administrator, Michael Regan, has raised concerns about the program's tiny operating budget at several congressional hearings this spring. Biden included a \$5 million request in his fiscal 2025 budget proposal, which Republicans declined to include in their spending bill.

Lawmakers have raised alarms about the administration's ability to keep tabs on a grant program that's three times the size of EPA's annual budget.

"I am concerned about EPA's ability to keep track of the money," Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.), chair of the Energy and Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations, told E&E News. "I have not yet seen anything that suggests robust auditing" of the grant recipients by EPA.

The White House did not respond to requests for comment.



Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.), chair of an oversight subcommittee, is looking for problems with the climate program. Francis Chung/POLITICO

EPA officials contrasted the climate program with the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds expansion, which provides \$43.4 billion in low-cost loans to communities for water projects under the 2021 infrastructure law. The climate program's budget amounts to 0.11 percent of its total funding, while the water initiative had 3 percent in its first year, then 2 percent annually until it ends in fiscal 2026.

As a rule of thumb, EPA programs get roughly 1 percent of their total funding for administrative budgets, including oversight. But the agency denied that the program's small budget would compromise oversight.

"EPA is confident it will maintain strong oversight of all programs under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund," said EPA spokesperson Timothy Carroll. "We are putting robust controls in place to ensure all recipients manage grants consistent with the law and other federal requirements."

The program is intended to bolster green lending, especially in low-income communities. It has three prongs:

- The \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund, or "green bank," is intended to jumpstart lending for projects like rooftop solar, zero-carbon apartment buildings and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Another \$6 billion will flow through the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator to help nonprofit lenders that serve disadvantaged communities expand into clean energy finance.
- A \$7 billion competitive grant program for states, cities and tribes is devoted to solar projects in low-income communities.

'Walking around money'

EPA has chosen 68 entities — mostly states and nonprofits — to use the money to underwrite projects and help a broader ecosystem of lenders gain a foothold in green finance. The agency is negotiating contracts with those recipients and has promised that the money will be delivered to them before the IRA's hard-and-fast deadline of Sept. 30.

That's a headlong schedule for dispersing \$27 billion — and one mandated by the IRA.

Congressional Democrats, who worry that Trump would kill the program if he's reelected, included the deadline to stop him from halting the flow of money.

But it also altered EPA's routine policy of releasing funds in tranches, which might have allowed it to evaluate a grantee's performance before giving it more money.

"Normally for huge grants, the money is dispersed in phases based on whether you're meeting the goals of the first phase and the second phase and so on," said Reena Aggarwal, a finance professor at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. She called it "concerning" that such a large grant would be transferred in one tranche.

EPA is already under fire from Republicans over how the program's funds will be allocated and what its plans are for oversight. That's likely to intensify as the November elections near.

Top Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee asked EPA in October how oversight would be handled after the funds were transferred to outside recipients. The agency's response has not been released by the committee or EPA.

Meanwhile, green finance advocates, many of whom spent more than a decade calling for this kind of federal program, want EPA to optimize benefits for communities and the climate. The Natural Resources Defense Council and Harvard University's Environmental & Energy Law Program urged the agency to "define clear impact standards and metrics" to direct funding to projects with genuine emissions-cutting and social justice potential, in comments to EPA in 2022.

But Dale Bryk, director of state and regional policies at Harvard, said the agency views itself as being limited by Congress' lack of detailed direction in the IRA.

"I'm certain that EPA read those comments and are thinking, how can they do all this stuff with the limited resources that they have and also the authorization that they've been given, which is somewhat constraining," he said.

While Regan has said the climate law had given his agency "a little bit of walking around money," the operating budget for its flagship IRA program is historically slim. The so-called "administrative set-aside" for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is \$30 million — equivalent to 0.11 percent of the program's funding through September 2031.



EPA Administrator Michael Regan urged lawmakers to give the agency more money for the program.
— Francis Chung/POLITICO

An EPA team of about 10 people built the program from the ground up after congressional Democrats moved the IRA through budget reconciliation in 2022 — a maneuver that allowed it to pass with just 51 votes but required lawmakers to distill years of green banking policy proposals into about 1½ pages of legislative text.

The Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is headed by David Widawsky, a longtime EPA career official who has led other grant programs and EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, which certifies construction materials for their environmental performance and intersects with Biden's ambitious climate procurement agenda.

Widawsky's team now includes 35 career staff, EPA said, with expertise in fields like federal grants management, auditing, banking and green technology.

'A lot of changes'

The IRA's sparse legislative text is a culmination of 13 years of policy proposals by Democratic lawmakers.

Those still in Congress, such as Sens. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan, worked in 2022 to attach the climate finance program to the IRA. Now they've thrown their weight behind EPA's request for more funds to implement it.

But the IRA program came with challenges that go beyond a tight timeline and budget.

To comply with strict parliamentary rules Democrats had to leave a host of policy details from past green bank bills on the cutting room floor.

"The process of turning those bills into budget reconciliation-friendly provisions required a lot of changes," said Adam Fischer, who helped craft the text as a House Energy and Commerce Committee staffer.

The first bills to create a national entity to finance the green energy transition were introduced in 2009, the year the House passed a climate bill sponsored by Markey and then-Rep. Henry Waxman, a California Democrat.

The purpose of those early drafts was to bolster renewable energy — an emerging sector that at the time produced minuscule amounts of power.



The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is supposed to spur clean energy projects in low-income areas. Mario Tama/Getty Images

Van Hollen's 2009 bill would have directed the Treasury Department to issue green bonds. Then-Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Wash.) and the late Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) teamed up on a bill to place a national green bank within the Department of Energy. Both bills would have made federal agencies

responsible for administering the programs, with additional auditing and oversight functions performed by the Office of the Comptroller General and other federal entities.

Then the world forged the Paris Agreement, in 2015, and the idea of a “just transition” — a decarbonization strategy that also benefits the poor — was gaining steam.

Reed Hundt, co-founder of the Coalition for Green Capital and a veteran green bank advocate, told E&E News that the idea of giving a federal agency authority over the green bank had gone out of vogue by 2019.

“During the Trump administration, the senators who used to be the congressmen that had done this a decade earlier ... decided, ‘you know, you can have a government that’s not supportive of that transition,’” said Hundt, whose organization will be one of three nonprofits to administer the largest program within the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Markey, Van Hollen and Debbie Dingell proposed using federal funds to capitalize an independent nonprofit that would be insulated from changing political winds and accountable to a board of directors. Its mission, Hundt said, would remain the same “regardless of political vicissitudes” in Washington.

“But they didn’t want to give the money to for-profit [banks] because they wanted nonprofits that would have a social justice mission as well,” he added.

Those Trump-era bills still had layers of federal oversight, including by bank regulators, that were not included in the IRA. They also gave the Office of the Comptroller of Currency a role in overseeing the so-called National Climate Bank.

The IRA didn’t retain that language.

Instead, EPA is the leading overseer of the program — but it lacks the kind of regulatory powers possessed by financial agencies included in past green bank proposals.

“EPA is not a prudential regulator supervising financial institutions, like you would think of a federal bank regulator,” said Satyam Khanna, a former senior adviser to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund who left EPA earlier this year. “Under the statute, its role is to run the award competition, provide oversight of the grant program, and do so with the \$30 million cost set-aside.”

EPA responded to inquiries about how outside participants would be regulated by saying nonprofit lenders are subject to oversight by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and National Credit Union Administration.

The eight nonprofit groups that will administer \$20 billion in grants under two programs within the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund will also be bound by the terms of the contracts they sign with EPA, which will require regular reports on their status. Any of the organizations that spend at least \$750,000 in federal funds in one year must also be audited by a third party — something that is required of all non-federal grant recipients.

EPA and its awardees are expected to sign contracts in early July. If a recipient fails to comply with the terms of its contract, EPA said it could face a “suite of remedies pursuant to federal grant regulations.” The agency is also exploring whether to make details of the transactions public.

Khanna, who helped design the competitions but departed EPA before the recipients were selected, said the application process prioritized institutions with track records in green lending and in serving disadvantaged communities. EPA placed “a huge emphasis on transparency throughout each stage of the program,” he said.

But the sheer size of the program — and the speed with which the money is being released — makes mistakes more likely.

“Obviously, when you’re building a federal program of this scale, one that is a first-of-its-kind, there’s inherently some amount of risk,” Khanna said.

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485
Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

Message

From: Hackel, Angela [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B2E0A52DBEBC4D8C84961F50C117334D-HACKEL, ANGELA]
Sent: 5/23/2024 10:12:02 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Hi Jean,

Thank you for your patience. Please see our responses below.

Yes, in terms of a single fund, GGRF is the largest. EPA's State Revolving Funds manage more in terms of total dollar amount under IJA, but those are split out into separate funds.

The Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is primarily responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the program, with assistance from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment, the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. EPA's Office of the Inspector General will also provide some oversight of the Fund.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[202.566.2977](tel:202.566.2977) (office)
[202.763.3945](tel:202.763.3945) (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 12:10 PM
To: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hey – is it fair to say that this 30-person office is solely responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the GGRF? Or to what extent are other offices like the EPA Office of Grants and/or Office of the Chief Financial Officer also involved? What's the most accurate way to characterize the EPA resources dedicated to this program?

Thanks. This story could run tomorrow.

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
E&ENews | Politico
P: (202) 631-6485

Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

From: Hackel, Angela <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

I am assisting Shayla in closing this one out, as she is currently offline.

Please see our response attached.

Best,

Angela

Angela Hackel (she/her/hers)
Acting Director Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[202.566.2977](tel:202.566.2977) (office)
[202.763.3945](tel:202.763.3945) (cell)

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 4:47 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions for a GGRF story later this week

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hello all,

I'm running a piece Thursday morning about transparency and accountability guardrails for the GGRF. Drop-dead would be COB Wednesday, but it would really help to get any answers I can tomorrow to guide my reporting.

- 1) I understand an updated version of the GGRF reporting requirements is expected out soon? Is there an ETA for that? I don't see it on the GGRF website, but has that already come out?
- 2) What's the latest estimate for when contract negotiations will end for the CCIA and NCIF?
- 3) Will there be a publicly searchable database to show when GGRF intermediaries make awards or move funds, who is making investment decisions, etc.? And if so, when will it go live?

- 4) I understand that the GGRF office now has a staff of about 25 fulltime employees, and they're all career. Is that accurate? Can you tell me what some of their backgrounds are? Is the office still growing, or is it fully staffed?
- 5) I understand that \$30 million is a fairly small administrative set-aside for the GGRF. I'm told that about 1 percent for administrative costs is more typical for EPA programs. Is that true? I'll look this up, but I'm thinking of the state revolving funds as maybe the most comparable program.
- 6) Is Congress' provision of \$30 million to administer a \$27 billion new grant program a limitation on the kind of oversight EPA will do of this program?
- 7) The Office of the Comptroller and bank regulators won't directly oversee the GGRF, I understand, because nonprofits will be intermediaries. So – tell me how EPA sees transactions under this program being regulated?

Thanks! Feel free to suggest people for me to talk to for this piece. Or I'd love a backgrounder.

Jean

Jean Chemnick

Reporter

E&ENews | Politico

P: (202) 631-6485

Follow me [@chemnipot](#)

Message

From: Amy Chrein [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 5/2/2024 6:21:18 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a proud and concerned citizen of the U.S.A who just wants a livable future for all!

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

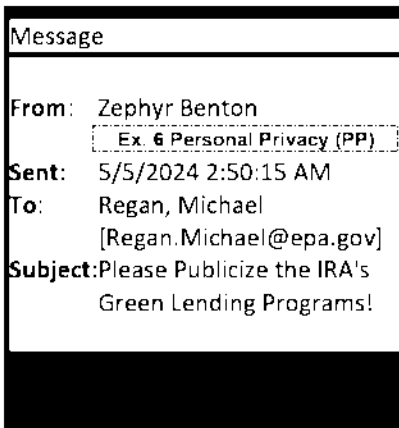
This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a business professional who is angry about the lack of action on climate.

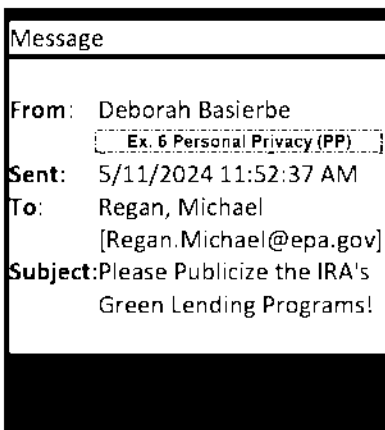
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Thank you!



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who is losing hope after decades of inaction.

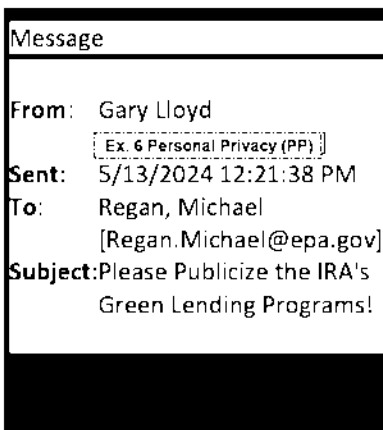
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Thank you!



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a Retired Massage Therapist who wants a clean world for our, and all future generations.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

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Thank you!

Message

From: sherie Stark [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 5/14/2024 1:32:25 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who is losing hope after decades of inaction.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Patrick McCann [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 5/22/2024 1:30:55 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who is concerned for the future of my child, step-children, and future grandchildren. I am also a scientist who understands the dire consequences for all of us if there is no political courage to take swift and bold action on climate change and biodiversity collapse.

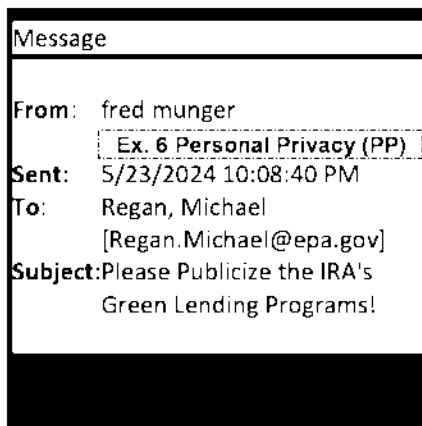
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Thank you!



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who fears for my family in a warming world.

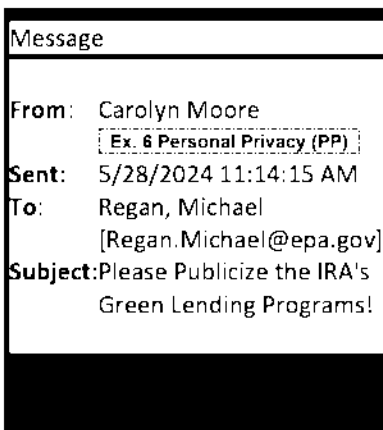
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Thank you!



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandfather who just wants a livable future for me and my generation.

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This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: Elisabeth Hardy (Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP))
Sent: 5/29/2024 3:19:50 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who fears for my family in a warming world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

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The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Jasen Walker [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 5/30/2024 2:38:58 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who grieves the loss of the natural world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

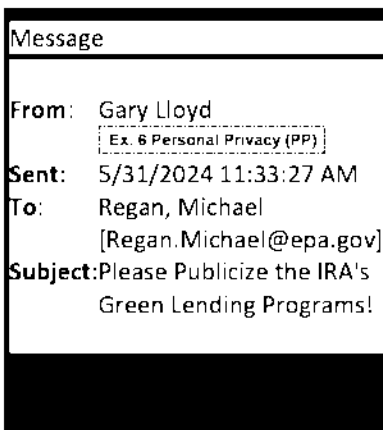
This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a Retired Massage Therapist who wants a clean world for our, and all future generations.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: Alejandro Meseguer [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 5/31/2024 2:23:03 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who just wants a livable future for me and my generation.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

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The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Regards,
Alejandro Meseguer

Message

From: Leslie Koch [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/2/2024 5:01:09 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who is angry about the lack of action on climate.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Corinne Woodland [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/3/2024 4:22:40 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who fears for my family in a warming world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Corinne Woodland
Bradenton, Florida

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Keith Porter [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/3/2024 4:58:04 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who grieves the loss of the natural world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Brian Cozens [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/7/2024 4:24:58 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who is working for our children's future

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: sherie Stark [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/11/2024 7:40:32 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who is losing hope after decades of inaction.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Amanda Spadaro [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/13/2024 12:10:11 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a teacher who is angry about the lack of action on climate.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

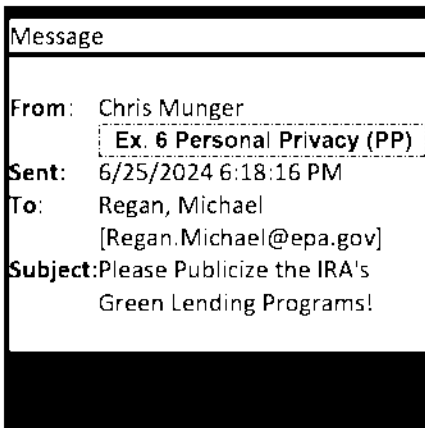
This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who fears for my family in a warming world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

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We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: Gary Lloyd
[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 6/30/2024 1:04:42 PM
To: Regan, Michael
[Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's
Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a Retired Massage Therapist who wants a clean world for our, and all future generations.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: wassupitsbribr [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 7/3/2024 1:10:01 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

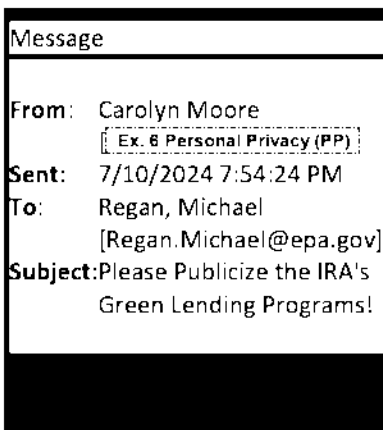
This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandfather who just wants a livable future for me and my generation.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: Susan Penner [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 7/16/2024 11:40:34 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who wants a livable future for future generations.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: sherie Stark [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 7/17/2024 4:15:33 AM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a mother who is losing hope after decades of inaction.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Linda Hayward [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 4/4/2024 11:34:51 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who grieves the loss of the natural world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

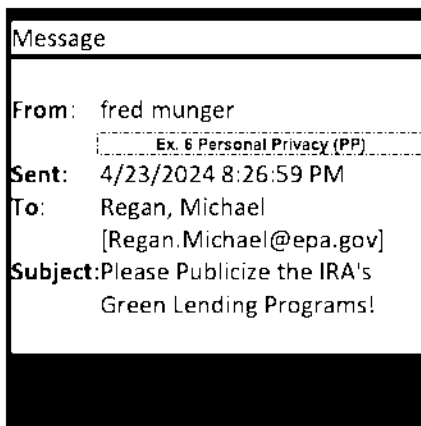
This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone



Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a father who fears for my family in a warming world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Message

From: Keith Porter [porter@burmaoaks.com]
Sent: 4/25/2024 5:01:52 PM
To: Regan, Michael [Regan.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Please Publicize the IRA's Green Lending Programs!

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

I'm a grandmother who grieves the loss of the natural world.

One of the lesser known features of the Inflation Reduction Act is the \$20 billion awarded through the US EPA to non-profit lenders in order to distribute money for projects in low-income communities.

This is a big win for green lending and to help underserved communities make some of the clean energy changes that might otherwise be out of reach.

The selected lenders for the two programs (National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator) are expected to be announced by as early as mid-March.

We need our state representatives and the US EPA to work together to ensure that the local constituents know about the programs so that they can access them and put the funding to work.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From:

President Derrick Johnson
[djp@naacpnet.org]

Sent:

4/3/2024 8:45:55 PM

To:

Regan, Michael
[Regan.Michael@epa.gov];

CC:

Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov];
Willoughby, Patrice
[pwilloughby@naacpnet.org]

Subject:

National Clean Investment Fund
and Clean Communities
Investment Accelerator

Attachments:

Cover Letter2 - Proposed
Regulations and Joint
Comments.pdf; Proposed NCIF
Regulations 4.3.24.pdf; Proposed
CCIA Regulations 4.3.24.pdf

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached documents pertaining to the National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator.

Sincerely,
Derrick

Derrick Johnson (He/Him/His)

djp@naacpnet.org
O: 410-580-5600
NAACP | Empowerment Programs
National Headquarters • 4805 Mount Hope Drive • Baltimore MD 21215
[phone icon] [phone icon] [phone icon] [phone icon]



NAACP

Derrick Johnson
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Leon W. Russell
*Chairman
National Board of Directors*

April 3, 2024

Via email

Mr. Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Brenda Mallory
Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Mr. Stephen Benjamin
Senior Advisor to the President, Director of the Office of Public Engagement
The White House

Re: National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator

Dear Administrator Regan, Chair Mallory, and Mr. Benjamin:

Please find the following included in this mailing:

- Proposed Regulations for the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator; and
- Proposed Regulations for the National Clean Investment Fund.

We look forward to your continued support for prioritizing historically disadvantaged communities and innovative thinking for sustainably built environments. We would welcome a meeting to discuss our material.

Sincerely,

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO

**National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF)
Proposed Regulations**

1. The following definitions apply in this Section:
 - a) “Grantee” shall refer to the recipient of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds awarded through the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF).
 - b) “LFI” shall refer to a long-term financing institution.
 - c) “Disadvantaged Communities” shall include communities identified in Appendix C of the NCIF Request for Applications, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Environmental Justice Index indicators, and urban neighborhoods or rural communities with any of the following:
 - (i) Low income, high and/or persistent poverty;
 - (ii) High unemployment and underemployment;
 - (iii) Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities;
 - (iv) Linguistic isolation;
 - (v) High housing cost burden and substandard housing;
 - (vi) Distressed neighborhoods;
 - (vii) High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access;
 - (viii) Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts;
 - (ix) Limited water and sanitation access and affordability;
 - (x) Disproportionate impacts from climate change;
 - (xi) Increased PM2.5 in the air;
 - (xii) Within 5 kilometers of one or more hazardous waste facilities;
 - (xiii) Within 5 kilometers of one or more Superfund sites;
 - (xiv) Projected flood risk according to the EPA;
 - (xv) High energy cost burden and low energy access;
 - (xvi) Jobs lost through the energy transition;
 - (xvii) Limited access to healthcare;
 - (xviii) Low-income borrowers;
 - (xix) High concentrations of food deserts or lack of healthy food access;
 - (xx) 30% or more of households do not have high-speed broadband;
 - (xxi) Mortgage lending to Other Targeted Populations (identifiable groups of individuals in the borrower’s service area for which there exists strong evidence that they lack access to loans, equity investments, and/or Financial Services).
 - d) “Greenhouse gas” shall mean the same as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including carbon dioxide (CO₂); methane (CH₄); and nitrous

oxide (N₂O); fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride.

- c) “Carbon negative project” shall mean a project designed to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits.
- f) “Net zero emissions project” shall mean a project designed to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- g) “MSI” shall mean any minority-serving institutions, *i.e.*, an institution of higher education that serves high concentrations of minority students who, historically, have been underrepresented in higher education.
- h) “Small Non-Profit” shall mean a nonprofit business entity that: (i) has fewer than 250 employees at the time that it applies for a loan of NCIF funds; and (ii) is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2. Each Grantee shall ensure that no less than 40% of all funds that Grantee distributes from the NCIF are distributed to LFI that are certified as Minority Depository Institutions according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

3. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend to borrowers no less than 51% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee within 36 months of the LFI’s receipt of the funds.

4. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 35% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds on projects located in Disadvantaged Communities or on MSI campuses.

5. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to any borrower whose project: (i) is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus; (ii) is completed prior to the end of the loan’s term; and (iii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.

6. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to

any Small Non-Profit borrower whose project: (i) is completed prior to the end of the loan's term; and (ii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.

7. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 15% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who are at least 51% owned and operated by socially disadvantaged individuals as defined in Appendix E to 49 CFR Part 26.

8. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend NCIF funds shall do so at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4% per annum, or no less than 2% per annum, whichever is higher.

9. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend NCIF funds shall charge borrowers whose project is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus administrative and other fees, including application fees, points of the loan, attorneys' fees, origination fees, construction monitoring fees, closing costs, appraisal fees, and liquidity fees, totaling no more than .5% (one-half percent) of the principal loan amount.

10. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers through loans that have terms of no less than fifteen (15) years, with such loans amortized over no less than thirty (30) years.

11. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers through loans that do not contain a penalty for early repayment.

12. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund projects that reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

13. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 50% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects.

14. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 30% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects.

15. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend NCIF funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects lends such funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 5% per annum, or no less than 1% per annum, whichever is higher.

16. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend NCIF funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects lends such funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4.5% per annum, or no less than 1.5% per annum, whichever is higher.

17. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee not to lend the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers that use such funds to refinance, reduce, or retire debts that the borrower owed to the Grantee prior to the borrower's receipt of the NCIF funds.

18. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee not to lend the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers for projects that commenced, *e.g.*, broke ground or began physical work, on or before October 31, 2024.

19. Each Grantee shall ensure that any LFI to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the NCIF is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the NCIF funds that the LFI receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will pay their workers, whether employees or independent contractors, wages at rates not less than those prevailing for the same type of work on similar projects in the locality.

20. Each Grantee shall ensure that any loan agreement for NCIF funds that is between an LFI and a borrower requires the borrower report to the EPA, using a reporting form created by the EPA, an accounting of how such funds were used by borrower.

21. A Grantee shall not waive or fail to enforce timely any contractual obligation to Grantee referenced in this Section without the express prior written permission of the EPA.

**Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA)
Proposed Regulations**

1. The following definitions apply in this Section:
 - a) “Grantee” shall refer to the recipient of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds awarded through the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA).
 - b) “CL” shall refer to community lender, *i.e.*, a public, quasi-public, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entity that provides financial assistance to qualified projects at the State, local, territorial, or Tribal level or in the District of Columbia, including a community- and low-income-focused lender and a capital provider.
 - c) “Direct lender” shall refer to Grantee when making one or more loans to a non-CL borrower.
 - d) “Intermediary lender” shall refer to Grantee when making one or more loans to a CL.
 - e) “Disadvantaged Communities” shall include communities identified in Appendix C of the CCIA Request for Applications, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Environmental Justice Index indicators, and urban neighborhoods or rural communities with any of the following:
 - (i) Low income, high and/or persistent poverty;
 - (ii) High unemployment and underemployment;
 - (iii) Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities;
 - (iv) Linguistic isolation;
 - (v) High housing cost burden and substandard housing;
 - (vi) Distressed neighborhoods;
 - (vii) High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access;
 - (viii) Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts;
 - (ix) Limited water and sanitation access and affordability;
 - (x) Disproportionate impacts from climate change;
 - (xi) Increased PM2.5 in the air;
 - (xii) Within 5 kilometers of one or more hazardous waste facilities;
 - (xiii) Within 5 kilometers of one or more Superfund sites;
 - (xiv) Projected flood risk according to the EPA;
 - (xv) High energy cost burden and low energy access;
 - (xvi) Jobs lost through the energy transition;
 - (xvii) Limited access to healthcare;
 - (xviii) Low-income borrowers;
 - (xix) High concentrations of food deserts or lack of healthy food access;
 - (xx) 30% or more of households do not have high-speed broadband;

- (xxi) Mortgage lending to Other Targeted Populations (identifiable groups of individuals in the borrower's service area for which there exists strong evidence that they lack access to loans, equity investments, and/or Financial Services).
 - f) "Greenhouse gas" shall mean the same as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including carbon dioxide (CO₂); methane (CH₄); and nitrous oxide (N₂O); fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride.
 - g) "Carbon negative project" shall mean a project designed to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits.
 - h) "Net zero emissions project" shall mean a project designed to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
 - i) "MSI" shall mean any minority-serving institutions, *i.e.*, an institution of higher education that serves high concentrations of minority students who, historically, have been underrepresented in higher education.
 - j) "Small Non-Profit" shall mean a nonprofit business entity that: (i) has fewer than 250 employees at the time that it applies for a loan of CCIA funds; and (ii) is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. Each Grantee shall lend to borrowers no less than 51% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives within 36 months of the Grantee's receipt of the funds.
3. When acting as a direct lender:
- a) Each Grantee shall lend no less than 35% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers who will use such proceeds on projects located in Disadvantaged Communities or on MSI campuses.
 - b) Each Grantee shall forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to any borrower whose project: (i) is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus; (ii) is completed prior to the end of the loan's term; and (iii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.

- c) Each Grantee shall forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to any Small Non-Profit borrower whose project: (i) is completed prior to the end of the loan's term; and (ii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- d) Each Grantee shall lend no less than 15% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives from the Grantee to borrowers who are at least 51% owned and operated by socially disadvantaged individuals as defined in Appendix E to 49 CFR Part 26.
- e) Each Grantee shall lend CCIA funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4% per annum, or no less than 2% per annum, whichever is higher.
- f) Each Grantee shall lend CCIA funds shall charge borrowers whose project is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus administrative and other fees, including application fees, points of the loan, attorneys' fees, origination fees, construction monitoring fees, closing costs, appraisal fees, and liquidity fees, totaling no more than .5% (one-half percent) of the principal loan amount.
- g) Each Grantee shall lend 100% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives from the Grantee to borrowers through loans that have terms of no less than ten (10) years.
- h) Each Grantee shall lend 100% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers through loans that do not contain a penalty for early repayment.
- i) Each Grantee shall lend 100% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers who will use such proceeds to: (i) invest and re-invest in projects, activities, and technologies that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants that harm communities and contribute to climate change; (ii) deliver benefits of greenhouse gas- and air pollution-reducing projects to American communities, particularly low-income and Disadvantaged Communities by providing financial and technical assistance in low-income and Disadvantaged Communities; (iii) and or mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment of greenhouse gas- and air pollution-reducing projects.
- j) Each Grantee shall lend no less than 50% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects.

- k) Each Grantee shall lend no less than 30% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects.
 - l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall lend CCIA funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 5% per annum, or no less than 1% per annum, whichever is higher.
 - m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall lend CCIA funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4.5% per annum, or no less than 1.5% per annum, whichever is higher.
 - n) No Grantee shall lend the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers that use such funds to refinance, reduce, or retire debts that the borrower owed to Grantee prior to the borrower's receipt of the CCIA funds.
 - o) No Grantee shall lend the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers for projects that commenced, e.g., broke ground or began physical work, before October 31, 2024.
 - p) Each Grantee shall lend 100% of the CCIA funds that Grantee receives to borrowers who will pay their workers, whether employees or independent contractors, wages at rates not less than those prevailing for the same type of work on similar projects in the locality.
 - q) Each Grantee shall ensure that any loan agreement for CCIA funds requires the borrower report to the EPA, using a reporting form created by the EPA, an accounting of how such funds were used by borrower.
 - r) A Grantee shall not waive or fail to enforce timely any contractual obligation to Grantee referenced in this Section without the express prior written permission of the EPA.
4. When acting as an intermediary lender:
- a) Each Grantee shall ensure that no less than 40% of all funds that Grantee distributes from the CCIA are distributed to CLs that are certified as Minority Depository Institutions according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
 - b) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend to borrowers no less than 51% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee within 36 months of the CL's receipt of the funds.

- c) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 35% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds on projects located in Disadvantaged Communities or on MSI campuses.
- d) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to any borrower whose project: (i) is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus; (ii) is completed prior to the end of the loan's term; and (iii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- e) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to forgive the remaining balance on any loan made to any Small Non-Profit borrower whose project: (i) is completed prior to the end of the loan's term; and (ii) achieves its goal. A completed carbon negative project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to remove more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than the project emits. A completed net zero emissions project shall be deemed to have achieved its goal if it is projected by a green building inspector, through a building certification approved by the EPA, to achieve a balance between the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere.
- f) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 15% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who are at least 51% owned and operated by socially disadvantaged individuals as defined in Appendix E to 49 CFR Part 26.
- g) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend CCIA funds shall do so at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4% per annum, or no less than 2% per annum, whichever is higher.

- h) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend CCIA funds shall charge borrowers whose project is located in Disadvantaged Communities or on an MSI campus administrative and other fees, including application fees, points of the loan, attorneys' fees, origination fees, construction monitoring fees, closing costs, appraisal fees, and liquidity fees, totaling no more than .5% (one-half percent) of the principal loan amount.
- i) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers through loans that have terms of no less than fifteen (15) years, with such loans amortized over no less than thirty (30) years.
- j) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers through loans that do not contain a penalty for early repayment.
- k) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund projects that reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- l) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 50% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects.
- m) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend no less than 30% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects.
- n) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall ensure that any CL that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend CCIA funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund carbon negative projects lends such funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 5% per annum, or no less than 1% per annum, whichever is higher.
- o) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, each Grantee shall ensure that any CL that is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend CCIA funds to borrowers who will use such proceeds to fund net zero projects lends such funds at fixed interest rates for the terms of the loan not to exceed the prime interest rate on September 30, 2024, minus 4.5% per annum, or no less than 1.5% per annum, whichever is higher.
- p) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee not to lend the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers that use such funds to refinance, reduce, or

retire debts that the borrower owed to the Grantee prior to the borrower's receipt of the CCIA funds.

- q) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee not to lend the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers for projects that commenced, *e.g.*, broke ground or began physical work, on or before October 31, 2024.
- r) Each Grantee shall ensure that any CL to which Grantee distributes proceeds of the CCIA is contractually obligated to Grantee to lend 100% of the CCIA funds that the CL receives from the Grantee to borrowers who will pay their workers, whether employees or independent contractors, wages at rates not less than those prevailing for the same type of work on similar projects in the locality.
- s) Each Grantee shall ensure that any loan agreement for CCIA funds that is between a CL and a borrower requires the borrower report to the EPA, using a reporting form created by the EPA, an accounting of how such funds were used by borrower.
- t) A Grantee shall not waive or fail to enforce timely any contractual obligation to Grantee referenced in this Section without the express prior written permission of the EPA.

Message

From: Ryan, Jini [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8A7D72970F6346BA96D0F47F939DCE86-RYAN, JINI]
Sent: 4/25/2024 10:55:27 AM
To: NCC Projects [projects@nccsite.com]; Scott-Forte, Londa [Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov]
CC: Rodgers, Ryan [Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 2 videos .SRT file requests

Thanks.

Ms. Jini Ryan
Director
Office of Multimedia (OM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-0175 (Office)
703-589-6035 (Cell)
ryan.jini@epa.gov (Email)

Address:
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
WJC-North, Room 6330H, MC 1703A
Washington, DC 20460

Office of Multimedia intranet site

<https://work.epa.gov/multimedia>

From: Cabe Crandall <cabe.crandall@nccsite.com> **On Behalf Of** NCC Projects
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>
Cc: Ryan, Jini <Ryan.Jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 2 videos .SRT file requests

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good afternoon Londa -

Here is the completed SRT files for the projects below. Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else and I will be happy to help.

Best,
Cabe

From: Cabe Crandall on behalf of NCC Projects <projects@nccsite.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:20 PM
To: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>

Cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 2 videos .SRT file requests

Good afternoon Londa -

Hope you are doing well today. Thank you for sending this project our way. We confirm receipt and with a 3 business day turnaround time this project will be due back no later than end of business day April 24th. If anything changes between now and then, I will keep you posted.

Best,
Cabe

From: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM

To: NCC Projects <projects@nccsite.com>

Cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>

Subject: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 2 videos .SRT file requests

Greetings!

We have two videos for standard turnaround .srt file creation in **English** please:

Video links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXBUOvFkCq4>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poxdwlEd_qc

Project names: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 20240410
Trimmed_Clean Communities Investment Accelerator Rollout Public Briefing 20240411

Duration: approximately 30 mins each - 1 hour total

[POC – Katie Pastor]

Thanks!
-Londa

cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>

cc: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>
cc: Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>
cc: NCC Projects <projects@nccsite.com>
cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>
cc: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>
cc: NCC Projects <projects@nccsite.com>

cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>

--

Message

From: Ryan, Jini [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8A7D72970F6346BA96D0F47F939DCE86-RYAN, JINI]
Sent: 6/14/2024 8:05:14 PM
To: FreeLance@maslowmedia.com; PRODUCTION [PRODUCTION@maslowmedia.com]
Subject: Climate adaptation report
Attachments: Final EPA CAP - For transmittal to CEQ Ready for 508 Compliance_6-14-24 3pm.pdf

Ryan, Jini has shared OneDrive for Business files with you. To view them, click the links below.

 Final EPA CAP - For transmittal to CEQ Ready for 508 Compliance.docx

 Final EPA CAP - For transmittal to CEQ - Alt text for tables.docx

Joan,

Attached is the PDF file for the 71-page booklet.

There's also a Word version in case there are any issues with that PDF. The second Word document has the alt text descriptions for the tables and graphics.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. Deadline is COB Wednesday, June 19th. Thanks.

Jini

Ms. Jini Ryan
Director
Office of Multimedia (OM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-0175 (Office)
703-589-6035 (Cell)
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Office of Multimedia intranet site

<https://work.epa.gov/multimedia>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

2024-2027 Climate Adaptation Plan



June 2024



THE ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation

The devastating impacts of climate change increasingly cost lives, disrupt livelihoods and cause billions of dollars in damages across the nation. Climate change also exacerbates existing pollution problems and environmental stressors, challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to accomplish its mission of protecting human health and the environment. All these impacts disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color, children, the elderly, Tribes and indigenous people.

The Biden-Harris Administration has taken historic steps to provide the federal support, resources and investments needed to help the nation's communities meet the climate challenges of today and prepare for the climate stressors of tomorrow. The EPA plays a central role in the Administration's efforts to tackle the climate crisis and build a climate-resilient nation.

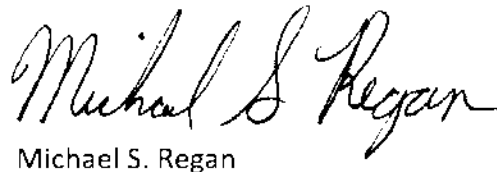
I directed my leadership team, including assistant administrators, associate administrators, regional administrators and the general counsel, in May 2021 to proactively incorporate climate adaptation planning into the agency's programs, policies, rules and operations, while we also continue work to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Since that time, the EPA has made significant strides toward meeting that directive by partnering with states, Tribes, territories, local governments, community groups, businesses and other federal agencies to strengthen their adaptive capacity and increase their resilience, placing a particular focus on advancing environmental justice.

Of the many actions we have taken and will continue to pursue, several are especially noteworthy. The agency is modernizing its financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments across the nation. The immediate focus of this effort is on investments made through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to ensure that their outcomes will be resilient to the impacts of climate change. We are equipping communities and the recipients of our financial resources with the tools, data, information and technical support they need to assess their climate risks and develop the climate-resilience solutions most appropriate for them. We are integrating climate adaptation into our rulemaking processes, including regulations, permits and National Environmental Policy Act reviews, and our agency enforcement and compliance programs are including climate adaptation and resilience in case conclusions, whenever appropriate. We also recently launched an initiative to increase the climate literacy of our staff and agency partners,

increasing people's awareness of the risks posed by climate change to human health and the environment, and the opportunities to increase the nation's resilience to climate impacts.

The EPA is implementing measures to protect our own workforce, facilities, critical infrastructure, supply chains and procurement processes from the risks posed by climate change. The agency will complete site-specific resilience assessments at all owned facilities within the next two years and continue to upgrade and increase the climate resilience of our facilities and protect our workforce.

Working with our partners, we are making strides to build a climate-resilient nation, but we are far from finished. Tackling the climate crisis requires perseverance and collaboration at all levels, and this updated Climate Adaptation Plan highlights the EPA's planned actions from 2024 to 2027. We will continue to work with our state, local, Tribal and indigenous partners to seize on opportunities to deal with the climate crisis in their communities. Together, our combined actions will make progress toward building a climate-resilient nation, mitigating pollution, improving public health, stimulating economic growth and advancing environmental justice for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael S. Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Regan" clearly legible. The middle initial "S." is smaller and less distinct. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Michael S. Regan".

Michael S. Regan

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Section 1: Agency Profile

Agency Profile	
Mission	Protection of human health and the environment
Adaptation Plan Scope	Entire Agency, including HQ, Regions, labs, and field offices
Agency Climate Adaptation Official	Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator for EPA's Office of Policy, Office of the Administrator
Agency Risk Officer	Adil Gulamali, EPA's Deputy Controller, is serving as acting Agency Risk Officer
Point of Public Contact for Environmental Justice	Theresa Segovia, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights
Owned Buildings	158 owned buildings of 3,317,444 square feet <i>(2023 Federal Real Property Portfolio Report submitted to the General Services Administration and the Real Estate database Sunflower)</i>
Leased Buildings	131 leased buildings of 6,690,757 square feet <i>(2023 Federal Real Property Portfolio Report submitted to the General Services Administration and the Real Estate database Sunflower)</i>
Employees	15,932 Federal Employees 5,078 Contractors <i>(People Plus 2023 Employment Summary and Personnel Security System)</i>
Budget	FY 2022 Enacted - \$9,559,485,000 (P.L. 117-103) FY 2023 Enacted - \$10,135,433,000 (P.L.117-328) FY 2024 Enacted - \$9,159,000,000 (P.L.118-42) FY 2025 President Budget - \$10,994,000,000
Key Areas of Climate Adaptation Effort	1. Environmental Justice 2. Financial Assistance Agreements 3. Superfund Program 4. Enforcement and Compliance Assurance 5. Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Program

Summary Statement

EPA is building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate hazards, leveraging skills and expertise across the organization.

Climate change poses significant risks to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment, as well as its own workforce and facilities. For over a decade, EPA has focused on ensuring it continues to fulfill its mission of protecting human health and the environment even as the climate changes. Following the release of its 2021 Climate Adaptation Action Plan, EPA significantly increased its efforts to incorporate climate adaptation planning into the agency's programs, policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement activities, and operations. Since that time, EPA has made significant advances and established innovative actions and processes described in this document. It has also partnered with states, Tribes, territories, local governments, community groups, and businesses to strengthen their adaptive capacity and increase their resilience to climate change impacts, placing a particular focus on communities with environmental justice concerns. EPA is committed to building on the many innovative actions and processes it has already established.

All the climate adaptation work conducted by the Agency is driven by the goals established in EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The Plan includes an Agency-wide goal (Goal 1) focused on tackling the climate crisis. One of the three Goal 1 objectives (Objective 1.2) is to accelerate resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts. The Agency has three long-term performance goals (LTPGs) associated with this objective. The first LTPG is focused on integrating climate adaptation planning into EPA programs, policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement activities, and operations. The second and third LTPGs are focused on building the adaptive capacity and resilience of the Agency's partners across the nation.

With respect to Agency assets, EPA has conducted an Agency-wide vulnerability assessment. Each EPA program and regional office has also conducted an office-specific vulnerability assessment. Taken together, the vulnerability assessments, along with various directives and Executives Orders (e.g., related to indigenous knowledge, nature-based solutions, integrating climate adaptation into infrastructure investments), informed the development of annual priority actions each office will take to address the LTPGs in the FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. For example, the Office of Mission Support has annual priority actions focused on addressing the risks posed by climate change to EPA's facilities, workforce, operations, and supply chains.

EPA is using a number of strategies to engage staff and leverage skills and expertise across the Agency to build resilience and adaptive capacity. These activities are overseen by the Office of Policy and coordinated by the Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Adaptation and its Subgroups. The Work Group is chaired by the Office of Policy and has representatives from all the program offices and all 10 regional offices. The Work Group has identified opportunities to work together on issues relevant to all EPA offices and established subgroups to address the issues. Examples of work groups and cross-EPA activities related to climate adaptation and resilience are:

- EPA's Office of Policy recently launched a new Office of Climate Adaptation and Sustainability. The new office, to be led by a member of the Senior Executive Service, will foster integration of

climate adaptation both within the Agency and with other governmental entities in a whole of government approach to addressing climate change impacts. The new office will also work with external non-governmental partners (e.g., industrial sectors) to become more resilient to climate change impacts and look for opportunities to reduce GHG emissions through climate-sustainable practices.

- As part of EPA's Climate Literacy Initiative, the Office of Policy and Office of Research and Development have launched a "Climate Conversations" webinar series to foster peer-to-peer sharing of experiences with climate adaptation and build a cross-EPA community of practice.
- The Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate (RISC) is focused on modernizing EPA financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments across the nation. The immediate focus is on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to help ensure the outcomes of investments made with those funds are resilient to climate change.
- The Resilient Rules Subgroup is focused on integrating climate adaptation into rulemaking processes.
- The Tribal Subgroup is focused on helping Tribes build their adaptive capacity and implement their respective climate adaptation plans.
- The Climate Adaptation Measures Subgroup is helping EPA assess its progress in meeting the Long-Term Performance Goals for climate adaptation that appear in the Agency's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.
- The Office of Policy has developed an innovative database for tracking the progress being made by every program and regional office with their priority actions as well as the progress being made by the entire Agency meeting the annual targets set for the three LTPGs in the EPA FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The database, known as the Climate Adaptation Measurement Program (CAMP) is undergoing updates and Version 2.0 is expected to be ready in Summer 2024.

Through its Climate Adaptation Plan, EPA is also advancing environmental justice as part of its mission, consistent with Executive Order 14008 and with Executive Order 14096 on *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*. As the Agency implements its Climate Adaptation Plan to increase the resilience of its programs, policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement activities, facilities and operations, the agency will strive, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law to (1) address disproportionate and adverse environmental and health effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change and cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens on communities with environmental justice concerns; and (2) provide opportunities for the meaningful engagement of persons and communities with environmental justice concerns.

In addition, as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, EPA received recommendations on Climate Planning, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Impacts from the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). The report includes many recommendations that are relevant to EPA's work. The agency is reviewing the recommendations and, as appropriate and to the maximum extent permitted by law, is taking steps to address the WHEJAC's recommendations.

Section 2: Risk Assessment

EPA used the Federal Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation Application (Federal Mapping App) that was developed for federal agencies by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct a high-level screening of climate hazard exposure for federal facilities and personnel.

EPA assessed the exposure of its buildings; employees; and lands, waters, and cultural and natural resources to five climate hazards: extreme heat, extreme precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire risk. In addition to these five hazards, EPA used a mix of national and local data sets to obtain more specific historic and projected hazard information at each of the Agency's facility locations. This additional data allowed EPA to explore the vulnerability and likelihood of nine additional hazards.

Climate Data Used in Agency Risk Assessment

Hazard	Description	Scenario	Geographic Coverage
Extreme Heat	Measured as whether an asset is projected to be exposed to an increased number of days with temperatures exceeding the 99 th percentile of daily maximum temperatures (calculated annually), calculated with reference to 1976-2005. Data are from high-resolution, downscaled climate model projections based on the Localized Constructed Analogs (LOCA) dataset prepared for the 4th National Climate Assessment.	RCP 4.5	CONUS
		RCP 8.5	CONUS
Extreme Precipitation	Measured as whether an asset is projected to be exposed to an increased number of days with precipitation amounts exceeding the 99th percentile of daily maximum precipitation amounts (calculated annually), with reference to 1976-2005. Data are from high-resolution, downscaled climate model projections based on the LOCA dataset prepared for the 4th National Climate Assessment.	RCP 4.5	CONUS
		RCP 8.5	CONUS and AK
Sea Level Rise	Measured as whether an asset is within the inundation extents from NOAA Coastal Digital Elevation Models and the 2022 Interagency Sea Level Rise Technical Report . Intermediate and Intermediate-High sea level rise scenarios used as proxies for RCP 4.5 and 8.5, respectively.	RCP 4.5	CONUS and PR
		RCP 8.5	CONUS and PR

Wildfire Risk	Measured as whether an asset is in a location is rated as high, very high, or extreme risk based on the U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Risk to Potential Structures (a data product of Wildfire Risk to Communities), which estimates the likelihood of structures being lost to wildfire based on the probability of a fire occurring in a location and likely fire intensity. Data reflects wildfires and other major disturbances as of 2014.	Historical	All 50 States
Flooding	Measured as whether an asset is located within a 100-year floodplain (1% annual chance of flooding) or 500-year floodplain (0.2% annual chance of flooding), as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Hazard Layer .	Historical	All 50 States and PR

Exposure to extreme heat, extreme precipitation, and sea level rise were evaluated at mid- (2050) and late century (2080) under two emissions scenarios, Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5. Exposure to flooding and wildfire risk were only evaluated for the present day due to data constraints.

Climate Scenarios Considered in Agency Risk Assessment

Scenario Descriptor		Summary Description from 5th National Climate Assessment
RCP 8.5	Very High Scenario	Among the scenarios described in NCA5, RCP 8.5 reflects the highest range of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions and no mitigation. Total annual global CO ₂ emissions in 2100 are quadruple emissions in 2000. Population growth in 2100 doubles from 2000. This scenario includes fossil fuel development.
RCP 4.5	Intermediate Scenario	This scenario reflects reductions in CO ₂ emissions from current levels. Total annual CO ₂ emissions in 2100 are 46% less than the year 2000. Mitigation efforts include expanded renewable energy compared to 2000.

Additional details about the data used in this assessment are provided in Appendix A.

2A. Climate Hazard Exposures and Impacts Affecting Federal Buildings

Indicators of Exposure of Buildings to Climate Hazards	RCP 4.5 2050	RCP 4.5 2080	RCP 8.5 2050	RCP 8.5 2080
Extreme Heat: Percent of buildings projected to be exposed to more days with temperatures exceeding the 99 th percentile of daily maximum temperatures (calculated annually) from 1976-2005	100%	100%	100%	100%
Extreme Precipitation: Percent of buildings projected to be exposed to more days with precipitation amounts exceeding the 99 th percentile of daily maximum precipitation amount (calculated annually) from 1976-2005	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sea Level Rise: Percent of buildings projected to be inundated by sea level rise	7%	7%	7%	9%
	High Risk	Very High Risk	Extreme Risk	
Wildfire: Percent of buildings at highest risk to wildfire	6%	0%	0%	
	100- year and 500-year floodplain			
Flooding: Percent of buildings located within floodplains	22%			

EPA buildings are expected to have varying degrees of exposure to the five climate hazards (i.e., extreme heat, precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire) through the projected mid- and late-century scenarios and based on historical data. One hundred percent of EPA buildings are expected to be exposed to increased intensity of heat and precipitation. Increased heat and precipitation are expected to have a major impact on the Agency's physical structures, especially those with critical components reaching the end of useful life such as mechanical and electrical systems, building envelopes and roofs. The majority of EPA's owned facility inventory consists of laboratory buildings with smaller buildings for storage and office space. EPA inherited a number of existing federal laboratory campuses from other agencies when it was founded in 1970. While some of these campuses have undergone major renovations, in several EPA locations, the buildings were constructed at least 70 years ago and are already facing challenges managing high heat and water intrusion from precipitation.

EPA also leases space from or through the General Services Administration (GSA) for its 10 regional offices and other support and field offices throughout the United States, which accounts for 38% of the Agency's total building portfolio and includes six mission-critical laboratory facilities. EPA plans to prioritize funding for climate change adaptation measures within its owned laboratory facility portfolio. The Agency intends to partner with GSA to identify vulnerabilities in the laboratories that EPA leases from or through GSA. However, EPA does not intend to spend any funds appropriated to EPA on GSA

leased facilities. The Agency will work with GSA and the building owners to identify and quantify the risks to the leased buildings, but any funding required for hazard mitigation should be provided by GSA or the building owner.

All of EPA's facilities are expected to experience an increase in the annual number of days with the maximum temperature greater than the 99th percentile in all future scenarios. Mission-critical functions within EPA's laboratories often require the use of multiple, robust analytic machines and immensely sensitive mesocosms that have high operational heat loads in a temperature-controlled environment. Maintaining climate control is imperative to the efficiency and accuracy of EPA's research and applied science operations. Extreme heat is expected to increase the cooling load, leading to more intensive energy usage and higher risk to equipment failure from overheating, which can cause damage to mechanical and research equipment and delay operation. More intensive energy usage might also result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Given the facilities' conditions and the remaining useful life of their components, facilities may not be able to keep up with the projected heat which magnifies the stress on Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Air Handling Units (AHUs) components.

Increased precipitation events are also projected to affect 100% of EPA's facilities across all hazard projection scenarios. Precipitation already poses a threat to EPA's older facilities, and increases in intensity, frequency and duration of these events will further expose EPA's buildings and internal equipment to damage from water intrusion. This can be costly in both time and cost to mission and research operations. Additionally, most of the EPA's drainage and stormwater management systems were sized to meet historic precipitation patterns and will face challenges meeting the projected increased volume of water without modernization. Some EPA facilities support emergency response operations, which often require large staging areas and generally consist of impervious surfaces. This mission function can exacerbate vulnerability to extreme heat and flooding.

Based on the outputs of the NOAA screening tool, EPA has 35 buildings (22%) within its portfolio that are located within the 100-year floodplain. One EPA campus is located within an inland floodplain and has high exposure to floods; however, the Agency plans to formally remove this property from its portfolio within the next two years. While there would be little consequence to the Agency's operations if this location experienced a 100-year flood event, the Agency would be financially responsible for cleanup and hazard mitigation efforts. The screening tool also included EPA's facilities in Ada, Oklahoma, and Fort Meade, Maryland, as facilities within the 100-year floodplain; however, EPA has conducted onsite climate resilience assessments at both locations using physical observations and supplemental state and local climate data sets, confirmed that at both of the facilities there is a very low risk of impact from flooding.

Of the Agency's 24 buildings in coastal locations, Port Orchard, Washington; Gulf Breeze, Florida; and Newport, Oregon, are at the greatest risk of mission disruption from flooding. Each of these facilities' missions requires regular access to marine and coastal habitats. In some cases, laboratories even pump water directly from adjacent bodies of water (direct water intake) into the facility to support aquatic animal and ecosystem research, which increases exposure and risk from 100-year flooding events along the coasts. EPA's facilities in Newport were not originally captured by the mapping tool and are

at a significant risk from flooding. Damage to these facilities would not only significantly impact coastal research operations of EPA, but also the broader operations of other federal, state and university partners on the campus who rely on shared facilities.

The greatest risk to EPA's coastal facilities is posed by sea level rise (SLR), resulting in physical damage, and affecting building access and mission operations. Across the RCP 4.5 mid- and late-century and the RCP 8.5 mid-century scenarios, 6.9% of EPA's buildings are projected to be inundated by sea level rise. The percentage of EPA's buildings inundated increases to 9.5% in the RCP 8.5 late-century scenario. Four EPA locations have projected exposure to sea level rise, including Port Orchard, Washington; Narragansett, Rhode Island; Newport, Oregon; and Gulf Breeze, Florida. These facilities collectively support all the Agency's coastal research. To support that mission, the facilities have critical buildings located on or near the shoreline, putting this portion of EPA's research operations at risk. Newport and Port Orchard have the highest exposure to sea level rise, with all of Newport's buildings projected to be inundated in each RCP scenario and the whole Port Orchard campus projected to be inundated within the RCP 8.5 late-century scenario. The current location for Gulf Breeze on the map is inaccurate, and at the actual location there are buildings that are projected to be inundated by SLR. The main causeway structure providing access to the island facility is at highest risk for sea level rise in each of the RCP scenarios.

While only 5% of EPA buildings are at a high risk for wildfires, the widespread damage caused by wildfires can have significant impacts to both EPA's facilities themselves and vital utility infrastructure such as powerlines and transformers that the facilities rely on to operate and can completely disrupt mission functions. EPA to date has not experienced direct wildfire damage at its owned facilities; however, wildfire smoke plumes have impacted laboratories, especially those that require precise indoor air quality (IAQ) conditions for research operations. Additional filtration is needed to remove smoke and particulate matter from the air, including from wildfires, to protect worker health and safety and support science IAQ needs. This results in an increased HVAC load, similar to that of high heat days, putting an additional stressor on already stressed infrastructure.

2B. Climate Hazard Exposures and Impacts Affecting Federal Employees

Indicators of Exposure of Employees to Climate Hazards	RCP 4.5 2050	RCP 4.5 2080	RCP 8.5 2050	RCP 8.5 2080
Extreme Heat: Percent of employees duty-stationed in counties projected to be exposed to more days with temperatures exceeding the 99 th percentile of daily maximum temperatures (calculated annually), from 1976-2005	100%	100%	100%	100%
Extreme Precipitation: Percent of employees duty-stationed in counties projected to be exposed to more days with precipitation amounts exceeding the 99 th percentile of daily maximum precipitation amount (calculated annually), from 1976-2005	100%	100%	100%	100%

Sea Level Rise: Percent of employees duty-stationed in counties projected to be inundated by sea level rise	7%	43%	7%	51%
	High Risk	Very High Risk	Extreme Risk	
Wildfire: Percent of employees duty-stationed in counties at highest risk to wildfire	2%	<1%	<1%	

EPA employees are expected to have varying degrees of exposure to the five climate hazard exposures through the different mid- and late-century scenarios and based on historical data. In all Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) scenarios, all EPA employees are expected to be located exposed to extreme heat and precipitation in all Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) scenarios and are in areas with a projected to be exposed to an increase in the annual number of days where with both precipitation and heat exceeding the 99th percentile. In general, the impact of extreme heat on most EPA employees reporting to their duty stations (whether teleworking or working in an office building) can be ameliorated by maintaining comfortable temperatures in offices and buildings. Increased heat and precipitation can cause increases in building moisture and create conditions that affect indoor air quality for EPA employees at their workplaces. Employees and contractors at the greatest risk to impacts from extreme heat are those who are older or have pre-existing health conditions or those who spend prolonged periods of time outdoors for their job duties (e.g., field researchers and technicians to support the Agency's research and applied science endeavors; inspectors conducting compliance inspections of the regulated community; workers conducting building and grounds maintenance, upkeep, and repairs; and those who perform security rounds on EPA property).

There is a noticeable change in the difference of EPA employees' exposure to sea level rise when comparing the mid- and late-century scenarios. Both mid-century scenarios project that 7% of EPA's employees work within counties that are expected to be exposed to sea level rise. In the late-century scenarios, however, the percentage of EPA employees in counties projected to be exposed to sea level rise increases to 43% (under RCP 4.5) and 51% (under RCP 8.5). In addition to direct impacts from sea level rise on coastal communities, higher sea levels mean that storm surges push further inland than they have historically, contributing to an increase in inland flooding that can affect EPA employees' ability to safely commute to work. Storm surges may also damage infrastructure, disrupting the broader transportation network and affecting the ability of EPA employees to access work required onsite. Commuting to and from work sites may be impacted by sea level rise depending on employee locations. Also, employees may have to deal with impacts to their personal lives (e.g., homes flooding, roads impassable), which would affect their ability to carry out their work mission.

Based on historical data, a very small portion of EPA's employees are projected to have high, very high or extreme risk to wildfire; however, areas that do not burn in wildfires can still be affected by poor air quality from wildfire smoke, as well as power outages and other utility disruptions in the area that result in limited services to EPA employees. Air quality impacts can be far-reaching and long-lasting in areas that have not typically experienced direct wildfire damage or indirect damage from wildfire

smoke and worsened air quality. Degraded air quality could impact all EPA employees, with the greatest risk posed to employees whose work duties require them to be outdoors, such as those conducting fieldwork, grounds and building maintenance, and security functions; and to employees with pre-existing conditions and/or respiratory illnesses. Workers may also be affected during their commutes to EPA laboratories and office, particularly if their commutes involve time outdoors walking to and waiting at public transit stations where they could be exposed to degraded air quality.

2C. Climate Hazard Exposures and Impacts Affecting Mission, Operations and Services

SUMMARY OF KEY CURRENT AND PROJECTED CLIMATE HAZARD IMPACTS AND EXPOSURES		
Area of Impact or Exposure (mission factors)	Identified Climate Hazard	Description (consequence)
EPA's mission ranges from conducting research and applied science in laboratories to emergency response functions across the nation, which increases the Agency's exposure to impacts from climate hazards.	Extreme heat, wildfire, flooding and sea level rise. Increased precipitation exacerbates impacts from flooding and sea level rise.	Marine, estuarine, and hydrologic research operations and facilities along the coast and other bodies of water are at greater risk to be impacted by flooding and sea level rise, and extreme precipitation can compound these impacts. Some facilities require large laydown areas able to accommodate the deployment, staging and storing of a range of emergency response vehicles and equipment, which can create site vulnerabilities to flooding from lack of drainage and increased ambient temperatures from extreme heat.
EPA's building inventory is aging, and the facility condition index of its buildings varies widely, which increases the Agency's vulnerability to impacts from climate hazards.	Extreme heat, wildfire, flooding, sea level rise, and increased precipitation.	Climate change impacts create additional stressors for aging infrastructure and can accelerate deterioration of physical assets and the systems they rely on. Improving the envelopes of the Agency's buildings reduces vulnerability of EPA's specialized research equipment to heat and water damage and helps minimize disruptions to mission and costly equipment repairs.
HVAC and air handling units that condition air in EPA's buildings must meet the demands of an increase in the total and consecutive number of high heat days	Extreme heat, wildfire.	EPA's facilities house critical site reliability engineering, which often produce a high heat output and require intensive cooling to keep operational. Smoke and particulate matter from wildfire events will increase the need for

SUMMARY OF KEY CURRENT AND PROJECTED CLIMATE HAZARD IMPACTS AND EXPOSURES		
Area of Impact or Exposure (mission factors)	Identified Climate Hazard	Description (consequence)
and increased wildfire events into the future.		filtration in the Agency's laboratories. An increase in extreme heat days and wildfire events will create additional burdens for EPA's HVACs and air handling units to meet laboratory cooling requirements that the Agency's existing infrastructure is already struggling to maintain. If cooling requirements are not met, equipment could be damaged and may require costly and time intensive repairs, disrupting EPA's operations.
EPA's workforce, particularly field researchers and contractors who spend time outside, have additional safety concerns from primary and secondary climate hazards.	Extreme heat, wildfire (including smoke).	Workers may need to limit the number of hours spent outside. Staff conducting field work may need to shift the time/duration of the fieldwork or reschedule all together.
EPA has many laboratories in more remote locations that have a limited number of routes to access the facilities, which makes the Agency more vulnerable to disruptions to the broader area's transportation network.	100- and 500-year floodplains, sea level rise (compounded with storm and precipitation events), wildfire (severity of events can be compounded by extreme heat).	Disruptions to the transportation networks surrounding EPA's facilities can impact delivery of vital equipment, building maintenance, and emergency repairs and services. Interferences to employee access to sites and facilities can result in loss of work and information, which can cause major delays. EPA's research functions require samples to be collected across the country, each with specific holding times and sometimes requiring quick turnaround shipping to ensure research quality and integrity.
About half of EPA's laboratories are isolated and outside of metropolitan areas, and due to this, the utility service provided to these laboratories is often unreliable, its infrastructure	Wildfire, extreme heat, 100- and 500-year floodplains/precipitation, sea level rise.	The Agency experiences frequent power outages and disruptions to power and water service. Much of EPA's research equipment needs continuity in power and water supply to function. EPA's laboratories have high energy use intensities because of the equipment

SUMMARY OF KEY CURRENT AND PROJECTED CLIMATE HAZARD IMPACTS AND EXPOSURES		
Area of Impact or Exposure (mission factors)	Identified Climate Hazard	Description (consequence)
is older, and utility outages take longer to resolve because there are not as many customers in the areas where EPA's laboratories are located.		plug loads and single pass air requirements to maintain safe laboratories. This results in future demand for larger interruptible and emergency power systems.

EPA assesses the vulnerability and consequence from climate hazards to four asset categories in its onsite climate resilience assessments, described in Section 3, Implementation, subsection A1 of this plan. The four asset categories are mission, workforce, physical assets, and infrastructure services and utilities. Vulnerability of these four asset categories to a specific hazard varies, depending on a range of factors that are broadly described below.

- **Mission:** Redundancy of operations, flexibility in fieldwork timing, sample holding times, responsibility for living creatures, access to a direct water intake system, and reliance on expensive or sensitive equipment.
- **Workforce:** Number and types of ways to access the site, requirement for onsite work, availability of personal protective equipment, established hazard response policy, existence of exercises in response to likely hazard events, number of workspaces located in temporary spaces and in areas that are difficult to condition.
- **Physical Assets:** Construction type, date, methods, recent renovations, and materials used; current condition; maintenance regiment; specific location on the site (e.g., near the shoreline or below ground); cost and lead time of repair or replacement; ability to access replacement parts and contractors to complete repairs; function of the asset (e.g., office space, laboratory, cold storage, server room); and building occupancy.
- **Infrastructure, Services and Utilities:** Availability of transportation routes and modes to the facility; risks to transportation and utilities systems; reliance on sensitive assets such as bridges, causeways, or tunnels to access the facility; quality of current utility service; location at the end of the utility line; above or below ground power lines; sensitivity of the site to disruption from lack of transportation and delivery access; sensitivity of the site to power outages.

By considering the full scope of consequences posed by climate risk, EPA can more deeply examine how climate hazards could affect its operations and the extent of combined potential impacts from other site-specific weather patterns and conditions.

As sea level continues to rise, high tide flooding is becoming more frequent, and higher volumes of water are spreading impacts beyond coastal areas and changing flood patterns for areas not typically affected. High water from sea level rise also increases the volume and frequency of storm surge, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Changing precipitation patterns and extreme heat from climate change are creating more viable conditions for tropical storms to migrate to areas that would not

normally experience that frequency and intensity of water volume and flooding, such as in the Midwest and Northeast. Severe storms and flood events can damage critical water and power infrastructure that keep EPA facilities operational and can create major disruption to the transportation networks surrounding the facilities, impacting supply chain capabilities, and employee access to the facility and to field research sites.

Extreme heat events are also occurring more frequently and increasing in severity and duration because of climate change. These impacts are being felt nationwide, but some of the most significant impacts on public health are projected for EPA facilities and employees in the Southeast, Southwest and Northeast and areas that are heavily urbanized with limited vegetation. Employees in these areas are projected to experience extreme heat more intensely through the urban heat island effect. Extreme heat puts employees with pre-existing health conditions, field researchers, facilities maintenance teams, and other outdoor workers at risk for heat-related illnesses and injury and can be life threatening if they are exposed for too long, and this can delay mission-critical work.

Heat will create additional stressors for building envelopes and HVAC systems; however, climate control failures can have much wider mission continuity implications beyond the physical facility. Information technology (IT) infrastructure and servers within EPA facilities are critical components to the Agency's ability to process and report research, communicate internally and externally, protect privacy and security, as well as support teleworking capabilities. IT infrastructure is highly sensitive to disruptions from heat and moisture, especially in the Southeast where there is also high humidity and can have detrimental consequences to each dimension of EPA's mission.

In addition to the projected localized impacts to EPA's mission from sea level rise and extreme precipitation, a small percentage of the Agency's facilities and employees may have high exposure to wildfires. In the United States generally, climate change is causing warmer, drier conditions that result in a higher risk for wildfires. High heat and drought combine to limit water in soils and vegetation and increase the risk of ignition from both natural- (lightning) and human-caused fires. The 5.7% of EPA facilities located in areas with high exposure to wildfires are at risk from direct damage because of fire. Impacts from fires can also severely damage critical infrastructure surrounding EPA facilities and can lead to secondary hazards such as soil erosion that creates conditions for landslides, increased flooding, and severe air quality impacts.

Poor air quality created by wildfires can directly impact EPA facilities and employees and extend far beyond the affected area. Smoke and particulate matter from wildfire events will increase the need for filtration in the Agency's laboratories. Like an increase in extreme heat days, more wildfire events will create additional burdens for EPA's HVACs and air handling units to meet laboratory cooling needs required for worker safety and research integrity that the Agency's existing infrastructure is already struggling to maintain. Reduced air quality also poses serious health risks for field researchers, emergency response teams and other outdoor workers, which can cause delays and disruptions in operations to protect EPA employees.

Lastly, EPA's isolated laboratory facilities are more sensitive to disruptions in the transportation and utility systems they rely on. Unlike the EPA laboratories in more urban areas, the more remote laboratories generally only have a single route to and from the sites, which poses a greater risk for

disruption from sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire events. Road blockages in these areas make it harder to receive emergency services, repairs or other vital supplies and potentially prolong the disaster recovery time. Utility networks surrounding the remote EPA facilities already face challenges with power and signal reliability, and climate change impacts can exacerbate the sensitivities to disruption in service lines. Many of the laboratories are fed power from aboveground powerlines and can be severely affected by all the climate hazards. Utility companies in these areas often lack financial payback incentives to fund the capital expenditures to improve their power infrastructure and assets, which creates additional mitigation and operational resiliency challenges that are largely beyond the Agency's control.

2D. Impacts from and Exposure to Additional Hazards

EPA's climate resilience assessments of its owned laboratory facilities assess the likelihood of exposure, vulnerability to, and potential consequences of a wide variety of climate and other natural hazards that may be influenced by climate change. Where projections are unavailable, historical data and the best available scientific literature are used as proxies to provide an estimate of likely changes within the hazard within the next 30 years. The table below displays the full list of natural and climate hazards considered in EPA's climate resilience assessments of its owned facilities. Figure 1 in Appendix B displays an example an EPA facility hazard exposure map, showing the location of EPA facilities in relation to FEMA flood hazard areas.

EPA-Owned Facility Resilience Assessment Complete Hazard List

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sea-level rise ○ High-tide flooding ○ FEMA coastal flood zones ○ Tsunamis ○ Storm surge • Inland flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extreme precipitation ○ FEMA inland flood zones • Hurricanes or hurricane-influenced events • Tornadoes • Straight-line high winds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hail • Landslides • Erosion • Lightning • Drought • Wildfire • Earthquake/seismicity • Extreme heat and cold • Nor'easters • Volcanoes • Winter storms • Warming surface waters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fresh ○ Sea water |
|--|--|

For its owned facilities, EPA considers other locally and regionally occurring natural and climate hazards and expands the scope of hazards as appropriate. Landslides, erosion, volcanoes, and nor'easters were added as additional hazards to include in future assessments after assessments were

completed where they were found relevant and consequential. This enables EPA to understand the full scope of the Agency’s potential exposure to natural and climate hazards and enables the Agency to mitigate against the projected impacts more holistically. While earthquakes and volcanoes are not influenced by climate change and are a naturally occurring hazard, the downstream impacts can lead to additional facility risks from erosion, landslides, tsunamis, and degraded air quality. Nor’easters and winter storms can cause road blockages from snow and ice, reduce electrical and mechanical performance of equipment, as well as shut down wider electrical and water infrastructure, leading to complete loss of mission capabilities in some cases.

Hazards such as flooding are divided into two main categories and further analyzed in subcategories (coastal flooding as a result of sea level rise or tsunamis; inland flooding based on extreme precipitation or location in a flood zone) based on different RCP emission scenarios. Additionally, the warming surface waters hazard category is also divided into sea and freshwater surface temperatures as they can present and influence the development of other hazards. Warming temperatures of both fresh and sea water can greatly affect the quality, quantity, and availability of data within the aquatic ecosystems being researched. EPA facilities in locations projected to experience increased high heat days, also have increased likelihood of exposure to heat-related or exacerbated hazards such as increased lightning strikes, soil erosion, and drought conditions or water stress which can be consequential to the health and safety of EPA’s workforce, mission capabilities and physical assets. Similarly, to warming surface temperatures, drought conditions can also affect the availability and quality of field data that the Agency is able to collect in order to continue conducting research within watershed and groundwater ecosystems.

Section 3: Implementation Plan

3A. Addressing Climate Hazard Impacts and Exposure

3A.1 Addressing Climate Hazard Exposures and Impacts Affecting Federal Buildings

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL BUILDINGS		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Buildings	Priority Action	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
Increased intensity and frequency of high heat days impacts 100% of EPA buildings, increases energy usage intensity, and creates additional strain on existing HVAC and AHU systems and components. EPA’s laboratories require single-	EPA’s Office of Mission Support will continue working with energy services companies and utilities to upgrade the efficiency, availability, and reliability of EPA mechanical and electrical equipment within EPA facilities, through Energy	FY 2024: EPA will release the Notice of Opportunities for energy savings performance contracts at the Manchester Environmental Laboratory in Port Orchard, Washington for a solar field and upgrades at EPA’s Andrew W. Breidenbach

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL BUILDINGS		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Buildings	Priority Action	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
pass air flow for worker safety and have specific temperature requirements for critical research operations. (In laboratories that use gaseous or noxious chemicals to maintain air quality standards, air within laboratories cannot be recirculated and follows a single path into and room and is then exhausted out of the building, rather than being recirculated. Additionally other lab specifications may require single pass air flow to maintain pressure differentials during research.)	Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) with deep energy retrofit projects, where feasible. Increasing the efficiency and reliability of major building systems and components will better position the Agency to continue operations during extreme heat events. EPA will be completing a consolidation and infrastructure upgrade at its Athens, Georgia, and Ada, Oklahoma, facilities that will provide updated HVAC, electrical, and building envelope systems. Additional projects associated with EOs 14057 and 14008, could be reviewed, and added in the future depending on funding availability.	Environmental Research Center R&D facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. <u>FY 2025:</u> EPA will complete the preliminary assessments, and if feasible, the Investment Grade Audits determining if the Agency will finalize energy savings performance contracts at its laboratories in Fort Meade, Maryland, and Edison, New Jersey. <u>FY 2026/2027:</u> EPA will complete the preliminary assessments, and if feasible, the Investment Grade Audits determining if the Agency will finalize energy savings performance contracts at its laboratories in Manchester, Washington, and the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center. EPA will also work to complete the infrastructure upgrades at Athens, Georgia, and Ada, Oklahoma.

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL BUILDINGS		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Buildings	Priority Action	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
On a national scale, increased heat and precipitation are expected to impact 100% of EPA's facilities across all mid- and late- century projections. Approximately 25% (41) of EPA's buildings are located along the coast and are vulnerable to sea level rise and flooding. Only nine of EPA's buildings are at a high risk for wildfires, and none have very high or extreme risk; however, 78% of buildings are still at some degree of risk to wildfire and its impacts. In addition to the above five hazards, there are several, more regionally specific hazards that are intensified by compounding effects and conditions.	EPA's Office of Mission Support will assess the 18 laboratory facilities owned by EPA. EPA will continue conducting climate resiliency assessments at EPA-owned facilities and initiate project recommendations that are determined to be "very-high priority" within 24 months of the final project grading process; however, the Resiliency Assessment Program and project initiation capability are fully dependent on the budget availability and adequate funding year to year.	<u>FY 2024:</u> - Complete five climate resiliency assessment reports. - Initiate the very-high priority projects identified in the FY 2022 assessment. - Identify the very-high priority projects from each of the FY 2023 assessments' recommendations. <u>FY 2025:</u> - Complete three climate resiliency assessment reports. - Initiate the very-high priority projects identified in the FY 2023 assessments.
	EPA's Office of Mission Support will continue to support EPA offices and programs in efforts to implement project recommendations from the climate resilience assessments that were not identified as a "very-high priority."	- Identify any very-high priority projects from each of the FY 2024 assessment recommendations. <u>FY 2026:</u> - Complete final three climate resiliency assessments of EPA owned facilities (with projections up to ~2050). - Initiate the very-high priority projects identified in the FY 2024 assessments. - Identify any very-high priority projects from each of the FY 2025 assessment recommendations.

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL BUILDINGS		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Buildings	Priority Action	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
		<u>FY 2027:</u> - Begin five-year reassessment cycle at owned facilities using late century projections (~2100). - Initiate the very-high priority projects identified in the FY 2025 assessments. - Identify any very-high priority projects from each of the FY 2026 assessment recommendations.
Heat and precipitation will affect all EPA buildings, causing additional stress and deterioration on the Agency's older facilities and increasing the risk of damage to research equipment and samples. Flood risk also increases with higher levels of precipitation and sea level rise, which will create additional vulnerabilities to water intrusion.	EPA will continue to address aging infrastructure through implementation of its facility master plans and will consider projected future climate hazard exposure in equipment replacement cycles.	<u>FY 2024-FY 2027:</u> - EPA will proceed with roof repairs, electrical and HVAC equipment replacements, and building envelope improvement projects identified in the facility master plans. - EPA will revise operations and maintenance contracts as they expire to include additional task orders allowing for mitigation activities and emergency repairs.
All hazards are projected to have an impact on EPA's physical assets, workforce, systems, and mission through the mid- to late-century. EPA's capacity to support specialized research functions has been a valuable	EPA will work with other federal, state, and local entities on Memoranda of Agreements and Understanding for emergency management mitigation activities and critical asset sharing.	<u>FY 2024-2027:</u> - EPA will examine its high-risk properties and begin to coordinate new agreements with co-located federal, state, and local entities that share the same campuses and risk to mission.

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL BUILDINGS		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Buildings	Priority Action	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
collaboration opportunity to other entities with overlapping research missions, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, National Institutes of Health and multiple state agencies and universities across the country. Damage to EPA facilities can not only disrupt internal operations, but also disrupt the missions of other federal, state, and local entities that share research functions and spaces.		- EPA will work with its neighboring agencies to improve and develop collaborative emergency response, mitigation and maintenance plans for shared critical assets and systems.
Four of EPA's research campuses are in coastal locations, which accounts for 26% of all EPA-owned buildings. Mission dependency for proximity to these bodies of water inherently put these facilities at greater exposure to impacts from flooding and sea level rise. Through the mid- to late-century, each coastal facility is projected to have at least 50% of their campuses inundated by water, with some projected as soon as 2050.	EPA will continue to investigate the Agency's vulnerabilities and risks within its own facilities and initiate discussions among leadership about the long-term vision for certain EPA laboratories.	<u>FY 2024-2027:</u> - Agency leadership will review EPA -owned facilities in the most vulnerable locations to determine the long-term plan for those facilities. FY 2024: The agency is currently determining the appropriate stakeholders and leaders across EPA to engage in the decision process in order to make science informed and consensus-based investments.

In response to both EO 14008 and the Agency's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, EPA conducted a high-level Agency-wide vulnerability assessment as a baseline for each owned laboratory and leased regional office building's exposure to 17 different future hazards. The 17 initial hazards were identified through reviews of climate science, projections, historical data, and input provided by EPA staff in different climate zones, as an initial evaluation of potential risks from climate change. In 2022, the Agency expanded upon that initial high-level, Agency-wide effort to understand the likelihood of exposure and overall risk to climate hazards and began conducting detailed assessments of all owned laboratories.

EPA's climate resiliency assessments of the Agency's owned laboratories use historic and projected hazard exposure data through the mid-century; existing site-specific documentation, such as facility master plans and past safety, health and environmental management audits; and an onsite evaluation of the facilities to understand the full likelihood of exposure, vulnerability and consequences of risk to EPA's mission, physical assets, workforce, and infrastructure/utilities/services the Agency relies on. During the onsite assessments, EPA interviews the facilities' teams and key staff from all research and applied science divisions, operational and administrative functions, and other federal and state Agency partners at the site to understand their past experiences with hazards, existing mitigation strategies and actions, and potential ideas to improve resilience of their operations. Each owned-laboratory climate resilience assessment results in a report with project recommendations that range from updating planning procedures to capital improvement projects that help ensure the facility's resilience against the most likely and consequential risks associated with future climate hazards.

Once each climate resilience assessment report is finalized, a workgroup comprised of leadership and representatives from the site and associated programs or regions meets to vote and prioritize the project recommendations using a schema that EPA's OMS developed to weigh a variety of factors. The schema allows each member of the workgroup to examine the recommended projects from the assessments against the likelihood of exposure, vulnerability, and magnitude of consequences to the asset's physical structure, workforce, operations, and other internal and external connections. Each project is weighed against additional criteria such as technical and economic feasibility and availability to determine if any projects are a very-high priority to OMS. Projects that the workgroup scores as very-high priority are then shared with EPA's Office of Resources and Business Operations to determine the funding pathway and timeline. As a result of the assessments, over 108 asset specific improvements and 74 campus-wide project recommendations have been identified and prioritized by the workgroups across 10 facilities with completed assessments.

The resilience of EPA's operations to damage and disruption from climate hazards also depends on reducing the Agency's energy consumption and increasing onsite generation of power. In support of this goal and in response to EO 14057, EPA conducted additional net-zero emissions (NZE) assessments of all owned laboratory facilities to examine potential pathways for using and procuring carbon pollution-free electricity (CFE) and the feasibility of fleet and facility electrification to meet federal building performance and sustainability goals. The NZE assessments include recommendations for phased approaches to upgrading infrastructure, baseline analyses of onsite electricity generation potential, and projected scenarios of energy savings and outputs. Many of the sustainability recommendations from the NZE assessments have overlapping goals with resiliency aimed at

improving the efficiency and reliability of EPA's building systems and components through electrification. Project recommendations from both the resiliency and NZE assessments inform future considerations for the current and projected conditions of EPA's facilities, allowing for more holistic master planning efforts and driving more targeted and climate data-informed decision-making in capital improvement projects. Understanding both the current and projected building conditions, performance and vulnerabilities allows the Agency to consider the long-term plan for existing facilities and enables more prudent investments and financial risk management.

As a result of the completed resiliency assessments conducted at the Agency's coastal facilities, EPA is critically examining the long-term feasibility of continued operations in locations that are especially vulnerable to climate hazards such as sea level rise and flooding. Nearly 25% of EPA facilities are along the coast. Across both the mid- and late-century 4.5 RCP and the mid-century 8.5 RCP scenarios, each coastal campus is projected to experience inundation of at least one critical asset that either supports major operational functions, stores emergency response equipment, or allows access to and from the facility. By the late-century 8.5 RCP scenario, over 50 % of EPA's coastal research campuses will be inundated by water from sea level rise and will have significant loss of essential functions that support mission capabilities.

Project recommendations from climate resiliency assessments of coastal sites have included: small relocations of laboratory functions to less vulnerable parts of the campus, retrofitting building floors and elevations to better protect from flooding, improving site drainage, and relocating the functions to a less vulnerable site altogether. EPA is also considering additional external factors for future investments in resiliency projects, such as overall vulnerabilities in the broader transportation network and utility infrastructure that EPA sites rely on and leveraging relationships with other federal, state, and local partners who rely on EPA facilities to support critical operations within their own missions. Given the age and condition of most EPA facilities, and additional hazards that are exacerbated by precipitation and sea level rise such as landslides, high-tide flooding, high winds, hurricanes, and storm surge, the Agency is critically examining disaster recovery costs versus the financial feasibility and viability of continued operations in high-risk areas.

EPA facilities are already experiencing impacts from extreme heat, and these impacts are expected to intensify through the mid- to late-century. To address heat impacts, EPA's climate resilience assessment recommendations range from nature-based solutions, such improving canopy cover and permeable area to reduce the ambient temperatures onsite, to full-scale replacements of major building components and envelope repairs. In addition to the resiliency assessment recommendations, EPA's facility master plan also identifies many projects focused on envelope improvements and resealing to decrease water intrusion and heat loss and improve the efficiency of mechanical and electrical systems within buildings, but major construction and retrofit projects are extremely costly and can be difficult to fund.

The Agency uses Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) to finance major infrastructure upgrade projects by entering into an agreement with local utility providers to cover the initial project costs, and the Agency incrementally pays back the loan with the energy cost savings. ESPCs have

helped fund major infrastructure upgrades for HVAC, Air Handling Units and Building Automation Systems (BAS) to improve efficiency, help conserve energy and maintain climate control for laboratory functions at EPA's facilities in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Ada, Oklahoma; and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. EPA also has Notice of Funding Opportunities published for additional ESPCs at its Edison, New Jersey; Fort Meade, Maryland; and Manchester, Washington; laboratories. EPA uses information from facility master plans and NZE and resiliency assessments to inform scope of work requirements for the contracts to ensure that EPA can be both sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change impacts. While ESPCs have been a helpful resource to the Agency, the procurement process is often lengthy, with the full project life lasting five to seven years or longer.

Climate change impacts will continue to be a challenge for EPA's facilities as hazards intensify and the Agency's building portfolio continues to age. Continuing to assess hazard exposures and risk will better inform the Agency's ability to continue its mission in the face of climate impacts and understanding and tracking the scope of damages to facilities and structures from hazard events and the associated costs to repair or resume operations to make climate-informed investments. In 2023, the Agency analyzed the location of EPA-owned facilities and cross-referenced them against the historically underutilized business zones (HUB Zones) in the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), to identify overlap. This analysis determined that nine of the EPA facilities are in HUB Zones (Ada, Ann Arbor, Athens-ORD, Cincinnati-AWBERC, Cincinnati-Center Hill, Cincinnati-T&E, Corvallis-Main, Gaar Corner and Newport) and four are in disadvantaged communities (Ada, Cincinnati-Center Hill, Cincinnati-T&E, and Gaar Corner).

While Agency facility planning documents such as master plans, studies and evaluations are typically held as categorically exempt under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQ's implementing regulations, the specific facility actions (including construction, renovation, and property excess) that are planned and developed are formally considered and evaluated for potential impacts across a wide range of environmental and social resources and areas of interest and concern. Among these are historic, cultural, and tribal resources, which have adopted considerations of ancestral lands. If a proposed action is determined to have the potential to impact any of these resources, formal consultations with the appropriate organization(s) such as state historic preservation offices, tribal historic preservation offices or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, are initiated. In practice, depending on the scope of the project and its physical location, these consultations can range from simple and brief, to very extensive, requiring the development of management plans and formal memoranda of understanding between relevant parties. Likewise, consistent with NEPA and CEQ's regulations, if any project has the potential for significant effects, an Environmental Assessment will be prepared to evaluate the potential impacts more thoroughly for significance.

3A.2 Addressing Climate Hazard Exposures and Impacts Affecting Federal Employees

PRIORITIZED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURES AND IMPACTS AFFECTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES		
Climate Hazard Impact on and/or Exposure to Employees	Priority Actions	Timeline for implementation (2024-2027)
Employees who work at or rely on the work conducted at EPA's owned laboratory facilities have either 100% exposure (to extreme heat and precipitation) or varied exposure (to flooding, sea level rise and wildfires).	EPA will continue using the onsite climate resilience assessments at EPA's owned laboratories to collect information on EPA employees' past experiences with hazard events and existing emergency response and hazard mitigation resources, to better inform future hazard response and identify gaps.	<u>By FY 2026:</u> Complete initial climate resilience assessment of all EPA-owned laboratories.
100% of EPA employees are projected to be exposed to extreme heat and precipitation in all RCP and time scenarios.	EPA will continue developing and updating educational materials for EPA employees as part of its Occupant Emergency Plans and program.	<u>FY 2024-2026:</u> EPA will conduct Occupational Safety and Health Administration Heat Illness Safety and Integrated Vegetation Management trainings as part of the Agency's environmental management systems program. <u>Annually:</u> Send email reminders to EPA employees about the program, region, or location's Occupant Emergency Plan. <u>By FY 2027:</u> Add new sections to the Agency-wide Occupant Emergency Plan to address hazards such as wildfires (including smoke).
Climate change is expected to increase the severity, duration, and frequency of extreme coastal	EPA will regularly test Mass Alert and Notification System and smaller-scale	<u>Annually:</u> Send test alerts through the Mass Alert and Notification System and take

and inland storms across the country, including those that happen suddenly. This impacts all EPA employees.	notification systems.	corrective action as needed if the test does not perform as intended. <u>FY 2024-FY 2027</u>: EPA leadership will begin reviewing EPA's facilities in the most vulnerable locations to determine the long-term plan for those facilities and begin developing processes and procedures to address the facilities with a high likelihood of risk impact. <u>FY 2024</u>: The agency is currently determining the appropriate stakeholders and leaders to engage in the decision process to make science informed and consensus-based investments.
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All EPA employees work in locations that are projected to experience an increase in the annual number of days with the maximum temperature and precipitation exceeding the 99th percentile in all RCP scenarios. Many EPA employees either work directly at an EPA-owned laboratory facility or are connected to the work conducted in EPA's laboratories that are also all located in areas expected to experience an increase in the annual number of days with the maximum temperature and precipitation amount exceeding the 99th percentile in all RCP scenarios.

EPA's onsite climate resilience assessments consider each EPA-owned laboratory location's vulnerabilities that could be exacerbated by extreme heat and precipitation. To better understand the consequences to locations that have high exposure and vulnerability to extreme heat and precipitation, among other hazards, the climate resilience assessments include interviews with key staff working in research, applied science, field work, environmental management systems (EMS), facilities and safety management, and O&M. The interviews aim to gain a better understanding of the breakdown between indoor and outdoor work; hours of operation; requirement to work onsite; past experiences with hazard events; external coordination with utilities on emergency preparedness and response planning; and the existence of internal and external emergency response exercises and drills.

This information helps identify gaps in plans, exercises and hazards considered at each EPA-owned laboratory in existing emergency response policies and procedures, as well as ways to maintain a safe working environment for EPA employees and contractors in the face of increasing extreme heat and precipitation. These gaps are addressed in each climate resilience assessment's project recommendations. One example of a project recommendation from the onsite climate resilience assessment is to update O&M contracts to include contingency plans and emergency provisions. Examples of contingency plans in future contracts could include detailing contract workforce protections and procedures during high likelihood or high consequence future hazard events. Contracts could also require that appropriate personal protective equipment is provided to those working in extreme heat or other hazardous conditions. Additionally, these assessments help incorporate potential climate impacts in employee safety plans and training for nationwide facility EMS and Safety, Health and Environmental Management Programs (SHEMP), such as Integrated Vegetation Management and Pollinator Programs that promote planting native and drought-resistant vegetation at sites and OSHA Heat Illness Safety training courses.

Beyond EPA's owned laboratories, EPA regions and locations have developed Occupant Emergency Plans (OEP) to provide information to EPA employees on a how to respond in emergency events, such as fires or earthquakes. Only 5.7% of the Agency's buildings have high risk to wildfires and less than 3% of the Agency's employees have high, very high or extreme risk to wildfires, but a wildfire can have devastating consequences to employee health and safety if one does occur in an area where the Agency is located. EPA will continue developing and updating educational materials for EPA employees as part of the OEP program to address climate hazards with a high likelihood of occurring and those with severe potential consequences. EPA already distributes "Informational Notifications" to its employees on topical hazards. Recent Informational Notification emails from 2023 included emails on wildfire smoke and extreme heat. Each email defines the hazard, shares ways that employees can prepare for the hazard at work and at home, describes the signs of related illness (if relevant) and links to other resources for more information. These notifications help raise awareness of climate hazards and mitigation actions that EPA employees can take.

The vast majority of EPA employees work in counties that are in a 100-year floodplain (99% of employees), and 88% are also located in a county that a 500-year floodplain. Additionally, 7% of EPA employees work in counties that are exposed to sea level rise in both mid-century scenarios, which increases to 43% and 51% in the RCP 4.5 and 8.5 late-century scenarios, respectively. As the severity, duration, and frequency of extreme coastal and inland storms across the country increase as a result of climate change impacts, EPA has a greater need to be able to distribute information quickly and effectively to employees in emergencies. EPA employs a nationwide Mass Alert and Notification System (MANS) to provide critical notifications to employees during events and emergencies that can also be used in response to climate hazards, such as flooding events.

To ensure that the MANS system is functioning as expected and reaching all employees, EPA will continue conducting annual tests of the MANS system and take corrective action as needed. In addition to the nationwide MANS notifications, EPA regions and programs also use their own local alert systems onsite at EPA locations and via text and email messaging to alert employees of any

emergencies, hazards, and threats. At an Agency-wide level, EPA is also considering the long-term plan for operations at its most at-risk facilities that are in coastal locations and are likely to experience severe impacts from sea level rise and extreme storms through the late century. If the Agency determines that the risk posed by climate change is too costly in the long-term for a specific facility, the EPA employees who work at that facility will be impacted. This policy decision is discussed in further detail in Section 3B Incorporating Climate Risk into Policy and Programs.

3A.3 Advancing the America the Beautiful Initiative

Under the Biden-Harris Administration’s America the Beautiful (AtB) Initiative, EPA is an active participant in government-wide efforts to connect and restore 30% of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030 for the benefit of our economy, our health, and our well-being. To achieve this ambitious goal, EPA and other federal agencies are committed to following key principles to guide conservation and restoration efforts, as framed by the AtB Initiative (see sidebar).

The EPA is taking a wide range of actions to achieve the goals of the AtB Initiative across several of the program’s focus areas, including creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities; supporting Tribally-led conservation and restoration priorities; expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors; increasing access for outdoor recreation; incentivizing and rewarding the voluntary conservation efforts of fishers, ranchers, farmers, and forest owners; and creating jobs by investing in restoration and resilience.

Many of the efforts that the EPA is supporting as part of the America the Beautiful Initiative generate direct or indirect benefits to ecosystems and communities working to adapt to the impacts of climate change. EPA accomplishments under the first three years of the America the Beautiful Initiative, and priorities for AtB implementation in the coming years, are described below.

America the Beautiful Initiative Key Areas of Focus

1. Pursuing a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation
2. Conserving America’s lands and waters for the benefit of all people.
3. Supporting locally led and locally designed conservation efforts.
4. Honoring Tribal sovereignty and supporting the priorities of Tribal Nations.
5. Pursuing conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities.
6. Honoring private property rights and supporting the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners.
7. Using science as a guide.
8. Building on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches.

National Estuary Program. Conservation, protection, and restoration of hundreds of thousands of acres across 28 nationally designated watershed-based estuarine systems. Receiving more than \$130 million under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and coupled with annual appropriations, the National Estuary Program’s core mission is to improve water quality, protect habitats for fish and other wildlife and the people and communities who rely on them. The National Estuary Program does this through

locally led Management Conferences, implementing long-term Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans that address a range of ecosystems stressors, support environmental and outdoor education programs, monitoring, and engage a diverse range of place-based partners in long-term conservation planning and implementation.

EPA's 28 National Estuary Programs have a legacy of significantly leveraging EPA resources to invest in projects that directly conserve coastal and riparian ecosystems, which play a fundamental role in absorbing the impacts of storms and sea-level rise, and provide economic, cultural, and recreational value to surrounding communities. In its 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation Memorandum for the National Estuary Program, EPA directed each program to support community efforts to adapt to climate change within their geographies, and to outline those plans in each program's Equity Strategy, connecting climate change response to environmental justice. These efforts advance America the Beautiful focus areas 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

Geographic Programs. Across 12 EPA-administered, watershed-based geographic partnership programs authorized under the Clean Water Act, EPA and other federal partners are working with states, other conservation partners, Tribes, and private landowners to conserve more than 400,000 acres since 2019 alone. During this period, the programs, spanning from the Chesapeake Bay to the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico to Puget Sound, have restored aquatic connectivity for fish and other species, and restored water quality over more than 1,000 stream miles. Highlights include:

- **Gulf of Mexico Program:** Understanding the role that private lands management plays within our watersheds, the Gulf of Mexico program made \$21 million available in FY22 for Farmer-to-Farmer grants to assist historically underserved farmers in the Gulf basin in supporting conservation and nutrient reduction efforts. These efforts will be augmented through nearly \$50 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:** In partnership with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative provided nearly \$19 million in funds to Tribal Nations and intertribal organizations to build resource management capacity, protect and restore treaty-reserved resources and culturally significant habitats and species that support Tribal self-determined priorities. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is investing another \$1 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to clean up legacy pollution in remaining Areas of Concern across the region, improving the vitality and resilience of ecosystems and the aquatic life that depend on them.
- **Chesapeake Bay Program:** Under the America the Beautiful initiative, EPA and partner agencies in the Chesapeake Bay Program have increased protected lands by hundreds of thousands of acres, bringing the program to 75% of its protection goal of 2.5 million additional acres protected by 2025, on top of 9.3 million currently protected acres (about 23% of the watershed). The Chesapeake Bay Program is leveraging nearly \$240 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to invest in a broad range of conservation and resilience efforts, from urban reforestation to farmer-led nutrient reduction projects.

The EPA's 12 Geographic Programs vary in geography and structure, but all serve to increase protected lands and waters and enhance the health and vitality of land and water ecosystems in their watersheds. Many of the programs directly invest in climate resilience – from research into the effects of ocean-warming on coral and other marine life in South Florida to mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge on communities and ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, and Massachusetts Bay. EPA's 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure guidance to Geographic Programs included a direction for programs to develop detailed Equity Strategies to leverage investments to achieve equity and environmental justice goals and included incentives for programs to focus on supporting disadvantaged communities. These efforts advance all America the Beautiful focus areas.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Grants for State and Tribal Governments. The EPA awards Clean Water Act Section 319 grants to states and federally recognized Tribes to support state and tribally led efforts to protect and restore waters from nonpoint source pollution. The program is developing new guidelines to integrate climate change and equity considerations more broadly and directly into Section 319 grant implementation.

Climate change is causing more frequent and longer droughts, water supply shortages, wildfires, frequent and more intense storms, flooding, and sea-level rise. These events have broader effects on the Nonpoint Source program. For example, higher temperatures can affect water chemistry, which can increase eutrophic conditions. More frequent and intense storms can result in more pollutant runoff, including sewer overflows and eroded shorelines. Longer growing seasons may also increase nonpoint source pollution loadings over time. The resulting water quality impairments can threaten natural systems, affect community and economic health, and diminish or eliminate people's recreational opportunities.

The CWA Section 319 program plays an important role by supporting state, Tribal, and local government efforts to develop WBPs and implement NPS controls that provide significant climate resilience and adaptation co-benefits. The NPS program guidelines prioritize nature-based solutions to help mitigate the impacts of those natural hazards. They also include expectations that nonpoint source management practices are designed to be climate resilient and encourages states to try to quantify the climate resilience co-benefits of these practices (such as flood water retention, reduced water temperatures).

Healthy Watershed Consortium. The EPA's Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program supports local watershed protection demonstration and capacity-building projects across the United States. These projects help maintain healthy, intact aquatic ecosystems that are critical to maintaining climate resiliency across the landscape. Healthy watersheds preserve base flows during periods of drought, mitigate flooding impacts, support species migration through intact riparian corridors, and enable carbon sequestration in protected natural land cover. The program helped grantees and their partners protect an estimated 1.1 million acres and 5,200 perennial stream miles between 2016-2022. In 2023, EPA also published a new resource guide, Advancing Watershed Protection through Land Conservation: A Guide for Land Trusts, aimed at reorienting the land conservation community to EPA water

programs, resources, and foundational concepts around watershed protection. This effort advances America the Beautiful focus areas 3 and 5.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership works in more than 20 urban watersheds across the country with 15 federal agencies and hundreds of local partners and community-based organizations. From Puerto Rico to Denver to Atlanta to New York City, the Partnership's twin goals are to restore and protect water quality while delivering on environmental justice disadvantaged communities. The program's Framework for the Future, celebrating the first 10 years of progress, hopes to expand this partnership model to more urban locations, pending available resources, and to advance many of the goals of the America the Beautiful initiative. Urban Waters Ambassadors provide local, community-based capacity to develop priorities, coordinate with local governments and organizations, and conduct outreach with citizens and communities.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is helping to advance restoration efforts and to develop green and blue spaces in many communities long deprived of access to safe and clean outdoor activities. Nature-based Solutions (discussed in Section 3B.3 of this CAP) can include both green spaces (e.g., city parks, avenue and roadside trees and green roofs) and blue spaces (e.g. water channels, urban lakes, ponds, and rivers). Establishing and maintaining green and blue spaces can help manage local flooding, build resilience to drought, protect coastal areas, and reduce urban heat islands.

The UWFP supports locally led restoration, education and engagement, and access to nature, as well as supporting efforts to enhance the connectivity of river ecosystems impacted by development. This program support America the Beautiful focus areas 1, 3, and 4. On April 21, EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and DOI announced the Walnut Creek watershed as the 21st location in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in Raleigh, North Carolina – officially serving as the inaugural event of the White House Campaign for Environmental Justice.

EPA Brownfields Program. Brownfields recovery plays an important role in revitalizing communities by cleaning up and repurposing contaminated sites. The program offers Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants, providing funding for a grant recipient to capitalize a revolving loan fund and to provide loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. Through these grants, EPA strengthens the marketplace and encourages stakeholders to leverage resources to clean up and redevelop brownfields. When loans are repaid, the loan amount is returned to the fund and re-lent to other borrowers, providing an ongoing source of capital within a community. In FY23, the EPA Brownfields Program assessed nearly 1,900 sites and cleaned up 170 properties. This work supported more than 17,000 jobs and opened brownfield site near the Mississippi River, an area extremely vulnerable to flooding.

While the Brownfields program is an important EPA pollution cleanup program, it also makes the land safe for reuse for a range of purposes, including providing habitat for native species, offering space for outdoor recreation, and providing opportunities to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. One example of using brownfield redevelopment for building resilience to climate change impacts was

at a brownfield site near the Mississippi River, an area extremely vulnerable to flooding. The site was transformed into a stormwater park and a piece of riverbank was restored to a natural and sustainable state. The park can now absorb and clean up to seven inches of stormwater runoff in a single day, ultimately preventing stormwater from entering the river. EPA's Climate Smart Brownfields Manual offers guidance on best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience at all stages of brownfields work. EPA's Climate Smart Brownfields Manual offers guidance on best practices for climate change adaptation and resilience at all stages of brownfields work. This program supports America the Beautiful focus areas 1, 4, 6.

3B. Climate Resilient Operations

3B.1 Accounting for Climate Risk in Planning and Decision Making

As much as possible and consistent with its authorities and available resources, EPA is accounting for the risks posed by climate change and related environmental justice concerns as it designs, implements, and assesses its programs, policies, rules, enforcement and compliance assurance activities, and operations (i.e., facility operations, workforce protection, managing and protecting supply chains).

The Agency is building the climate literacy of its management and staff to integrate adaptation into decision-making processes. It is doing this through formal training processes (e.g., all new EPA employees are required to take introductory training on climate adaptation), and by building a community of practice to foster peer-to-peer sharing of experiences. EPA is also developing decision-support tools and providing technical assistance to enable staff to integrate climate adaptation into programs and to identify strategies that will also yield co-benefits, such as reducing greenhouse gases and other pollution, and advancing environmental justice. Major approaches taken by EPA to include the results of climate risk assessment in planning and decision-making processes include:

- Protecting EPA facilities: As described in Section 2, climate adaptation is now an integral component of EPA's site planning, facility support and operations.
- Protecting EPA's supply chains: Implementing the Agency's Supply Chain Risk Management Plan "Implementation Plan" that includes actions to protect against the risks posed by climate change.
- Embedding climate adaptation into rulemaking processes: EPA is integrating information about the impacts of climate change in agency rulemaking processes consistent with its authorities. EPA is considering a variety of "entry points," including the development of the rule itself; related policy and guidance development; outreach to stakeholders, especially communities with environmental justice concerns that are more vulnerable to climate impacts; post-rule permitting; and monitoring and enforcement and compliance assurance activities.
- Modernizing EPA financial assistance programs: EPA is modernizing its financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments across the nation.
- Provision of technical support: EPA has established an Integrated Climate Sciences Division within its Office of Research and Development that (1) supports the implementation of the 20

EPA program and regional office Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans, and (2) provides place-based technical support to all 10 regional offices and the communities they serve.

3B.2 Incorporating Climate Risk Assessment into Budget Planning

EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan has an Agency-wide goal (Goal 1) focused on tackling the climate crisis. One of the objectives (Objective 1.2) of the goal is to accelerate resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts. The Agency has three Long-Term Performance Goals (LTPGs) associated with this objective (see side bar). Annual targets have been set for each LTPG.

The work the entire Agency does to attain the annual targets for the LTPGs informs the Agency's annual budget submission to OMB for work related to climate adaptation. The work is driven by (1) an Agency-wide climate vulnerability assessment EPA conducted, (2) more detailed office-specific vulnerability assessments every program office and all 10 regional offices developed, (3) Executive Orders and major memoranda focused on Administration priorities (e.g., focused on Indigenous Knowledge; environmental justice; nature based solutions; ensuring the outcomes of infrastructure investments are resilient to climate impacts), and (4) available staff and financial resources.

Every EPA program office and all 10 regional offices have developed Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans that contain their office-specific vulnerability assessments and the actions they will take to address the vulnerabilities and help attain the LTPGs in the EPA FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Every year, the programs and regions identify the specific priority actions they will take given available resources and any "above target" resources they receive. Taken together, the annual priority actions inform the development of EPA's annual budget submission to OMB for its work on climate adaptation.

EPA's Climate Adaptation Long-Term Performance Goals (FY22-26)

1. By September 30, 2026, **implement all priority actions in EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and 20 national program and regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans** to account for the impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment.
2. By September 30, 2026, **assist at least 400 federally recognized Tribes to take action** to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to/recover from impacts of climate change.
3. By September 30, 2026, **assist at least 450 states, territories, local governments, and disadvantaged communities, at risk from climate change, to take action** to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to/recover from impacts of climate change.

Another important mechanism for informing budget planning is the innovative Climate Adaptation Measurement Program (CAMP) database developed by the Office of Policy (OP). The system is used for tracking the progress being made by every program and regional office with their priority actions and the outcomes each priority action is leading to. When the annual priority actions are entered into the CAMP database by the program and regional offices, they indicate for each action whether funds are already available to implement the action or whether "above target" funds are needed. This information also informs the budget request for the Agency's work on climate adaptation.

3B.3. Incorporating Climate Risk into Policy and Programs

Agency Policies Reviewed - Climate Adaptation and Resilience	
Changes already made to programs/tools	
1. <u>EPA's Climate Enforcement and Compliance Strategy Memo</u>	This memorandum, signed in September 2023 by the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, requires EPA's enforcement and compliance program to: (1) prioritize enforcement and compliance actions to mitigate climate change; (2) include climate adaptation and resilience in case conclusions whenever appropriate; and (3) provide technical assistance to achieve climate-related solutions and build climate change capacity among EPA staff and our state and local partners. These requirements apply across all EPA enforcement and compliance activities, including criminal, civil, federal facilities, and cleanup enforcement. Examples of climate change adaptation and resiliency efforts in EPA's enforcement and compliance programs include: • A settlement with Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) will incorporate climate change adaptation and resilience best practices for upgrades to its sewer system to be better prepared to withstand severe storms and hurricanes. • Settlements with the cities of Greenville and Hattiesburg, Mississippi require that the work to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and maintain compliance with the Clean Water Act be performed using sound engineering practices, including practices to improve the resilience of the sewer systems. • A settlement with the U.S. Army for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) requirements at U.S Army Garrison Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico requires the Army to assess the risks to, and resilience of, its community water system, including risk from natural hazards.

2. Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation Criteria into Applicable Financial Assistance Agreements	EPA is modernizing its financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments across the nation. On February 28, 2023, the EPA Deputy Administrator and EPA’s Senior Climate Change Adaptation Official issued a memorandum entitled “Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation Criteria into Applicable Financial Assistance Agreements.” It was sent to all EPA Assistance Administrators, Associate Administrators, and Regional Administrators. The memorandum called on all the Programs and Regions to integrate climate adaptation into all relevant financial assistance agreements, over time. The immediate focus is on BIL and IRA to help ensure that the outcomes of investments made with those funds are resilient to the impacts of climate change. The memorandum also established a new subgroup to the Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Change Adaptation. The Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate is an Agency-wide team of individuals from the program and regional offices who are collectively supporting the efforts of EPA program managers to incorporate climate adaptation into financial assistance agreements, and helping recipients of funds make climate-smart investments.
3. Response to Facility Vulnerabilities	As described in Section 2 (Risk Assessment), in 2022, EPA’s Office of Mission Support began conducting climate resiliency assessments at its owned laboratory facilities to further characterize the relationship between likelihood of exposure to climate hazards; vulnerability; and scope of consequences to the mission, workforce, assets, and the infrastructure and utility systems EPA relies on. To date, the Office of Mission Support has conducted 11 of the 18 owned laboratory site visits and a total of 10 climate resiliency assessment reports have been completed. Once each report is finalized, key EPA Office of Mission Support and site stakeholders meet to review the assessment’s recommended projects and vote on the highest priority recommendation(s) to increase the resiliency of EPA’s facilities by addressing the most likely and consequential hazards. Funding of the high priority projects and the continuity of the resiliency assessment program are dependent on budget allowances.

	In addition to its resiliency efforts, EPA has committed to incorporating energy efficiency and greenhouse gas mitigation considerations into the Agency’s facility master planning process to identify opportunities for carbon-free and net-zero solutions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and potential negative downstream impacts to the surrounding communities. Where EPA owned facilities geographically fall within ancestral and tribal lands, facility staff will coordinate and consult as necessary with local tribes and communities. The Office of Mission Support will also appoint a Historic Preservation Officer, who will consult with local communities, tribes, and National Registries to preserve culturally significant and historic assets and sites.
<u>4. Wildfire Guide: Preparation and Recovery for Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Systems</u>	EPA developed this guide as a resource for Underground Storage Tank and Oil Aboveground Storage Tank owners and operators in the event of a wildfire. This guide may help Underground Storage Tank and Oil Aboveground Storage Tank owners and operators prepare for and respond to the catastrophic effects and environmental harm that may occur as a result of partial or fully burned Underground Storage Tank systems or Oil Aboveground Storage Tanks and associated piping and appurtenances.
<u>5. Consideration of Climate Resilience in the Superfund Cleanup Process for Non-Federal NPL Sites Memorandum</u>	In June 2021, EPA’s Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation issued a memorandum recommending the following approach for EPA regions to consider when evaluating climate resilience during the remedy selection and implementation process: (1) assess the vulnerability of a remedial action’s components and evaluate the impact of climate change on the long-term protectiveness of a selected remedy; (2) identify and evaluate adaptation measures that increase the system’s resilience; and (3) implement adaptation measures necessary to help maintain the long-term protectiveness of CERCLA remedial actions.

<u>6. The State Revolving Fund Sustainability Conversation Guide (2014)</u>	This Guide, issued in 2014, generated discussions of climate adaptation as part of the conversations regional offices have with the states about the use of State Revolving Funds. This guide was reinforced when the Office of Water received BIL funds targeted for the State Revolving Fund program.
<u>7. Inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in EPA Programs Training and Community of Practice</u>	EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) released to the Agency in January 2024 a new training on how to include Indigenous Knowledge in EPA's programs and will be establishing a new community of practice for EPA staff working with Indigenous Knowledge. Incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge is one of four priority actions in <u>OITA's Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan</u>. OITA is offering live training opportunities on Indigenous Knowledge for EPA employees. This training follows release of the White House's <u>Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge (pdf)</u> in December 2022. The training provides an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous Knowledge, learn about the new government-wide guidance, and gain insight into implementing the guidance across EPA. The training, which focuses on both adaptation and mitigation, will be recorded and will be made available to EPA employees on EPA's Indigenous Knowledge intranet site.
<u>8. Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice through Reviews Conducted Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act</u>	The Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy issued a memo providing guidance to the EPA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) review community on how to consider climate change and environmental justice in the scope of these reviews.

1. Integration into Rulemakings	<u>In-Progress</u> EPA is considering how climate change may impact its rules so the agency can continue to protect human health and the environment in the face of possible climate change impacts. While EPA accounts for natural hazard risk in its regulatory analyses, the agency is also using the best available information to understand how future conditions might affect the outcomes of regulations. In this way, EPA's four major offices (that address air quality, water quality, contaminated sites, and chemical safety) are, consistent with statutory authorities, helping communities across the country build resilience. This work will help these offices continue to meet EPA's statutory responsibilities despite changing environmental risks from increasing temperatures, wildfires, extreme weather, sea level rise, flooding, and drought.
<u>2. Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program Grants</u>	With an influx of BIL funding, this new grant program will support eligible entities with projects in underserved (a community that does not have access to household drinking water or wastewater services or is served by a public water system that violates the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) <u>and</u> small (contains a population of less than 10,000 people) <u>or</u> disadvantaged (the service area of a public water system that meets affordability criteria established by its respective State) to increase drinking water system resilience to natural hazards. Eligible activities for funding include planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance.
3. EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management three memoranda related to consideration of climate change impacts on: a. <u>Clean-up of polychlorinated biphenyls (Draft)</u> b. <u>Permitting under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Draft)</u> c. <u>Corrective Action under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Final)</u>	These three 2023 memoranda from the Director of the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery to the Land, Chemical and Redevelopment Division Directors in EPA Regions 1-10 convey EPA's recommendations on: a. When and how to consider potential adverse climate change impacts in the polychlorinated biphenyl clean-up approval process. The draft memo identifies authorities, provides interpretations of relevant TSCA provisions, and recommends approaches to ensure that controls will provide long-term effectiveness through resilience to potential adverse climate change impacts. b. When and how to consider potential adverse climate change impacts in the hazardous waste permitting process under the Resource Conservation and Recovery

	Act. The draft memo includes recommendations for conducting climate change vulnerability screenings and assessments for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities to determine whether there are climate vulnerabilities that hazardous waste permits should address. c. How EPA regions and authorized states should work with RCRA facility owners or operators to integrate climate change adaptation considerations into the corrective action process under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The recently finalized memo includes recommendations for conducting climate vulnerability screenings and assessments to determine potential climate risks and impacts in remedy selection, remedy implementation, and long-term stewardship.
Nature-Based Solutions	
Policies encouraging nature-based solutions. The Agency encourages consideration of nature-based solutions (NBS) to advance resilience to the impacts of climate change across all programs, so it is difficult to provide details on the number of policies in which consideration of NBS is included.	Examples. EPA supported the development of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Nature Based Solutions Roadmap and continues to play a leadership role by coordinating the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative, supporting government-wide efforts through technical assistance, training, capacity building, and best practices development.
Environmental Justice	
How EJ Considerations are Included in Climate Adaptation Policies. Environmental Justice is a central part of EPA’s climate adaptation work. In his May 2021 Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation, the EPA Administrator directed all EPA offices to consult and partner with states, tribes, territories, local governments, environmental justice organizations, community groups, businesses, and other federal agencies to strengthen adaptive capacity and increase the resilience of the nation, with a particular focus on advancing environmental justice. Given this directive, the 2021 EPA Climate Adaptation Plan identified ways the Agency will work with	Examples. • Using \$2 billion in IRA funds, EPA has launched the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program to provide funds for environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges. • EPA used American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to help four state and tribal governments plan projects that build resilience to impacts from climate change and natural disasters. The projects emphasized place-based, community-driven resilience strategies such as green infrastructure

overburdened and vulnerable populations to increase their resilience to climate change. Such populations include communities of color, low-income communities, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, tribes, and indigenous people. More detailed priority actions were then identified in the Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans produced by each of EPA's program offices and all 10 regional offices. EPA's climate adaptation staff work closely with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights to consider tribal interests in developing climate adaptation policies and programs.	that offer multiple benefits for climate adaptation and for addressing environmental justice concerns, preserving livelihoods and cultures, and enhancing quality of life. • The Office of Air and Radiation's Indoor Environments Division, Office of Children's Health Protection, Office of Policy, Office of Research and Development, and EPA Regions 9 and 10 developed a new program called <u>Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers</u>. This program provided action plans for school districts and public health agencies on how to retrofit schools to create more safe spaces in vulnerable communities during wildfire smoke and extreme heat events.
Tribal Nations	
How EPA has Consulted/Coordinated with Tribal Nations. • In 2022, because of Tribal input at the National Tribal Operations Committee meeting, EPA and the National Tribal Operations Committee created a subgroup focused on Climate Change. To date, this subgroup has commented on EPA climate-related plans, hosted Town Halls to inform and receive input from Tribes and is planning on a series of climate adaptation trainings and engagements with tribal staff in 2024. • EPA regional offices and tribal governments are working together to better understand the impacts of climate change on Tribal communities and to develop targeted adaptation strategies. This includes conducting research, collecting data, and sharing information. Region 3 is conducting a project with local tribes to evaluate cumulative impacts including climate ones. Additionally, the Office of Air and Radiation's Tribal Air Quality Toolkit is co-developed with Tribes	Examples of Tribal Input Informing Agency Actions. • The Office of Air and Radiation, in partnership with the regional offices, is developing a Tribal Air Quality Toolkit to provide Tribes with information and resources on air quality issues, such as monitoring, permitting, emissions inventories, and health impacts. Climate change can worsen existing environmental problems and air quality, and it may also introduce new problems as the frequency or severity of adverse conditions change. Households and Tribal communities with fewer resources are less likely to have access to the systems that help keep their environments safe and healthy. The OAR resources will support Tribal resilience in the face of climate change. • The Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention is working with tribes and states to incorporate climate change considerations into pesticide risk assessments and management decisions, as well as to promote the use of integrated pest management practices that reduce pesticide use and greenhouse gas emissions. OCSPP is working with Tribes to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the assessment to build the resiliency of decisions.

to ensure the relevancy of the Toolkit. • EPA is working with Tribes to develop emergency plans for responding to climate-related disasters such as floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. These plans include strategies for evacuating vulnerable populations, providing emergency supplies, and coordinating with other agencies, especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency. • EPA developed a partnership with the Environmental Protection Network to support Tribes in conducting vulnerability assessments that identify specific climate-related risks and consider factors such as geography, infrastructure, and traditional lifeways and practices, and help Tribes develop targeted adaptation strategies. • EPA is helping tribes to develop climate adaptation plans in preparation for the impacts of climate change. These plans include strategies for protecting infrastructure, preserving traditional lifeways and, and ensuring food security. Support for climate adaptation planning is provided in several ways, including through grants, such as the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program, and partnerships such as the Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Network to provide targeted technical assistance. EPA consulted extensively on the General Assistance Guidance which now allows more climate related activities. • Based on numerous consultations with Tribal Nations, EPA is collaborating with other federal agencies, such as Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support Tribal climate adaptation efforts. This includes sharing information, coordinating efforts,	• The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance is enhancing its compliance assistance and outreach efforts to help Tribes and communities comply with environmental laws and regulations, as well as to identify and address environmental justice concerns related to climate change. This will build resilience and help ensure remedies are protective even as the climate changes. • The Office of International and Tribal Affairs is supporting the development and implementation of tribal climate adaptation plans, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among Tribes, states, local governments, and international partners. These plans include strategies for protecting infrastructure, preserving traditional lifeways and, and ensuring food security. Support for climate adaptation planning is provided in a number of ways, including through grants, such as the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program, and partnerships such as the MOU with the Environmental Protection Network to provide targeted technical assistance. • The Office of Research and Development is conducting and supporting scientific research and technical assistance to inform and improve the adaptation and resilience of Tribes and communities, such as assessing the vulnerability and exposure of tribal lands and resources, developing tools and models to project future climate scenarios and impacts, and evaluating the effectiveness and co-benefits of adaptation and mitigation strategies. • Waste management, while a RCRA program, is essential to protecting water systems from pollution during extreme weather events and, because waste is sometimes burned after disasters, protecting air quality and human health. To address this, EPA released a waste management tool for disaster debris, so tribal communities have the information they need to respond in a protective and effective way.
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and providing joint technical assistance.	Historically, a lot of post-disaster waste has been mismanaged, creating health, environmental, and social impacts on communities who are being impacted by the disaster itself.
Co-Benefits of Adaptation	
How EPA Reviews Climate Mitigation Policies to Integrate Adaptation Principles and Identify Co-benefits. EPA is reviewing and revising opportunities across its capacity building and technical assistance efforts to identify and implement adaptation strategies that deliver co-benefits for mitigation of greenhouse gases and other pollution, public health, economic growth and job creation, national security, and environmental justice. EPA has revised program policies, guidance documents, and capacity building initiatives to provide co-benefits.	Examples • In 2022, EPA updated its program policy for the hazardous waste Superfund Program by releasing Green Remediation Best Management Practices. The green remediation practices improve existing Superfund policies by encouraging renewable energy usage through nature-based design principals using vegetation that captures carbon while also building resilience to climate change driven floods, sea level rise, and storm events. • EPA’s Office of Community Revitalization has committed under the Office of Policy’s Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan to integrate climate adaptation into its technical assistance projects, which help communities to revitalize downtowns and main streets. Supporting the revival of these central areas reduces greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by making it easier for people to walk, bike, take transit, or drive shorter distances. The Office of Community Revitalization also incorporated planning strategies that may help communities build resilience to extreme climatic events, achieve electrification and decarbonization goals, while stabilizing their local economies to continue to thrive as the climate changes. • EPA is incorporating adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation considerations into its Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative which provides drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater (water sector) utilities with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to increase system resilience to climate change. For example, the Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative collaborated with federal and non-federal partners on the “Leading Practices in Climate

	Adaptation” webinar series. The series explored steps to mainstreaming climate science and adaptation considerations into the work of water utilities, including measures to lower greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage paired with climate resilience and adaptation strategies.
EPA is reviewing and revising its broad portfolio of grant programs that support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for opportunities to develop criteria and incentives for funding recipients to integrate adaptation into their climate mitigation projects. EPA is giving priority consideration to programs administering Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funds to capture these historic investments in infrastructure, clean energy, and greenhouse gas reduction.	• EPA incorporated co-benefits into the guidance for the \$27 Billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), an Inflation Reduction Act program. In the 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the GGRF’s National Clean Investment Fund, the Net-Zero Emissions Buildings category included co-benefits as a critical element to be included in applications. Co-benefits include climate resilience, along with occupant health, and environmental stewardship as critical elements of a holistic building design, construction, and operations strategy. • The EPA Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over five years with funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to replace existing school buses with zero-emission all-electric and low-emission models, lowering greenhouse gas emissions. In 2023, EPA incorporated climate change adaptation into the 2023 Clean School Bus Program Grant program. The program now evaluates applicants on the quality and extent to which the proposed project assesses and implements resilient measures, such as ensuring that electric school buses and charging equipment are protected from climate-driven flooding, sea level rise, and storm damage.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience. Every program and regional office within the Agency has been conducting a comprehensive review of policies and regulations to integrate climate-smart approaches and these reviews will continue into the future. Listed in the table above are examples of EPA’s push to encourage Agency-wide consideration of climate change impacts on Agency program missions, functions, and activities. As programs and regions continue their reviews, the list of examples will grow.

Nature-Based Solutions. Nature-based solutions (NBS) are a fundamental component of a broad range of Agency programs to advance resilience to the impacts of climate change. In particular,

through its leadership of the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative, EPA is helping to lead federal efforts to reduce challenges to permitting green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, and is developing several important tools, including federal permitting and policy recommendations for supporting the adoption of nature-based solutions as well as a guidebook for developing regional permitting networks for NBS implementation.

Infrastructure investment programs are a central component of EPA's strategy to support the use of nature-based solutions to achieve climate, water quality, community resilience, and other goals. EPA recommends and supports the use of nature-based solutions in a wide range of infrastructure programs, and included guidance on prioritizing NBS, where possible, through implementation of the more than \$43 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law State Revolving Fund resources, and as an eligible category in the Inflation Reduction Act's \$2 billion Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program, supporting projects advancing environmental justice in disadvantaged communities. Many of EPA's place-based programs, including the National Estuary Programs and Geographic Programs, invest in nature-based solutions to protect water quality, restore aquatic habitats, and enhance resilience to climate change. NBS and green infrastructure priorities were specifically highlighted in BIL implementation memoranda for these programs.

Environmental Justice (EJ). EPA's FY22-26 Strategic Plan emphasizes a cross-Agency approach to facilitate the consideration of EJ in all of the Agency's work. These efforts, championed by the Agency's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR), include incorporating environmental justice considerations in climate adaptation policies and coordination on funding announcements, technical assistance, and policy and regulatory development. This work is consistent with recommendations from the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC) and includes, for example: (1) supporting the efforts of EJ communities to conduct vulnerability assessments to identify their vulnerabilities to environmental hazards and the risks posed by climate change; (2) actively engaging and partnering with EJ communities to develop and implement climate adaptation plans focused on their needs and the outcomes of concern to them; (3) funding resiliency hubs, such as those focused on addressing extreme heat and its impacts; (4) supporting community-led post-disaster recovery efforts, including cleanup of toxic contaminants and protection of workers from exposures to toxic substances.

A significant example from 2023 includes the updating and signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between EPA and FEMA, forging a partnership between the two agencies to encourage and foster engagement and collaboration with disadvantaged communities, with a focused outreach to support adaptation actions that follow the principles of environmental justice and equity, including providing assistance and new tools to address climate and disaster-related public health issues.

In 2023, EPA announced the new Inflation Reduction Act Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants (Community Change Grants) program, providing \$2 billion in grant funding for projects to benefit disadvantaged communities as part of the Justice40 Initiative, and \$200 million for technical assistance in direct response to feedback from communities and environmental justice leaders who have long called for capacity building support for communities and their partners as they work to access critical federal resources. The grants, and associated technical assistance, support a

range of actions that build adaptive capacity, foster climate justice, and protect health and the environment.

For example, the program provides targeted design assistance for disaster-prone and disadvantaged communities and sets them up to compete for the more comprehensive Community Change Grants. The anticipated positive outcomes of these grants and technical assistance are expected to materialize over the next several years and EPA expects them to be transformational for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments. Finally, EPA is supporting Community Disaster Resilience Zone (CDRZ) communities. These are communities that have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the most at-risk and in-need communities. CDRZ designation is considered as a factor in the Community Change Grant selection process, and CDRZ communities qualify to receive free Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance.

Tribal Nations. EPA partners with Tribal governments (Tribes) in a number of ways to support their climate adaptation efforts. With the input of Tribes, EPA has identified several key areas where Tribal communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including infrastructure, food sources, and traditional lifeways and practices. Particular attention is given to actions that deliver co-benefits, including curbing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution, while promoting public health, economic growth, and climate justice. Adaptation helps reduce the need for energy-intensive infrastructure and reduces the impact of climate change on communities.

For example, by planning for climate change impacts such as sea level rise, drought, and wildfires, Tribes can take steps to reduce their vulnerability to these impacts and protect their communities and natural resources. Additionally, adaptation strategies such as land use planning can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting compact development, preserving green space, and reducing the need for automobile travel.

EPA is committed to tracking the impact of its programmatic actions with Tribal governments and communities. In its FY22-FY26 Strategic Plan, EPA pledged to increase the number of Tribes and communities that build climate resilience through EPA investments, grants, or technical assistance. By the end of FY2023, over 275 Tribes and 400 communities have built resilience to climate change, in part, because of the EPA's efforts. The EPA expects this number to increase in the years to come as the investments it is making today pay off in future Tribal and community resilience. EPA's Climate Adaptation Measurement Program (CAMP) Version 2.0 is expected to be ready in Summer 2024 and will track each action EPA took (e.g., grant, loan, technical assistance, or training) and the specific action(s) the tribe or community took.

Co-Benefits of Adaptation. In a 2021 Policy Statement, the EPA Administrator directed the Agency to incorporate climate adaptation into the Agency's programs while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and yielding other co-benefits. This commitment to climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits is reflected throughout EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan and in the commitments found in the 20 Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans for EPA's program offices and regions. EPA has taken some important first steps to realize these co-benefits, as demonstrated in Table 3B above.

3B.4. Climate-Smart Supply Chains and Procurement

The Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act of 2018 requires all Executive Branch agencies to establish a formal Supply Chain Risk Management program that includes conducting Supply Chain Risk Assessments. EPA includes an assessment of climate hazard risk as part of its overall Agency Supply Chain Risk Management. EPA plans to conduct Supply Chain Risk Assessments for Excepted, Program Management Improvement Accountability Act and Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act contracts in FY 2024.

At risk supplies/services	Outline Actions to Address Hazard(s)	Identify Progress Towards Addressing Hazard(s)
Describe the acute/long-term climate hazard posed to mission critical supply chains or services.	Outline actions to address hazards.	Identify any current progress to address hazards.
Increased heat and precipitation, flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires all threaten EPA's supply chain. EPA's laboratories require consistent, reliable, and timely deliveries of samples for research, which often have specific holding time and climate-controlled requirements to preserve the sample's integrity. The laboratories also need a variety of specialized products like inert gases to maintain accurate calibrations for analytic equipment.	1. EPA is incorporating Supply Chain Risk Management considerations into the Agency's Enterprise Risk Management processes by providing guidance for governance and support in emergency and contingency planning activities. 2. EPA's Office of Mission Support will continue to conduct facility resiliency assessments to identify and make recommendations for addressing facility-specific supply chain vulnerabilities. 3. EPA will continue to conduct Supply Chain Risk Assessments for programmatic and regional offices.	EPA has initiated a tiered approach to investigate the Agency's risks in 2024, prioritizing the Supply Chain Risk Assessment of enterprise-level critical supplies and services. Upon completion of the enterprise-level Supply Chain Risk Assessments and through FY 2027, EPA will begin to assess vulnerabilities and risks within regional and programmatic offices.
In addition to disruptions or delays in receiving laboratory supplies and samples, climate change may also disrupt the supply chain production, distribution, and transportation of equipment, parts, and in-person services needed for building operation and maintenance. Some equipment in EPA laboratories is already past its useful life and it is difficult for EPA staff and operations and maintenance contractors to obtain needed replacement parts and specialized repair services.	1. EPA region and program contracting offices will begin requiring offerors to disclose their own risks and submit an internal vulnerability assessment at the time of bidding to be more proactive in addressing potential vulnerabilities. 2. Pending storage constraints, EPA laboratories will keep extra operations and maintenance parts and equipment onsite. 3. EPA will continue implementing infrastructure replacement projects to remove older mechanical and other equipment and replace with energy efficient equipment.	EPA is in the process of multiple Infrastructure Replacement Projects (IRP) at its laboratories in Duluth, Minnesota; Ada, Oklahoma; and Athens, Georgia; and has budgeted for an IRP at its laboratory in Newport, Oregon, pending an Agency-wide decision about whether to continue to invest in that laboratory given its high-risk exposure to climate hazards due to its location.

At risk supplies/services	Outline Actions to Address Hazard(s)	Identify Progress Towards Addressing Hazard(s)
As mandated by Executive Order 14057, EPA has been implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve building efficiency, and procure more carbon pollution-free electricity, and tracks that progress through installation of additional advanced meters and building automation system programs. Many of these systems require the use of proprietary technology that is not already compatible with EPA security policies and requires the procurement of third-party, cloud-based services to operate the software. Additionally, many of EPA's laboratories also use highly specific research equipment that requires proprietary software to analyze samples and access results.	1. EPA will continue to integrate Supply Chain Risk Management considerations into information and communications technology procurement and the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act contract processes. 2. EPA will continue to update and integrate information and communications technology and cybersecurity policies as new regulations, legislation, and statutory guidance documents are released. 3. EPA will participate in intragovernmental processes to address cross-sector risks and cybersecurity supply chain risk management incident response to help maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of EPA technical infrastructure and assets.	EPA will adopt the use of the Office of Personnel Management's Software Attestation Form for submission by current and prospective vendors once official guidance is finalized and released. In the interim, the Agency will follow and implement the Public Notification of Software Attestation requirements posted on SAM.gov.

At risk supplies/services	Outline Actions to Address Hazard(s)	Identify Progress Towards Addressing Hazard(s)
Climate change can increase risk for cyber threats, disruptions, and other opportunities for information exploitation. Risks to EPA's physical assets and the surrounding transportation networks that the Agency relies on from climate change are increasing the Agency's reliance on remote access capabilities to continue mission operations. As more mission functions are needing to adopt remote access capabilities to combat climate change impacts, there will be an increased need for information and communications technology procurement and ongoing cybersecurity risk analysis to maintain continuity of operations plans and procedures.	1. EPA will continue to conduct annual security assessments for all Federal Information Security Management Act reportable information, to monitor vulnerabilities and report threats within information technology systems. 2. EPA will include potential climate change impacts to current and future contracts and system controls as cybersecurity supply chain risk management considerations when making risk-based decisions for acquiring information and communications technology products and services. 3. EPA will continue to update and integrate information and communications technology and cybersecurity policies as new regulations, legislation and statutory requirements are released.	In 2023, EPA began updating its Information Security Risk Management Strategic and Information Security Continuous Monitoring Strategic plans to improve information security procedure guides and other templates to incorporate updated guidance and requirements from the National Institute of Standards and Technology into information and communications technology procurement. Through FY 2027, EPA will begin conducting Supply Chain Risk Assessments, starting with Federal Information Security Management Act high-value reportable assets and at-risk Information Technology systems, then transitioning to the moderate and low-risk assets and systems, ensuring that the full scope of cybersecurity supply chain risk management is assessed.
Many EPA laboratories are in remote locations and already struggle to obtain services such as specific building repairs in a timely manner. An acute extreme weather event or longer-term climatic change impacts could exacerbate this issue by creating a greater demand for these services in the broader region. EPA is also a smaller Agency and does not have the same procurement power as some other federal agencies. There may be other critical functions in the region that take priority in an acute weather event, delaying services to EPA.	1. EPA will continue with planned laboratory consolidations to reduce the Agency's number of facilities. 2. EPA will work with other federal agencies to acquire services together. 3. EPA will utilize Emergency Acquisition procedures in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 18, in instances when excepted operation and maintenance contracts ceiling must be raised to respond to a hazard event.	EPA is continuing to look for opportunities to consolidate its laboratory footprint and is proceeding with consolidations of its Region 4 Laboratory into the Office of Research and Development Laboratory in Athens, Georgia, and its Region 6 Laboratory in Houston, Texas, to the Office of Research and Development Laboratory in Ada, Oklahoma. EPA's assessments of its owned laboratory facilities also include project recommendations to work with other federal partners and add emergency provisions to accepted operation and maintenance contracts where applicable.

EPA relies on a wide variety of supplies and services to support its mission and has been integrating climate change considerations into its supply chain management processes to improve the Agency's adaptive capacity to plan, withstand, and recover from future climate change impacts. In 2018, EPA established a supply chain risk management Executive Board comprised of high-level leadership that was tasked to prioritize, develop policies and processes, and provide oversight for Agency-wide SCRM decisions and activities. Also, as a part of the Agency's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, EPA initiated an enterprise-level risk assessment to begin identifying the contracts, services, and supplies that are most critical for the Agency to maintain operations across a variety of emergency and shutdown scenarios.

EPA's physical supply chain components such as contract-supplied goods and in-person services are most at risk from climate change impacts. Research and applied science in EPA's laboratories depend on reliable shipping and delivery services to transport samples with holding times as short as 12-24 hours. Flooding from SLR and increased precipitation can cause road closures and disrupt delivery of samples within a timely manner. Impacts from wildfires and increases in high heat days can also threaten the ability of climate-controlled delivery services to meet temperature requirements for laboratory samples while in transit, which can threaten the integrity and accuracy of research. Laboratory facilities additionally require frequent shipments of specialized supplies for research, such as inert gases and high-efficiency air filters, to keep equipment accurately calibrated and maintain indoor air quality safety requirements. Climate change can also impact the ability for EPA to receive contracted in-person services such as maintenance, repairs, and onsite security. High heat, wildfires, and secondary effects such as increased lightning strikes and poor air quality can limit both the days and number of hours that contractors can safely work outside. Increases in precipitation and flooding can also create challenges for grounds maintenance and improvements and disrupt overall access to the sites.

EPA's Office of Acquisition Solutions (OAS) will be conducting an in-depth Supply Chain Risk Assessment (SCRA) for all identified "excepted" contracts starting in 2024. OAS began expanding and redefining the criteria for excepted contracts in 2022 to identify mission-critical risks and allow for additional continuity of services and funding in the event of a natural and climate disaster or shutdown scenario, to protect employee safety and owned assets. This expanded definition for excepted contracts was submitted to and approved by the Acquisitions Management Council in 2023, and since then the Agency has identified over 1,400 contracts that are deemed critical to the Agency's mission. The SCRA for excepted contracts seeks to start characterizing the relationship between exposure, vulnerability, and the potential magnitude of consequences to the supply chains from climate change and will assign a risk score of either critical, high, moderate, or low to each of contract. This same process will be replicated and conducted for Program Management Improvement Accountability Act (PMIAA) contracts for major acquisitions and contracts for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support in FY 2024.

EPA is also incorporating climate considerations into Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management (C-SCRM), which is the process of identifying, assessing, preventing, and mitigating the risks associated with the distributed and interconnected nature of ICT product and service supply chains. C-SCRM covers the entire life cycle of ICT, which includes design, development, distribution, deployment, acquisition, maintenance, and destruction. This type of supply chain procurement is

critical for the Agency as it continues to modernize its operations and the potential for climate change impacts to disrupt physical access to EPA facilities increases. As directed by EO 14057, EPA has been implementing measures to reduce GHG emissions, improve building efficiency and procure more CFE, and tracks that progress through the installation of additional advanced meters and BAS controls. However, many automation systems that allow for remote building control require the use of proprietary technology that is not immediately compatible with EPA security policies and requires the procurement of third-party, cloud-based services to operate the software on EPA servers. Additionally, many of EPA's laboratories also use highly specific research equipment that requires proprietary software and cloud services to analyze samples and access results both within the laboratory and remotely, increasing the criticality of the C-SCRAMs within the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) process.

EPA will need to conduct more ICT procurement and ongoing cybersecurity risk analysis to maintain continuity of operations. EPA is increasingly reliant on remote access capabilities for operational resilience. As more mission functions require adoption of remote capabilities, the Agency will need to conduct more ICT procurement and ongoing cybersecurity risk analysis to maintain continuity of operations plans and procedures. The Agency's 2022 ICT Supply Chain Management Strategic Plan found that EPA was deficient in all seven of the Government Accountability Office's recommended foundational practices in C-SCRM. While the specific relationship between cybersecurity and climate change can be indirect, impacts to EPA's cybersecurity infrastructure in its current state can exacerbate existing or create new vulnerabilities to sophisticated exploitation tactics to steal data and/or damage, disable or destroy the Agency's computers, networks, or systems, which would inhibit EPA's ability to fulfill its mission and safeguard its personnel and environmental data.

As directed by EOs 14008 and 14030 and the Federal Acquisition and Supply Chain Security Act, in 2023 EPA began updating its Information Security Risk Management and Information Security Continuous Monitoring strategic plans to incorporate updated guidance and requirements from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into ICT procurement and information security procedural guides. Through FY 2027, EPA will continue conducting Cyber-SCRAMs (C-SCRAMs), starting with FISMA high-value reportable assets and at-risk IT systems, then transitioning to the moderate and low-risk assets and systems, ensuring that the full scope of C-SCRM is assessed. Maintaining cybersecurity and conducting ongoing C-SCRAMs will be pivotal to the Agency's operational resiliency as both science needs and the IT sector continue to rapidly evolve.

3B.5. Climate Informed Funding to External Parties

EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan and the EPA Administrator's Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation directed all national program and regional offices (offices) to proactively incorporate climate adaptation into the Agency's programs, policies, rules, and operations; including modernizing its financial assistance programs where appropriate. The statement also directed the offices to consult and partner with states, tribes, territories, local governments, community groups, businesses, and other federal agencies to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of the nation, with a focus on environmental justice. EPA has built upon these early directives with a Memorandum (Memo), *Incorporating Climate Change Adaptation Criteria into Applicable Financial Assistance* (February 2023), which reaffirmed EPA's long-term commitment to modernize its financial assistance programs to

encourage climate-resilient investments. It also established the Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate (or RISC, chaired by EPA's Office of Policy) to advance this commitment in partnership with over 20 offices across the Agency. RISC's initial focus is on BIL and IRA funded programs. The lessons learned from these opportunities will allow EPA to scale its efforts to other financial assistance programs over time.

The Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate goals and activities align with the priorities of EPA's FY 22-26 Strategic Plan, EPA's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, "Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation", and the 20 national program and regional office Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans. Per the Memo, RISC is performing activities to support EPA's offices with integrating adaptation and resilience into their financial assistance programs. RISC is also taking steps to help make EPA's tools, training, data, and technical assistance initiatives more accessible to funding applicants and recipients as they make climate-resilient investments. RISC's activities are achieved in collaboration with EPA's offices to leverage the best practices and expertise of the programs. For example, EPA's National Estuary Program, Geographic Programs (such as Puget Sound), Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs, Brownfields grant programs, and the Community Change Grant Program are models for how to incorporate adaptation and resilience requirements into funding announcements and overall program operations.

Five goals of EPA's Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate (RISC)

- ✓ Foster internal coordination and communication.
- ✓ Enable climate-resilient infrastructure investments.
- ✓ Deliver technical assistance and decision support.
- ✓ Increase access and usability of climate information.
- ✓ Equitably advance resilient investments.

Many of these programs promote climate adaptation and resilience, while also helping to advance environmental justice as part of the Justice40 Initiative, which sets a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

The RISC is developing two main projects for the Agency that align with the Agency's goals and directives for climate adaptation. The first is an internal clearinghouse to provide EPA's financial assistance staff with a general approach to address climate adaptation and resilience throughout various steps of their program processes (e.g., writing announcements, assessing climate risks to a proposed project, performing meaningful engagement.). The second is an external facing toolbox intended to supply technical assistance providers with resources to support applicants and recipients with investing in climate-resilient projects. These two projects will provide the internal and external guidance needed to support success on both sides of a federal investment decision. EPA programs will be strongly encouraged to follow the approach laid out by the internal clearinghouse to integrate adaptation and resilience into their funding announcements, as well as climate justice. RISC has also produced interim products to help EPA staff incorporate adaptation and resilience into grant and loan programs, including compiling example language for incorporating adaptation and resilience into funding announcements, innovative practices for financial assistance programs to advance EPA's

climate adaptation goals, and BIL and IRA focused priority actions that EPA’s offices can adopt as part of their Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans.

RISC’s two main projects prioritize the use of climate tools and information to inform funding decisions, the incorporation of climate justice into EPA’s financial and technical assistance opportunities, and the adoption of common metrics that recipients can use to meet EPA’s reporting requirements. RISC is packaging federal tools and information to help both financial assistance staff and applicants understand, identify, and perform a high-level evaluation of the climate risks to a proposed project.

The Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate is also centering accessibility, equity, and climate justice in the design of its projects. RISC’s internal dashboard will provide direction on the inclusion of climate justice and meaningful engagement practices when developing funding opportunities, including innovative ways to reduce application burden through program design. RISC’s publicly accessible toolbox will also help reduce the barrier to entry for disadvantaged communities by sharing resources to help them easily identify what funding to apply for based on their interests, in addition to the climate risk tools and information that can be used to develop their applications. It will also highlight resources to facilitate inclusive outreach and engagement as important steps for developing climate-resilient and climate-just projects. Additionally, EPA is working to develop standard output and outcome metrics for recipient (grantee) reporting that include climate adaptation, resilience, and climate risk. Once developed, these metrics will be featured as part of RISC’s internal dashboard for voluntary adoption by EPA’s financial assistance programs.

3C. Climate Training and Capacity Building for a Climate Informed Workforce

Training and Capacity Building		
Agency Climate Training Efforts	Percent of EPA staff that have taken a 60+ minute introductory climate training course (e.g., Climate 101).	63% of all employees who joined since 2018 have taken “Climate Adaptation Introductory Training.”
	Percent of EPA senior leadership (e.g., Sec, Dep Sec, SES, Directors, Branch Chiefs, etc.) that have completed climate adaptation training.	37% of senior leadership (Senior Executive Service, Supervisors, and Management Officials) and 52% of (non-Senior Executive Service) team leads who joined since 2018 have taken “Climate Adaptation Introductory Training”, compared to 65% of General Service employees.
	Percent of budget officials that have received climate adaptation related training.	23% have taken “Climate Adaptation Introductory Training” or similar course.
	Percent of acquisition officials that have received climate adaptation related training.	25% have taken “Climate Adaptation Introductory Training” or similar course.

	Additional efforts the Agency is taking to develop a climate informed workforce.	17 climate adaptation trainings have been facilitated across programs and regions.
Agency Capacity	Number of full-time federal employees (FTE) across the Agency that have tasks relevant to climate adaptation in their job description.	There are 43 positions in the Agency where the position description directly mentions climate adaptation and/or climate resilience work. They are a combination of General Schedule, Senior Executive Service, and political employees. The Agency does not have information on contractors.

3C.1 Agency-Wide Initiatives for Developing a Climate-Informed Workforce at EPA

To respond to climate change, EPA needs its personnel and partners to adopt new ways of achieving the Agency's mission. EPA is building capacity through ongoing education and training to mainstream climate adaptation into every part of the Agency. Equipped with an understanding of projected climate impacts, the vulnerability of EPA programs to these impacts, and adaptation approaches, EPA staff will be better able to incorporate climate adaptation into their programs, plans and decisions. The Agency is also supporting efforts by our stakeholders and partners to increase their climate literacy.

- 1. Introductory Training.** As of 2018, all newly hired EPA employees are required to take an *Introduction to Climate Adaptation* training module on the Agency-wide training platform. This module equips new employees with awareness of how climate change impacts the Agency's mission areas. Additionally, since the 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, 10 of EPA's programs and regions have developed and deployed additional program-specific Climate Adaptation trainings—28 sessions in total, 17 distinct trainings or resources, with 8 distinct training series. These trainings are tailored to specific areas of EPA's mission and/or regional

Goals of EPA's Climate Adaptation Training Initiatives

- (1) Increase awareness through introductory training** about the importance of climate adaptation and encourage all EPA staff and partners to consider the changing climate in their normal course of business.
- (2) Equip EPA staff with specific methods and tools for integrating climate adaptation into decision-making processes across different types of job functions**, including programmatic staff, financial assistance staff, budget staff, acquisition staff, regulatory staff, scientists and researchers, and developers of tools and technical support.
- (3) Cultivate peer learning networks within the Agency** so that staff can use avenues to share ongoing, emerging, and practice-based adaptation knowledge.

context. In addition to these more formal trainings, there are numerous smaller regional office presentations that support climate literacy.

Budget and Acquisition Staff: EPA is working to distribute climate training to staff beyond sustainability, climate, and environmental media staff to include budget and acquisition officials. To-date, 23% of budget officials and 25% of acquisition officials have taken introductory climate training. By 2027, EPA will work on expanding its reach of climate adaptation training opportunities so that more budget and acquisition staff will have taken a climate 101 training.

Reaching Senior Leadership: To-date, senior leadership and supervisory staff have taken climate or climate adaptation training at a lower rate than non-supervisory staff (37% vs. 65% GS employees who joined Agency after 2018). However, there is progress since 2018: 37% of senior leadership (SES and above) and 52% of non-SES team leads who joined the Agency after 2018 have completed introductory climate adaptation training. In the future, EPA will continue to engage senior leadership with opportunities for targeted training.

2. Equipping Staff to Integrate Climate Adaptation Across EPA Mission Areas.

Financial Assistance Staff: With the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is taking steps to modernize its financial assistance mechanisms so that these investments are resilient to future climate risk. (See Section 3D, “Climate-Informed Funding to External Parties”). As part of the efforts of the Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate (RISC), EPA is enhancing the capacity of its financial assistance staff to take climate change considerations into account when developing and implementing financial assistance agreements.

Regulatory Staff: EPA is educating regulatory staff about the implications of a changing climate on the Agency’s mission to protect human health and the environment. For example, EPA held a training event that informed Agency rule writer participants about options for considering changing weather and climate risk during rule development. The webinar was produced in 2022 and delivered to EPA’s rule writing community in 2023.

Examples Across EPA Mission Areas: Programs are developing mission area-specific training and capacity building resources. For example, the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) developed a three-part training series that provides a brief overview of climate change basics and adaptation before focusing on how OAR is considering climate adaptation in its work. The Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) developed a four-part training series for OLEM staff and management about integrating climate adaptation, mitigation, and science into its core actions. In a separate training, OLEM also trained its staff on how to conduct climate vulnerability assessments. The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) developed a training to introduce and highlight compliance and enforcement efforts to address climate change consistent with administration priorities. The Office of Research and Development (ORD) delivered multiple webinars to EPA staff related to adaptation-relevant climate impacts research or the usage of climate data and information in decision-making.

EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) is an interactive resource designed to support local-level adaptation and help local government officials effectively deliver services to their communities even as the climate change. Users are given an opportunity to first self-identify by indicating the region of the country in which they live and the specific issues of concern to them (e.g., air quality, water management, environmental justice, contaminated site management, ecosystem protection). The system then provides them with an integrated package of information tailored specifically to their needs, based on where they live and the specific issues of concern to them. This information includes: (1) the risks posed by climate change to the issues they care about; (2) adaptation strategies they might consider implementing; (3) case studies illustrating how other communities have successfully adapted to those risks; and (4) tools to replicate the successes of the other communities. EPA will continue to improve the ARC-X system by adding new content (e.g., environmental and climate justice resources) and enhancing the user experience by making it easier to access the adaptation information they need to plan for and implement adaptation strategies in their community.

3. **Cultivating Peer Learning Around Climate Adaptation:** In addition to formal training and learning opportunities, building peer learning networks is key to maintaining a climate-informed and adaptive staff, given the evolving nature of climate adaptation. As one example of an EPA-wide peer learning network, the Integrated Climate Sciences Division in ORD and the Office of Policy have partnered to co-host an internal *Climate Conversations Seminar Series* to coordinate staff peer learning and knowledge sharing activities. Launched in fall 2023, this series provides a forum in which EPA employees can exchange knowledge and experiences on climate and apply it to their work. An average of 315 employees from across the Agency attends the sessions. The series (1) informs EPA staff about emerging climate science research relevant to the work of EPA's programs and regions, (2) highlights best practices in applying climate data and information to EPA policies and practice, (3) demonstrates applicable tools and resources to support regional climate resilience, (4) facilitates interactive peer-learning activities related to certain climate topics, and (5) fosters a sense of community and collaboration among staff on EPA climate adaptation issues. Other peer learning networks and communities of practice are being cultivated across the Agency, including Regional-specific speaker series.

3C.2 Agency Climate Adaptation Capacity

Climate adaptation work takes place in every national program office and region in the Agency, and only a portion of staff who work on climate adaptation have "adaptation" or "resilience" directly mentioned in their position description. Agency climate adaptation staff capacity includes staff who have their full time dedicated to climate adaptation and those whose time is split between climate adaptation and other job functions. There are currently 43 positions in the Agency where the position description directly mentions climate adaptation and/or climate resilience work. They are a combination of GS and SES career staff, and political appointees. Many other staff in the program offices and regions who do not identify as "climate adaptation" personnel are already integrating climate adaptation into the work they are doing. Examples include staff in the RCRA program and the Superfund program.

The Cross-EPA Workgroup on Climate Change Adaptation has historically consisted of staff who lead the coordination of climate adaptation in their program or region. In the past decade, the Workgroup membership has grown to over 350 staff, reflecting the extent to which climate adaptation is being mainstreamed across the Agency beyond staff who have adaptation directly mentioned in their position description.

There are also FTEs dedicated to climate issues in general, including adaptation. One example of such staff is the new Integrated Climate Sciences Division, launched in 2023 in the Office of Research and Development. ICSD scientists deliver regionally relevant assessments, technical assistance, and capacity building to support adaptation, in addition to their work that advances climate mitigation.

3D. Summary of Major Milestones

Subsection of Section 3 in the Implementation Plan	Description of Major Milestone for Implementation	Climate Risk Addressed (sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme precipitation, or wildfire risk)	Indicators for success
3A.1 Addressing Climate Hazard Impacts on and Exposures to Federal Buildings	FY2024-2026: EPA will have completed a resiliency assessment report for all 18 owned laboratory facilities.	Increased heat and precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire.	Number of completed reports each fiscal year.
3A.2 Addressing Climate Hazard Impacts on and Exposures to Federal Employees	FY 2024-2026: EPA will conduct Occupational Safety and Health Agency Heat Illness Safety and Integrated Vegetation Management trainings as part of the Agency's environmental management systems program.	Extreme Heat safety and Illness	Number of EMS coordinators trained each fiscal year.
3B.3. Incorporating Climate Risk into Policies and Programs	By September 30, 2026, implement all priority actions in EPA's Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the 20 national program and regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans.	All of the above.	Total number of actions implemented.

3B.3. Incorporating Climate Risk into Policies and Programs	By September 30, 2026, assist at least 400 federally recognized Tribes to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.	All of the above.	Total number of tribes assisted.
3B.3. Incorporating Climate Risk into Policies and Programs	By September 30, 2026, assist at least 450 states, territories, local governments, and disadvantaged communities at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.	All of the above.	Total number of states, territories, local governments, and communities assisted.

Section 4: Demonstrating Progress

4A. Measuring progress

Key Performance Indicator: Climate adaptation and resilience objectives and performance measures are incorporated in agency program planning and budgeting by 2027.

Section of the CAP	Process Metric	Agency Response
3A – Addressing Climate Hazard Impacts and Exposure	<u>Step 1:</u> Agency has an implementation plan for 2024 that connects climate hazard impacts and exposures to discrete actions that must be taken. (Y/N/Partially) <u>Step 2:</u> Agency has a list of discrete actions that will be taken through 2027 as part of their implementation plan. (Y/N/Partially)	Yes. The resulting project recommendations from EPA’s owned laboratory facility climate resiliency assessments align with existing documents such as the facility master plans to inform future operation and maintenance contracts and capital improvement plans. EPA has also committed to initiate projects ranked as a “very-high” priority by the Office of Mission Support Resilience Working Group and will work with the to identify funding opportunities for these recommendations. Yes. EPA integrates the “very-high” priority project recommendations from the climate resiliency assessments of its owned laboratory facilities into the Agency’s five-year Buildings and Facilities plan once a funding source has been identified. OMS also maintains a repository of additional project recommendations and works with facilities to identify funding pathways to implement projects that did not meet the “very-high” priority designation during the project recommendation voting process.
3B.1 – Accounting for Climate Risk in Decision-making	Agency has an established method of including results of climate hazard risk exposure assessments into planning and decision-making processes. (Y/N/Partially)	Yes. As much as possible and consistent with its authorities and available resources, EPA is accounting for the risks posed by climate change and related environmental justice concerns as it designs, implements, and assesses its programs, policies, rules, enforcement and compliance assurance activities, and operations (i.e., facility

3B.2 – Incorporating Climate Risk Assessment into Budget Planning	Agency has an agency-wide process and/or tools that incorporate climate risk into planning and budget decisions. (Y/N/Partially)	operations, workforce protection, managing and protecting supply chains) to help ensure they are effective and resilient to climate change. Yes. The work EPA does to incorporate climate risk into planning and budget decisions is driven by EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. See 3B.2 for additional details.
3B.5 – Climate Informed Funding to External Parties	<u>Step 1:</u> By July 2025, agency will identify grants that can include consideration and/or evaluation of climate risk. <u>Step 2:</u> Agency modernizes all applicable funding announcements/grants to include a requirement for the grantee to consider climate hazard exposures. (Y/N/Partially)	Partially. While EPA is committed to modernizing all its financial assistance programs to encourage climate-resilient investments, EPA's Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate initial focus is to support the BIL and IRA-funding programs that are distributing an unprecedented amount of federal funding. EPA is also mindful that some grant programs must comply with specific or unique statutory obligations that may prevent them from fully 'embracing' certain elements of adaptation and/or resilience (including requirements for evaluating climate risk) as part of their implementation. EPA's Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate has performed a cursory accounting of the BIL and IRA-funded grant programs that have incorporated language related to climate change as of November 2023. EPA's Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate will continue to support all financial assistance programs in considering climate risks as part of their investment decisions and recipient reporting requirements, where and when appropriate. EPA's Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate, the Office of Mission Support, and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer are working together to help financial assistance programs consistently identify climate adaptation/ resilience projects funded by EPA, which may include climate risk

		analyses. See Section 3D for more information. Partially – While EPA is committed to encouraging climate-resilient investments and is developing guidance for programs to support climate-resilient investments through both competitive and noncompetitive grant programs, EPA currently does not require funding announcements/grants to include a criterion that applicants/grantees must consider climate hazard exposures. However, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations are currently working with EPA’s national program and regional offices to identify and consistently define universal output and outcome metrics for recipient reporting purposes. The metrics that pertain to adaptation and resilience specifically (including any consideration or evaluation of related climate risk or exposures) may help to streamline the reporting requirements for grantees expressed as part of all applicable funding announcements (and their terms and conditions for funding). Those metrics are currently under Agency deliberation.
Key Performance Indicator: Data management systems and analytical tools are updated to incorporate relevant climate change information by 2027.		
Section of the CAP	Process Metric	Agency Response
3A – Addressing Climate Hazard Impacts and Exposure	Agency has identified the information systems that need to incorporate climate change data and information and will incorporate climate change information into those systems by 2027. (Y/N/Partially)	Partially. EPA is incorporating information on the impacts of and responses to climate change is effectively into the diverse systems and processes that support and track EPA’s financial and regulatory actions. This requires: (1) identification of those systems and processes and development of consistent and guided approaches to incorporating relevant

	climate change information and data; (2) educating appropriate staff on the relevant resources and approaches for incorporating climate change information; and (3) updating, maintaining, and enhancing the tools, guidance, and systems to offer the best available information and data in readily accessible and usable format(s). EPA has identified three categories of processes that require consideration of climate change data and information: (1) funding mechanisms, including grants to states, territories, tribes, and localities; (2) rulemaking and enforcement actions; and (3) internal operations, including facility management and personnel health and safety. EPA is engaging across the Agency to develop and implement robust mechanisms to facilitate incorporation of relevant climate change information and data into these processes. The Resilient Infrastructure for Climate Subgroup, part of the Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Adaptation, has developed multiple resources for incorporating climate information and data into Agency processes. For more on how the Resilient Infrastructure Subgroup on Climate is incorporating climate data into Agency processes, see Section 3D. Climate Informed Funding to External Parties. See Section 3A.4--Accounting for Climate Risk in Planning and Decision Making for more information on how EPA is integrating climate adaptation into rulemaking processes. One resource designed to provide on-going science support for these efforts is the establishment of the <u>Integrated Climate Sciences Division</u> in EPA's Office of Research and Development. One of the goals of the new
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		Division is to develop and deliver scientific information and data on climate change and climate change adaptation to EPA and EPA partner users, focusing on close engagement and interaction with the users of that information and data.
Key Performance Indicator: Agency CAPs address multiple climate hazard impacts and other stressors, and demonstrate nature-based solutions, equitable approaches, and mitigation co-benefits to adaptation and resilience objectives.		
Section of the CAP	Process Metric	Agency Response
3B.3 – Incorporating Climate Risk into Policy and Programs	By July 2025, 100% of climate adaptation and resilience policies have been reviewed and revised to (as relevant) incorporate nature-based solutions, mitigation co-benefits, and equity principles. (Y/N/Partially)	Partially. Goal 1 (Tackling the Climate Crisis) of EPA’s FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan contains an Objective (Objective 1.2) to Accelerate Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts. The Strategic Plan commits EPA to taking necessary actions to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change while advancing the climate resilience of Tribes and indigenous peoples, states, territories, and communities across the nation. It commits EPA to ensuring its programs, policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement and compliance assurance activities, and operations consider the current and future impacts of climate change and how those impacts will disproportionately affect communities with environmental justice concerns. The 20 Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans developed by the program and regional offices contain priority actions they will take in each fiscal year to meet this commitment. The Strategic Plan has a Long-Term Performance Goal that states: “By September 30, 2026, implement all priority actions in EPA’s Climate Adaptation Action Plan and the 20 national program and regional Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans to account for the

		impacts of the changing climate on human health and the environment.”
Key Performance Indicator: Federal assets and supply chains are evaluated for risk to climate hazards and other stressors through existing protocols and/or the development of new protocols; response protocols for extreme events are updated by 2027.		
Section of the CAP	Process Metric	Agency Response
3B.4 – Climate-Smart Supply Chains and Procurement	<u>Step 1:</u> Agency has assessed climate exposure to its top 5 most mission-critical supply chains. (Y/N/Partially) <u>Step 2:</u> By July 2026, agency has assessed services and established a plan for addressing/overcoming disruption from climate hazards. (Y/N/Partially) Agency has identified priorities, developed strategies, and established goals based on the assessment of climate hazard risks to critical supplies and services. (Y/N/Partially)	<u>Step 1:</u> Partially, the Agency is in the process of conducting a tiered Supply Chain Risk Assessment of its critical components, supplies and services to fully understand the scope of supply chain risks. <u>Step 2:</u> Partially, EPA’s Supply Chain Risk Management plan is set to complete its tiered Supply Chain Risk Assessment in FY 2026, and upon completion the Agency will begin to address the hazards identified. Partially. EPA is in the process of identifying, differentiating, and defining the mission-essential contracts for services and goods that are vital to the Agency. In 2023, EPA’s Acquisition Management Council approved definitions for Excepted, Program Management Improvement Accountability Act, and Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act contracts, allowing EPA to use a tiered approach to prioritize the Agency’s contracts. Now that the contract definitions have been established, as a next step the Agency’s Office of Acquisition Solutions will work with EPA’s program offices to identify these contracts, which can impact the continuity of the Agency’s mission both remotely and onsite.

Key Performance Indicator: By 2027, agency staff are trained in climate adaptation and resilience and related agency protocols and procedures.		
Section of the CAP	Process Metric	Agency Response
3C – Climate Training and Capacity Building for a Climate Informed Workforce	<u>Step 1:</u> By December 2024 100% of agency leadership have been briefed on current agency climate adaptation efforts and actions outlined in their 2024 CAP. (Y/N/Partially) <u>Step 2:</u> Does the agency have a Climate 101 training for your workforce? (Y/N/Partially) If yes, what percent of staff have completed the training? <u>Step 3:</u> By July 2025, 100 % employees have completed climate 101 trainings. (Y/N/Partially)	Yes. Each year, EPA prepares an end-of-year report on climate adaptation actions and achievements that is shared widely with Agency leadership. Yes. The Agency has had a Climate 101 training in place since 2018. Approximately 20% of Agency employees have taken this training. Partially. EPA is developing an updated version of the Climate 101 training Different parts of the training will be tailored to staff working in different programs. The Agency is assessing whether the training is warranted for all EPA staff given their responsibilities.

4B. Adaptation in Action

Following publication of the 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, every EPA program and regional office developed a [Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan](#) that contains annual priority actions that address the five Agency-wide climate adaptation priorities (see sidebar). Taken together, the programs and regions have made significant progress integrating climate adaptation into internal programs, policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement activities, and operations, and delivering external assistance to state and local governments, tribes, and territories. As of the end of FY23, the program and regional offices had taken

Through this 2024 – 2027 Climate Adaptation Plan, EPA will continue to implement its five Agencywide priorities for climate adaptation.

1. Integrate climate adaptation into EPA programs, policies, rulemaking, and enforcement.
2. Consult and partner with wide array of stakeholders to strengthen adaptive capacity and increase resilience.
3. Implement measures to protect Agency workforce, facilities, critical infrastructure, supply chains, and procurement processes from risks posed by climate change.
4. Measure and evaluate performance.
5. Identify and address climate adaptation science needs.

over 350 priority actions to integrate climate adaptation into the work that they do. All of these actions are focused on attaining the three long-term performance goals on climate resilience and adaptation in the Agency's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

Provided below are examples of actions taken by the Agency's national program offices in partnership with the regional offices and other government entities:

- EPA is equipping communities with information and resources needed to assess their climate risks and develop the climate resilience solutions most appropriate for them, with a particular focus on advancing environmental justice.
 - ✓ Thanks to IRA funding for the new Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program and the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program (\$5 billion and \$2 billion respectively), EPA is providing even more support for communities adapting to climate change.
 - ✓ As part of the Community Change Grant program, Office of Water's Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative provides water sector utilities with the practical tools, training, and technical assistance needed to increase resilience to extreme weather events.
 - ✓ With over \$50 billion from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs are providing low-cost financing for water quality and infrastructure projects, including those that help address drought, wildfire, water conservation, energy efficiency, and more.
 - ✓ With almost \$2 billion in BIL funding, EPA's National Estuary Program and Geographic Program grants is supporting green infrastructure projects that help address extreme heat.
 - ✓ The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights established 16 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs), in partnership with the Department of Energy, to help disadvantaged communities across the country. The TCTACs provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, developing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. In addition, these centers provide guidance on community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants.
- The Office of Research and Development established an Integrated Climate Sciences Division to (1) support the implementation of the 20 EPA program and regional office Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans, and (2) provide place-based technical support to all 10 regional offices and the communities they serve.
- EPA's American Indian Environmental Office is leading the Agency's efforts to develop approaches for integrating Indigenous Knowledge (IK) into decisions and actions taken by EPA and its partners across the nation. OITA is training EPA in the program and regional offices and building a community of practice focused on advancing the use of IK by EPA and its partners across the nation.
- EPA's Office of International Affairs is working in support of a MOU signed in March 2024 by EPA Administrator Regan and U.S. AID Administrator Samantha Power, formalizing the leaders' joint commitment to cooperate in tackling the challenges of climate change, air and water

pollution, lead poisoning, and recycling of materials from plastics and electronic waste. One area of focus will be on the impacts of climate change on the Pacific Islands.

- Administrator Regan recently conducted a Mission to Africa where he reinforced EPA's commitment to partner with leaders, young people, and advocates to address many of these same challenges.
- The Office of Land and Emergency Management's (OLEM's) RCRA program, in partnership with the regional offices, is ensuring PCB clean-up processes, RCRA permitting, and RCRA corrective action are resilient to climate change.
- OLEM's Superfund program developed an approach that raises awareness of the vulnerability of contaminated sites to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events and integrates climate adaptation into cleanup projects. The approach involves periodic screening of Superfund remedy vulnerabilities, prioritizing the Superfund program's steps to adapt to a changing climate, and identifying measures to assure climate resilience of Superfund sites.
- EPA is advancing implementation of nature-based solutions with other federal agencies through the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative to promote the implementation of green infrastructure. The collaborative is supporting strategies that foster climate resilience and encourage the equitable implementation of green infrastructure in communities across the nation.
- The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance is implementing its Agency-wide guidance for incorporating (where appropriate) climate change into cleanup enforcement cases.
- The Office of Acquisition Solutions within the Office of Mission Support is continuing to implement its Supply Chain Risk Management Plan "Implementation Plan" which includes actions to protect against the risks posed by climate change.
- EPA is measuring and evaluating progress. The Agency has specific metrics to track progress meeting the Long-Term Performance Goals related to climate adaptation in the EPA FY22-FY26 Strategic Plan. The Office of Policy has also developed a Climate Adaptation Measures Program database for collecting performance data from across the entire Agency.

The Agency's climate adaptation activities described in this Plan—from helping communities build climate resilience through technical assistance to integrating climate resilience considerations in EPA's financial investments-- will carry through in the 2024-2027 CAP. EPA intends to continue being a leader in building resilience and helping communities prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. EPA's newly launched Office of Climate Adaptation and Sustainability, located in the Office of the Administrator's Office of Policy, will support climate adaptation and resilience capacity building across the Agency, with an emphasis on serving communities and connecting them with EPA expertise and technical assistance. The new office will also lead and manage work on emerging, cross-cutting issues of significance to the Agency, particularly those relating to development and implementation of climate policies that support progress toward a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable economy. This includes:

- Supporting climate change adaptation and resilience capacity building across the Agency,
- Facilitating development of cross-cutting climate change mitigation strategies,

- Focusing attention on climate-related impacts on vulnerable communities,
- Assuring sustainable materials management,
- Working with industrial sectors on climate-related impacts by and on the sectors,
- Advising on voluntary consensus standards related to climate and sustainability,
- Supporting financial disclosure of climate-related risks, and
- Addressing other climate change mitigation challenges and environmental issues requiring interdisciplinary expertise and cross-sector, cross-media, cross-agency, and whole of government approaches.

Conclusion

EPA remains strongly committed to taking necessary actions to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change while advancing the climate resilience of Tribes and indigenous peoples, states, territories, and communities across the nation.

EPA program and regional offices will continue to update policies, rulemaking processes, enforcement and compliance assurance activities, and operations to consider the current and future impacts of climate change and how those impacts will disproportionately affect overburdened and underserved communities.

EPA will continue to provide targeted assistance to Tribes and indigenous peoples, states, territories, local governments, communities, and businesses to transform their environmental programs, strengthen their adaptive capacity, and increase the resilience of the nation, with a particular focus on advancing environmental justice. This includes preparing for and responding to climate-related impacts and disasters (e.g., wildfires, extreme heat, droughts, floods, sea level rise, damage to estuaries and ecosystems, health impacts, storm surge, and melting permafrost) and ensuring that infrastructure investments increase resilience to climate change.

This Climate Adaptation Plan captures the many innovative ways the Agency will continue to fulfill its mission of protecting human health and the environment even as the climate changes.

Appendix A: Risk Assessment Data

The Federal Mapping App uses the following data:

Buildings

Buildings data comes from the publicly available [Federal Real Property Profile \(FRPP\)](#). The General Services Administration (GSA) maintains FRPP data and federal agencies are responsible for submitting detailed asset-level data to GSA on an annual basis. Although FRPP data is limited—for example, not all agencies submit complete asset-level data to GSA, building locations are denoted by a single point and do not represent the entirety of a structure or could represent multiple structures, and properties may be excluded on the basis of national security determinations—it is the best available public dataset for federal real property. Despite these limitations, this data is sufficient for screening-level exposure assessments to provide a sense of potential exposure of federal buildings to climate hazards.

Personnel

Personnel data comes from the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) non-public dataset of all personnel employed by the federal government that was provided in 2023. The data contains a number of adjustments, including exclusion of military or intelligence agency personnel, aggregation of personnel data to the county level, and suppression of personnel data for duty stations of less than 5 personnel. Despite these adjustments, this data is still useful for screening-level exposure assessments to provide a sense of key areas of climate hazard exposure for agency personnel.

Climate Hazards

The climate data used in the risk assessment comes from the data in [Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation \(CMRA\) Assessment Tool](#). When agency climate adaptation plans were initiated in 2023, CMRA data included climate data prepared for NCA4. Additional details on this data can be found on the [CMRA Assessment Tool Data Sources page](#). Due to limited data availability, exposure analyses using the Federal Mapping App are largely limited to the contiguous United States (CONUS). Additional information regarding Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Territories, and marine environments has been included as available.

Consideration of Additional Hazards

In addition to these data, EPA used a mix of national and local data sets to obtain more specific historic and projected hazard information at each of the Agency's facility locations. This additional data allowed EPA to explore the vulnerability and likelihood of nine additional hazards.

Appendix B: EPA Climate Impact Map



Figure 1. Section 2D - Example EPA Facilities Hazard Vulnerability Map

Message

From: Ryan, Jini [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8A7D72970F6346BA96D0F47F939DCE86-RYAN, JINI]
Sent: 6/14/2024 9:01:50 PM
To: Joan Fiddle-Ferder [FreeLance@maslowmedia.com]; PRODUCTION [PRODUCTION@maslowmedia.com]
Subject: RE: Climate adaptation report
Attachments: Final EPA CAP - For transmittal to CEQ - Alt text for tables-OM.docx; Final EPA CAP - For transmittal to CEQ Ready for 508 Compliance-OM.docx

Joan,

Please try these Word docs. Thanks.

Ms. Jini Ryan
Director
Office of Multimedia (OM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-0175 (Office)
703-589-6035 (Cell)
ryan.jini@epa.gov (Email)

Address:
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
WJC-North, Room 6330H, MC 1703A
Washington, DC 20460

Office of Multimedia intranet site

<https://work.epa.gov/multimedia>

From: Ryan, Jini
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 4:09 PM
To: Joan Fiddle-Ferder <FreeLance@maslowmedia.com>; PRODUCTION <PRODUCTION@maslowmedia.com>
Subject: RE: Climate adaptation report

Thanks. Please provide the estimate so I can track the cost for our records.

Ms. Jini Ryan
Director
Office of Multimedia (OM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

202-564-0175 (Office)
703-589-6035 (Cell)
ryan.jini@epa.gov (Email)

Address:
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
WJC-North, Room 6330H, MC 1703A
Washington, DC 20460

Office of Multimedia intranet site

<https://work.epa.gov/multimedia>

From: Joan Fiddle-Ferder <FreeLance@maslowmedia.com>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Ryan, Jini <Ryan.Jini@epa.gov>; PRODUCTION <PRODUCTION@maslowmedia.com>
Subject: RE: Climate adaptation report

 **Caution:** This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Received, Jini... Forwarding to See Write Hear now.

Joan

From: Ryan, Jini <Ryan.Jini@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Joan Fiddle-Ferder <FreeLance@maslowmedia.com>; PRODUCTION <PRODUCTION@maslowmedia.com>
Subject: Climate adaptation report

Joan,

Attached is the PDF file for the 71-page booklet.

There's also a Word version in case there are any issues with that PDF. The second Word document has the alt text descriptions for the tables and graphics.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. Deadline is COB Wednesday, June 19th. Thanks.

Jini

Ms. Jini Ryan
Director
Office of Multimedia (OM)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

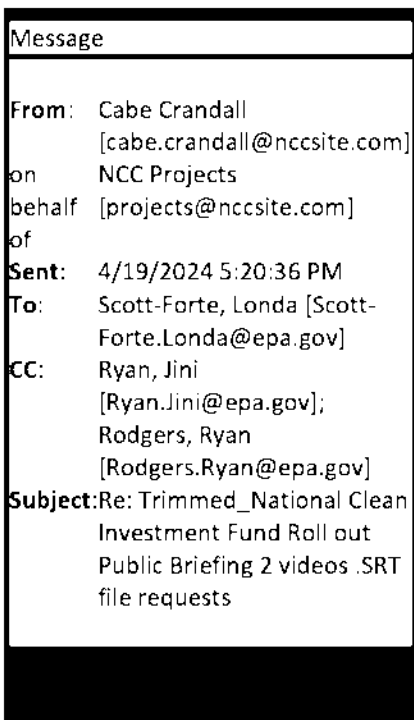
[202-564-0175](tel:202-564-0175) (Office)
[703-589-6035](tel:703-589-6035) (Cell)
ryan.jini@epa.gov (Email)

Address:
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
WJC-North, Room 6330H, MC 1703A

Washington, DC 20460

Office of Multimedia intranet site

<https://work.epa.gov/multimedia>



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Good afternoon Londa -

Hope you are doing well today. Thank you for sending this project our way. We confirm receipt and with a 3 business day turnaround time this project will be due back no later than end of business day April 24th. If anything changes between now and then, I will keep you posted.

Best,
Cabe

From: Scott-Forte, Londa <Scott-Forte.Londa@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:13 AM
To: NCC Projects <projects@nccsite.com>
Cc: Ryan Jini <ryan.jini@epa.gov>; Rodgers, Ryan <Rodgers.Ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 2 videos .SRT file requests

Greetings!

We have two videos for standard turnaround .srt file creation in **English** please:

Video links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXBUOvFkCq4>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poxdwlEd_qc

Project names: Trimmed_National Clean Investment Fund Roll out Public Briefing 20240410
Trimmed_Clean Communities Investment Accelerator Rollout Public Briefing 20240411

Duration: approximately 30 mins each - 1 hour total

[POC – Katie Pastor]

Thanks!

Appointment

From: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/30/2024 6:15:54 PM
To: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; Nowlan, Aileen [Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov]; Hitz, Thomas [Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov]; Drummond, James [Drummond.James@epa.gov]; Christopher, Katherine [Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov]; Hales, Daniel [Hales.Daniel@epa.gov]; Mayerson, Asher [Mayerson.Asher@epa.gov]; bbafford_calvertimpact.org [bbafford@calvertimpact.org]; Liu, Emmeline [eliu@calvertimpact.org]; smckeown_community.com [smckeown@community.com]; Manley, Linda [lmanley@enterprisecommunity.com]; Robbins, David B. [drobbins@jenner.com]; James Kim [james.kim@polsinelli.com]; Shaw, Noah C. [ncshaw@foleyhoag.com]; agladstone_community.com [agladstone@community.com]; Dave Shumannfang [Dave.Shumannfang@self-help.org]; Alyse Young [ayoung@calvertimpact.org]; Robert Brecht [rbrecht@calvertimpact.org]; Pryce, Jennifer [JPryce@calvertimpact.org]; Tucker Bartlett [tucker.bartlett@self-help.org]; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com [eli@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; Daniela Nyiri [danielanyiri@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter [PTerenzio@cov.com]; David Pettit [dpettit@coalitionforgreencapital.com]
CC: Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) [Zavala.Julie@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his) [Dinnocenzo.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Davis, Zoe [Davis.Zoe@epa.gov]; Tucker, Michelle [Tucker.Michelle@epa.gov]; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) [Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov]; Reed Hundt [rehundt@gmail.com]; Nick Colvin [NColvin@habitat.org]; Patel, Shevani [shevanipatel@enterprisecommunity.org]; Marshall, Keba [Keba.Marshall@uww.unitedway.org]; Diana Rhoten [diana@purposeventure.co]; Ari Matusiak [ari@rewiringamerica.org]; Baltera, Danielle [baltera.danielle@epa.gov]; Drew Ades [ades@triplelinestrategies.com]; Tracy Ward [Tracy.Ward@self-help.org]; Lieberman, Judy [Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov]; Tera Doak [TDoak@habitat.org]; Stephen Pantano [stephen@rewiringamerica.org]; Small.Rachel [Rachel.Small@uww.unitedway.org]; Garrett.Byron [Byron.Garrett@uww.unitedway.org]; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF@epa.gov]; Patrick Maher [PMaher@lisc.org]; Friedman.Bruce [Bruce.Friedman@uww.unitedway.org]; Browner, Carol [CBrowner@cov.com]
Subject: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Start: 5/6/2024 2:00:00 PM
End: 5/6/2024 3:30:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

-----Original Appointment-----

From: NCIF <NCIF@epa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:51 AM
To: NCIF; Nowlan, Aileen; Hitz, Thomas; Drummond, James; Christopher, Katherine; Hales, Daniel; Mayerson, Asher; bbafford_calvertimpact.org; Liu, Emmeline; smckeown_community.com; Manley, Linda; Robbins, David B.; James Kim; Shaw, Noah C.; agladstone_community.com; Dave Shumannfang; Alyse Young; Robert Brecht; Pryce, Jennifer; Tucker Bartlett; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com; Daniela Nyiri; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter; David Pettit
Cc: Widawsky, David; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers); Wise, Jahi; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his); Davis, Zoe; Tucker, Michelle; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his); Reed Hundt; Nick Colvin; Patel, Shevani; Marshall, Keba; Diana Rhoten; Ari Matusiak; Baltera, Danielle; Drew Ades; Tracy Ward; Lieberman, Judy; Tera Doak; Stephen Pantano; Small.Rachel; Garrett.Byron; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; Patrick Maher; Friedman.Bruce; Browner, Carol
Subject: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues
When: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:00 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Message

From: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/30/2024 7:31:01 PM
To: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]; Nowlan, Aileen [Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov]; Hitz, Thomas [Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov]; Drummond, James [Drummond.James@epa.gov]; Christopher, Katherine [Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov]; Hales, Daniel [Hales.Daniel@epa.gov]; Mayerson, Asher [Mayerson.Asher@epa.gov]; bbafford_calvertimpact.org [bbafford@calvertimpact.org]; Liu, Emmeline [eliu@calvertimpact.org]; smckeown_community.com [smckeown@community.com]; Manley, Linda [lmanley@enterprisecommunity.com]; Robbins, David B. [drobbins@jenner.com]; James Kim [james.kim@polsinelli.com]; Shaw, Noah C. [ncshaw@foleyhoag.com]; agladstone_community.com [agladstone@community.com]; Dave Shumannfang [Dave.Shumannfang@self-help.org]; Alyse Young [ayoung@calvertimpact.org]; Robert Brecht [rbrecht@calvertimpact.org]; Pryce, Jennifer [JPryce@calvertimpact.org]; Tucker Bartlett [tucker.bartlett@self-help.org]; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com [eli@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; Daniela Nyiri [danielanyiri@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter [PTerenzio@cov.com]; David Pettit [dpettit@coalitionforgreencapital.com]
CC: Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) [Zavala.Julie@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his) [Dinnocenzo.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Davis, Zoe [Davis.Zoe@epa.gov]; Tucker, Michelle [Tucker.Michelle@epa.gov]; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) [Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov]; **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**; Nick Colvin [NColvin@habitat.org]; Patel, Shevani [shevanipatel@enterprisecommunity.org]; Marshall.Keba [Keba.Marshall@uww.unitedway.org]; Diana Rhoten [diana@purposeventure.co]; Ari Matusiak [ari@rewiringamerica.org]; Baltera, Danielle [baltera.danielle@epa.gov]; ades@triplelinestrategies.com; tracy.ward@self-help.org; Lieberman, Judy [Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov]; Tera Doak [TDoak@habitat.org]; Stephen Pantano [stephen@rewiringamerica.org]; Small.Rachel [Rachel.Small@uww.unitedway.org]; Garrett.Byron [Byron.Garrett@uww.unitedway.org]; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF@epa.gov]; Patrick Maher [PMaher@lisc.org]; Friedman.Bruce [Bruce.Friedman@uww.unitedway.org]; Browner, Carol [CBrowner@cov.com]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues

Hello everyone,

We look forward to meeting with you all on Monday to discuss and align on the path forward to resolving the top 10 issues that you all identified last week. Given the importance of us having a shared understanding of the path forward on the top 10 issues, we are hoping that all selected applicants will be **represented by leadership of their organizations in Monday's meeting**. After Monday's meeting, we will move quickly to finalize terms and conditions as well as to update workplans and budgets to facilitate the award process.

We will aim to send materials ahead of time for review.

We look forward to Monday's meeting.

Sincerely,
Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Mayerson, Asher **On Behalf Of** NCIF

Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:49 AM

To: NCIF; Nowlan, Aileen; Hitz, Thomas; Drummond, James; Christopher, Katherine; Hales, Daniel; Mayerson, Asher; bbafford_calvertimpact.org; Liu, Emmeline; smckeown_community.com; Manley, Linda; Robbins, David B.; James Kim; Shaw, Noah C.; agladstone_community.com; Dave Shumannfang; Alyse Young; Robert Brecht; Pryce, Jennifer; Tucker Bartlett; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com; Daniela Nyiri; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter; David Pettit

Cc: Widawsky, David; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers); Wise, Jahi; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his); Davis, Zoe; Tucker, Michelle; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his); Reed Hundt; Nick Colvin; Patel, Shevani; Marshall.Keba; Diana Rhoten; Ari Matusiak; Baltera, Danielle; Drew Ades; Tracy Ward; Lieberman, Judy; Tera Doak; Stephen Pantano; Small.Rachel; Garrett.Byron; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; Patrick Maher; Friedman.Bruce; Browner, Carol; Utech, Dan

Subject: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues

When: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:00 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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This meeting may be recorded. If the meeting is recorded, it will be announced via a banner showing "this meeting is being recorded." Participation in a recorded meeting will be deemed as consent to be recorded. Meeting recordings may be official agency records subject to appropriate policy, rules and regulations.

Message

From: Browner, Carol [CBrowner@cov.com]
Sent: 5/8/2024 10:57:29 PM
To: Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Hoover, Zealan [Hoover.Zealan@epa.gov]
Subject: FAA

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Dan and team - wanted to share with you the letter Eli Hopson sent regarding FAA. We understand there will be a meeting with all selectees to discuss FAA issues on Friday but thought it would be helpful to share this in advance. We look forward to working together to achieve an agreement that honors the requirements and opportunities of the program. Carol

Dear GGRF Team -

We support the thoughtful approach you are taking to disbursing grants to NCIF recipients subject to a Financial Agency Agreement (FAA) in a manner that will enable the recipients to (i) recognize the full awards on their balance sheets as restricted cash, (ii) receive the benefit of interest earned on the accounts, (iii) support the mission of the GGRF, and (iv) assure friction-free access to the accounts in furtherance of financial assistance to qualified projects and other expenditures permitted under the NCIF program. These four features are essential to enable the NCIF awardees to mobilize private capital in the multiples and with the impacts that EPA expects us to achieve. And as EPA has noted, expediting completion of these arrangements is critical to the success of the NCIF program.

Accordingly, based on our review of multiple financial agent agreements that Treasury has established, we offer the following suggestions to inform EPA's pending RFP for financial agent/custodian services so that the RFP process may proceed in parallel with NCIF selectees and EPA resolving details surrounding capitalization and payment controls over the grants.

1. Preserve Flexibility to Establish Terms of Exhibit A -- Exhibit A to the common form of FAA details the terms of services of the arrangement, including the terms and conditions under which funds may be released from the custodial account. Until EPA and the NCIF selectees are aligned on those details, we urge that the RFP not prescribe any such requirements.
2. Assure Continuity of the Arrangement -- Once private capital suppliers are satisfied that the FAA meets the three criteria above, they also will want assurance of the stability of that FAA arrangement. Accordingly, the term of the FAA should be commensurate with the term of NCIF awardee grant agreement, and should guard against any assignment or disruption of the relationship. NCIF awardees should be named as third party beneficiaries of the FAA and there can be no modification of the FAA to the detriment of any NCIF awardee without the awardee's consent. The government's right to terminate the arrangement should be limited to material defaults by the financial agent, with the government's right to terminate for convenience triggering immediate release of the accounts to the NCIF awardees with no further restriction.
3. Waive Liens -- To the extent that 2 CFR 202.6<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecfr.gov%2Fcurrent%2Ftitle-31%2Fsubtitle-B%2Fchapter-II%2Fsubchapter-A%2Fpart-202%2Fsection-202.6&data=05%7C02%7Cutech.dan%40epa.gov%7C51c09f250ea94eee270308dc6fb241bd%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbe6a6a7%7C0%7C0%7C638508058642014388%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luZiIiLCJBTiI6Ik1hawwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0B8nxSRDG7FoiAnnbsx2VJrBeeXtNtlw4QQCHINuYU%3D&reserved=0>> applies to the proposed FAA, the Secretary of Treasury should waive any requirement for collateral security. And of paramount importance, EPA and/or Treasury cannot impose a lien on the Accounts to assure performance of either the FAA or NCIF Grant Agreement. Any such lien will undermine private capital mobilization.
4. Mission Alignment -- EPA and Treasury should consider incorporating features that align with GGRF goals of climate impact and benefits to low income and disadvantaged communities by including a scoring factor that takes into account how the deposits will be invested, and potentially supports aligned community lenders by supporting a distribution of a portion of the deposits across community lenders. This will allow the accounts with the financial agent to positively impact both climate and communities along the lines of what CGC as a selectee plans to implement with its own accounts. The RFP should be weighted towards applicants with plans to address the GGRF mission requirements.
5. Assure Solvency and Sophistication of Financial Agent -- Consistent with the friction-free, assured access requirements needed to mobilize private capital, it will be imperative to neutralize any risk of insolvency by the financial agent. To that end, the RFP should be open only to experienced trust

account managers that meet stringent capitalization requirements. At the same time, we wish to preserve flexibility for significant deposit accounts of the NCIF recipients and subrecipients to be held in well-capitalized MDIs and community lenders.

6. Limit Scope of FAA to Initial Awards to Recipients -- Subjecting subrecipients to FAA arrangements will unduly complicate the subrecipients capital mobilization. Likewise, subjecting NCIF recipient program income to the FAA will encumber capital recycling. Consistent with the three criteria above, the FAA should be a vehicle only for disbursing and holding grant funds until they are utilized in accordance with terms of the NCIF program. Subrecipients should be able to manage their own bank accounts once those funds are deployed to the subrecipient with appropriate reporting.

We appreciate your consideration of these points and would be happy to discuss this with you. In particular we would appreciate an opportunity to review the RFP prior to its being published, and are also happy to arrange meetings with private capital providers regarding considerations for the RFP that would streamline the mobilization of private capital.

Thanks,
-Eli

Message

From: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/3/2024 9:35:43 PM
To: NCIF [NCIF@epa.gov]; Nowlan, Aileen [Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov]; Hitz, Thomas [Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov]; Drummond, James [Drummond.James@epa.gov]; Christopher, Katherine [Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov]; Hales, Daniel [Hales.Daniel@epa.gov]; Mayerson, Asher [Mayerson.Asher@epa.gov]; bbafford_calvertimpact.org [bbafford@calvertimpact.org]; Liu, Emmeline [eliu@calvertimpact.org]; smckeown_community.com [smckeown@community.com]; Manley, Linda [lmanley@enterprisecommunity.com]; Robbins, David B. [drobbins@jenner.com]; James Kim [james.kim@polsinelli.com]; Shaw, Noah C. [ncshaw@foleyhoag.com]; agladstone_community.com [agladstone@community.com]; Dave Shumannfang [Dave.Shumannfang@self-help.org]; Alyse Young [ayoung@calvertimpact.org]; Robert Brecht [rbrecht@calvertimpact.org]; Pryce, Jennifer [JPryce@calvertimpact.org]; Tucker Bartlett [tucker.bartlett@self-help.org]; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com [eli@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; Daniela Nyiri [danielanyiri@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter [PTerenzio@cov.com]; David Pettit [dpettit@coalitionforgreencapital.com]
CC: Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) [Zavala.Julie@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his) [Dinnocenzo.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Davis, Zoe [Davis.Zoe@epa.gov]; Tucker, Michelle [Tucker.Michelle@epa.gov]; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) [Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov]; **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**; Nick Colvin [NColvin@habitat.org]; Patel, Shevani [shevanipatel@enterprisecommunity.org]; Marshall.Keba [Keba.Marshall@uww.unitedway.org]; Diana Rhoten [diana@purposeventure.co]; Ari Matusiak [ari@rewiringamerica.org]; Baltera, Danielle [baltera.danielle@epa.gov]; ades@triplelinestrategies.com; tracy.ward@self-help.org; Lieberman, Judy [Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov]; Tera Doak [TDoak@habitat.org]; Stephen Pantano [stephen@rewiringamerica.org]; Small.Rachel [Rachel.Small@uww.unitedway.org]; Garrett.Byron [Byron.Garrett@uww.unitedway.org]; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF@epa.gov]; Patrick Maher [PMaher@lisc.org]; Friedman.Bruce [Bruce.Friedman@uww.unitedway.org]; Browner, Carol [CBrowner@cov.com]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; Jeff Diehl [jdiehl@coalitionforgreencapital.com]; Alex Roth [aroth@community.com]; Melanie Crocco [mcrocco@community.com]; Tim Mayopoulos [tim@powerforwardcommunities.org]; Stephanie Canzani [sCanzani@community.com]; Daniel Gura [DGura@habitat.org]; Erin Burns-Maine [eburnsmaine@community.com]; Donovan, Shaun [sdonovan@enterprisecommunity.org]; David Rothberg [drothberg@community.com]; Block, Larry [LBlock@winston.com]; Goldberg, Jr., Fred T [Fred.Goldberg@skadden.com]
Subject: RE: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues
Attachments: 05 03 2024 Top 10 Issues for NCIF Selected Applicants.vShare.pdf

Hello everyone,

Please find attached materials that we will walk through in Monday's discussion on the top 10 issues raised by NCIF selected applicants. The materials include, but are not limited to, EPA's responses to those top 10 issues.

We look forward to the discussion on Monday, and we hope you have a great weekend.

-Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Mayerson, Asher **On Behalf Of** NCIF

Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:49 AM

To: NCIF; Nowlan, Aileen; Hitz, Thomas; Drummond, James; Christopher, Katherine; Hales, Daniel; Mayerson, Asher; bbafford_calvertimpact.org; Liu, Emmeline; smckeown_community.com; Manley, Linda; Robbins, David B.; James Kim; Shaw, Noah C.; agladstone_community.com; Dave Shumannfang; Alyse Young; Robert Brecht; Pryce, Jennifer; Tucker Bartlett; eli_coalitionforgreencapital.com; Daniela Nyiri; kevin.minoli@alston.com; Terenzio, Peter; David Pettit

Cc: Widawsky, David; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers); Wise, Jahi; Dinnocenzo, Benjamin (he/him/his); Davis, Zoe; Tucker, Michelle; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his); Reed Hundt; Nick Colvin; Patel, Shevani; Marshall.Keba; Diana Rhoten; Ari Matusiak; Baltera, Danielle; Drew Ades; Tracy Ward; Lieberman, Judy; Tera Doak; Stephen Pantano; Small.Rachel;

Garrett.Byron; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; Patrick Maher; Friedman.Bruce; Browner, Carol; Utech, Dan; Jeff Diehl; Alex Roth; Melanie Crocco; Tim Mayopoulos; Stephanie Canzani; Daniel Gura; Erin Burns-Maine; Donovan, Shaun; David Rothberg; Block, Larry; Goldberg, Jr., Fred T

Subject: Path Forward on NCIF Top 10 Issues

When: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:00 AM-11:30 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

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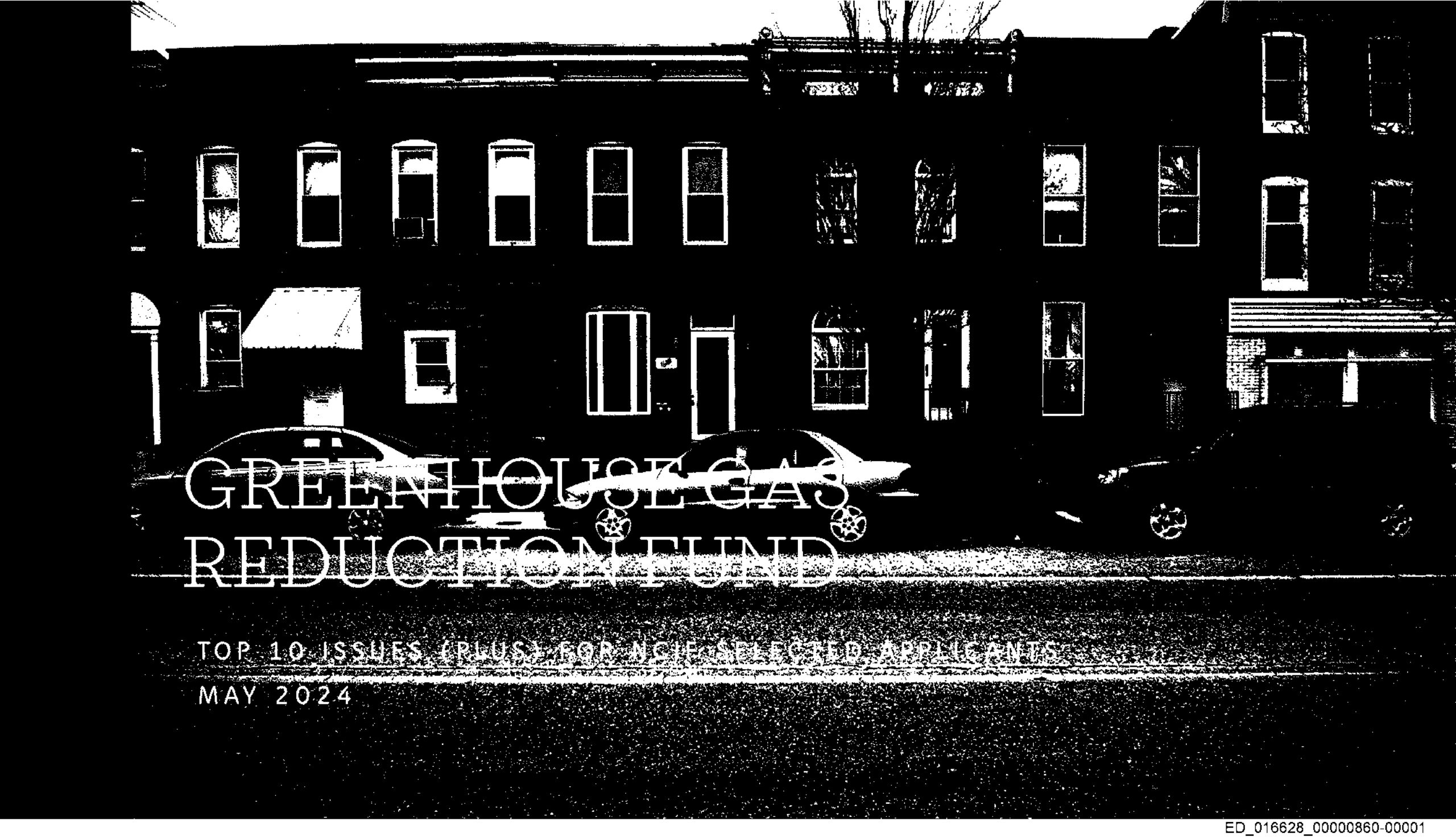
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GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

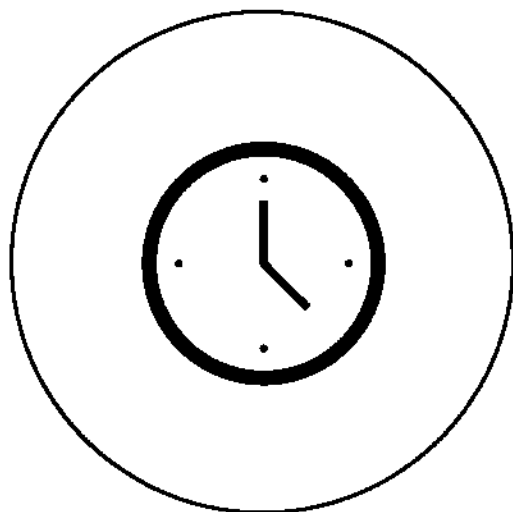
TOP 10 ISSUES (PLUS) FOR NCIE-SELECTED APPLICANTS
MAY 2024

AGENDA

- 1. Review pre-award timeline to ensure obligation prior to statutory deadline**
- 2. Align on post-award plan to resolve remaining issues necessary to execute the workplan and comply with the terms and conditions**
- 3. Identify “pre-award dealbreakers” and propose path to resolution**
- 4. Identify other key issues raised and propose path to resolution**
- 5. Align on next steps**

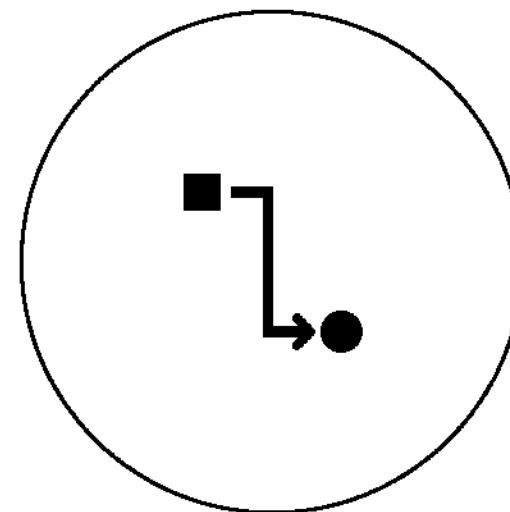
Next section

WHY WE NEED TO ACCEPT THAT NOT ALL QUESTIONS WILL BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO AWARD



Impending statutory deadline

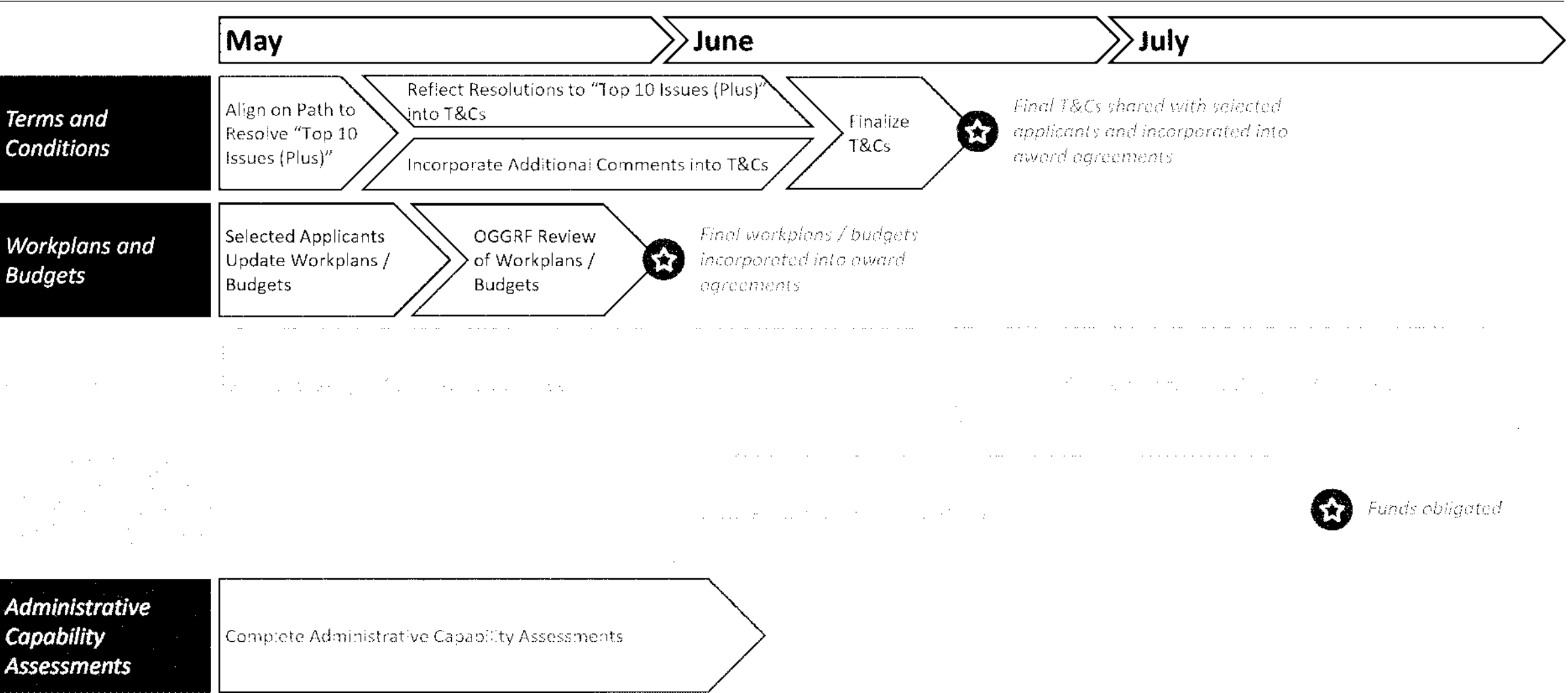
We need to move quickly given the statutory deadline to obligate all funds prior to September 30, 2024—especially since it is critical to provide a buffer in case issues arise in the funding recommendation process



Significant capacity constraints

We have capacity constraints in providing guidance, given the \$30 million administrative cost set-aside combined with the complexities of some statutory, regulatory, and programmatic requirements

TIMELINE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE BUFFER AHEAD OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 DEADLINE TO OBLIGATE FUNDS

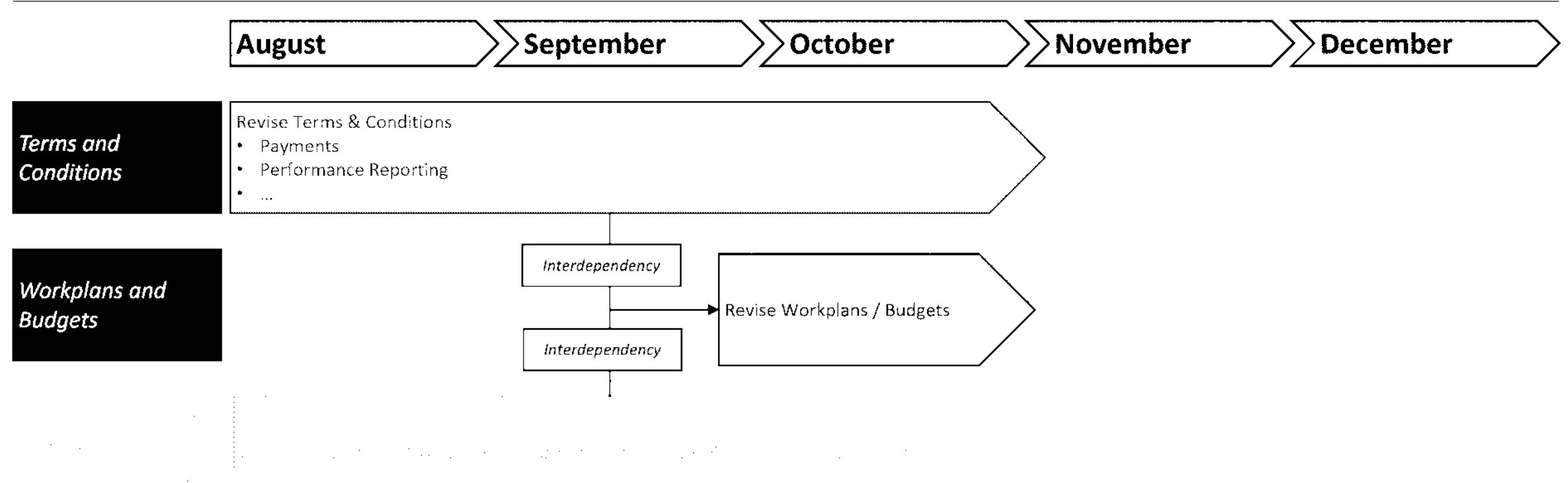


AGENDA

- 1. Review pre-award timeline to ensure obligation prior to statutory deadline**
- 2. Align on post-award plan to resolve remaining issues necessary to execute the workplan and comply with the terms and conditions**
- 3. Identify “pre-award dealbreakers” and propose path to resolution**
- 4. Identify other key issues raised and propose path to resolution**
- 5. Align on next steps**

Next section

TIMELINE TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024 AFTER OBLIGATING FUNDS



DEEP-DIVE | KEY TOPICS FOR EPA GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE

Statutory and regulatory requirements

- *BABA compliance guidance*
- *DBRA compliance guidance*
- *NHPA*
- *Competitive procurement requirements*
- *Flow-down requirements, including applicability to different types of subrecipients*
- *Requirements on transfers of funds to legal entities within the same consolidated parent*
- *...*

Programmatic requirements

- *Requirements on different flows of funds*
- *Program income requirements*
- *Reporting requirements*
- *Definition of “qualified project”*
- *Definition of “priority project”*
- *...*

Additional

- *Policy priorities*
 - *Workforce development*
 - *Wealth creation and housing affordability*
- *Collaboration*
 - *Other federal and state agencies*
 - *Utilities*
 - *Market transformation (e.g., private capital)*
- *Data and cybersecurity*
- *Communications and story-telling*
- *...*

AGENDA

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Next section

PRE-AWARD DEALBREAKERS VS. OTHER ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Pre-award dealbreakers

- a. Payments
- b. Acquisitions of Intangible Property
- c. Financial Covenants
- d. Reporting
- e. Closeout Agreements
- f. Davis-Bacon and Related Acts
- g. Build America, Buy America

Other issues to address

- f. Termination Process
- g. Program Income Requirements
- h. Disposition Controls on Real Property
- i. Definition of LIDAC
- j. Definition of Subrecipient
- k. Definition of Cash Reserves

Do selected applicants agree with the breakdown of pre-award dealbreakers vs. other issues to address?

A | PAYMENTS

EPA understands two distinct but related challenges to existing drawdown and disbursement procedures...

- *Accounting Treatment:* While EPA does not provide accounting guidance to selected applicants or recipients, EPA understands that the grant agreements need to be structured in a way that enables favorable recognition of the grant on recipient and subrecipient balance-sheets—ideally with payments made to recipients and subrecipients recognized as revenue (and a corresponding change in net assets) immediately upon the payment being made.
- *Administrability:* EPA understands that the requirement to disburse funds into actual and allowable project costs is challenging under these particular programs, given the financing activities within them as well as the number of program partners.



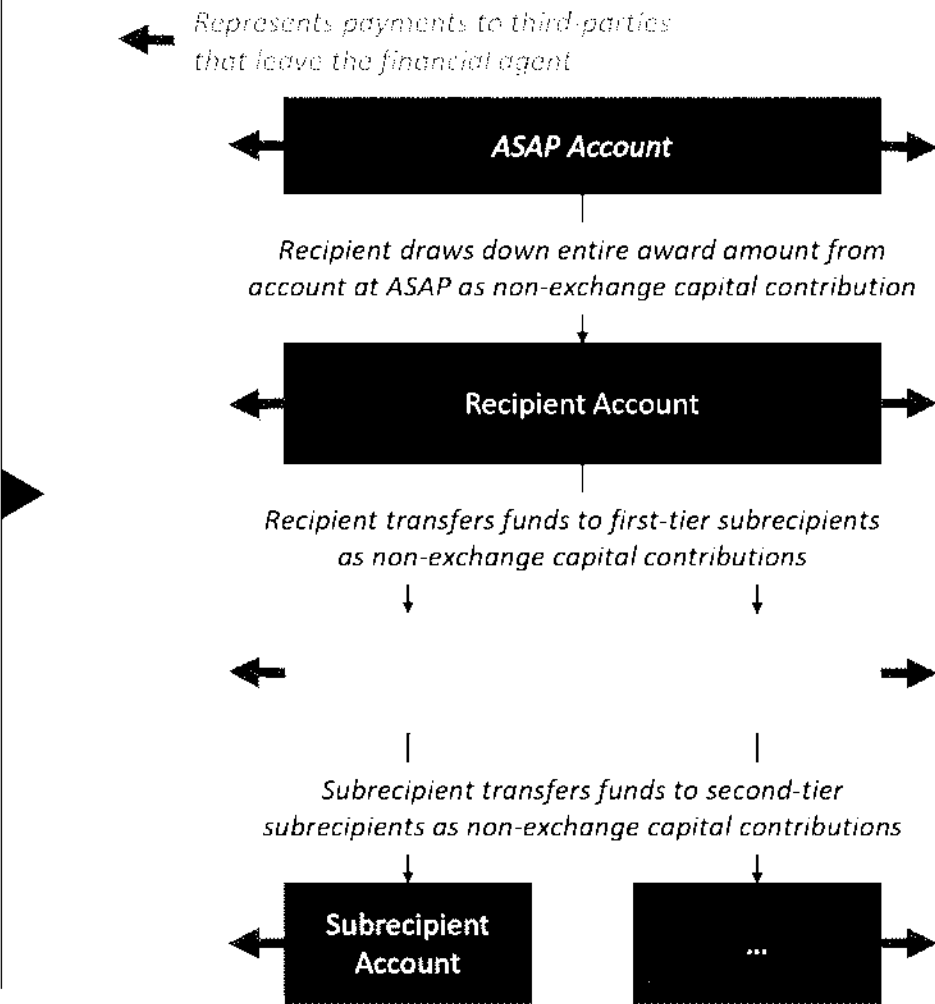
...and is planning to implement two mechanisms that we believe work together to address those challenges

1. Enable payments made to recipients and subrecipients that are financing entities (or pass-throughs to financing entities) to be recorded as nonexchange capital contributions
2. Ensure those payments are made into recipient and subrecipient bank accounts at a financial services provider that would act as a “Financial Agent of the U.S. Treasury,” pursuant to Treasury’s authority under 12 U.S.C. §§ 90 and 265 and 31 C.F.R. Part 202

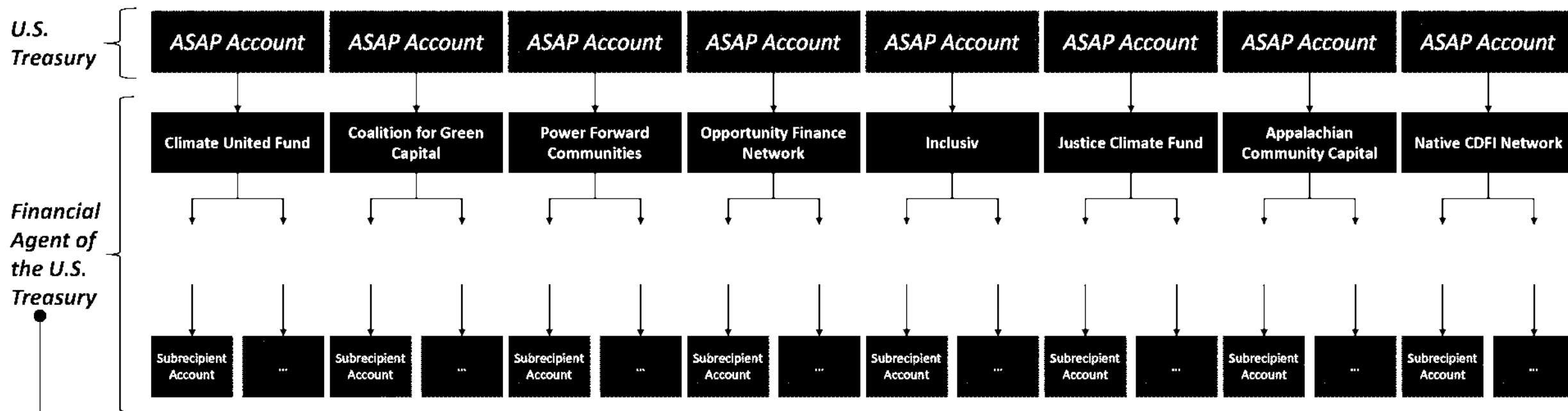
More details are included on the next page

A | PAYMENTS

	Status Quo	Financial Agent
Access to Grant Funds	Via U.S. Treasury's ASAP	Via Financial Agent of the U.S. Treasury
Generation of Interest Income?	No, given regulations at 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8)	Likely yes
Anticipated Accounting Treatment <i>(EPA does not give accounting advice)</i>	Exchange transaction	Nonexchange transaction
Time Horizon for Applicability	Likely applicable in the first few months of the award	Likely applicable starting several months into the award and remaining during performance period <i>(will require amendments to terms and conditions)</i>



A | PAYMENTS



- Accounts for recipients and subrecipients that receive subawards for financial assistance (or that are pass-throughs for subawards for financial assistance), with up to three “tiers” of accounts
- Transfers of funds inside financial agent are intended to be non-exchange capital contributions
- Transfers of funds outside financial agent (include payments to contractors, employees, and other subrecipients) bound by spirit of EPA’s existing implementation of the regulations at 2 CFR 200.305(b), generally allowing advances for five business days prior to use for allowable activities

A | PAYMENTS

Account Type #1 (NCIF)	Account Type #2 (CCIA)	Account Type #3 (Community Lender)
Financial assistance – LIDAC	Capitalization funding	Capitalization funding
Financial assistance – Non-LIDAC	Technical assistance subawards	Technical assistance subaward
Predevelopment – LIDAC	Technical assistance services	
Predevelopment – Non-LIDAC	Program administration	
Market-building – LIDAC	Other pass-through funding	
Market-building – Non-LIDAC		
Program administration – LIDAC		
Program administration – Non-LIDAC		
Other pass-through funding		
Program income	Program income	Program income

Key

Budget Sleeve

Program Income Sleeve

- “Budget sleeves” hold grant funds that are contributed into the account prior to expenditure
- “Reserve sleeve” holds grant funds that are in reserve accounts for loan loss reserves, capital reserves, and other uses of grant funds that do not involve transfers to third-parties
- “Program income sleeve” holds interest income, principal repayments, and other program income earned during the performance period

B | ACQUISITIONS OF INTANGIBLE PROPERTY

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
It is unclear why some project-level financial assistance is qualified as participant support costs and some is qualified as Acquisition of Intangible Property. Including loan purchases and equity investments as Acquisition of Intangible Property imposes procurement requirements that will limit our investable universe and private capital partners. For example, we are trying to incentivize banks to incorporate decarbonization into their loan origination process across asset types so that they become accustomed to doing so and can implement those practices across their business lines once they have enough track record to understand asset quality. Imposing a procurement requirement on these banks would become an unnecessary barrier and would slow down their interest in and adoption of green lending practices and limit our ability to transform the traditional credit markets.	Reclassify equity investments and loan purchases as Participant Support Costs. In addition, please clarify that any standard and/or customary origination or servicing fees related to the stated forms of financial assistance to qualified projects under the revised definition of Participant Support Costs are included in the respective financial assistance budget. The suggested revisions to the definition are below. Participant Support Costs: 2 CFR 200.1 defines participant support costs as “direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.” EPA regulations at 2 CFR 1500.1(a)(1) expand the definition of participant support costs to include “subsidies, rebates, and other payments to program beneficiaries to encourage participation in statutorily authorized environmental stewardship programs,” which includes the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. In this program, participant support costs are primarily a form of financial assistance to qualified projects, including but not limited to equity investments, credit enhancement, loan purchases, loan participations, and senior or subordinate loans and any standard or customary fees associated with the respective form of financial assistance (whether paid to recipient, any subrecipient or a third party). Also, modify T&Cs to eliminate requirement “to record liens or other appropriate notices of record to indicate that intangible property has been acquired with Federal funding and that use and disposition conditions apply to the intangible property” as it is infeasible to record a lien or notice at the time of purchase of loans. If reclassification of these forms of financial assistance is not possible, we will be seeking guidance from the EPA on how to work with OMB for an exception to this provision, per the recent guidance in the FAQs. Understanding the scope and timing of that process will be an important input for our workplan.	1. Equity investments and loan purchases are procurement contracts, since they involve purchases of <i>Intangible property</i>, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1. The term <i>Contract</i> in 2 CFR 200.1 encompasses purchases of property without qualifications. This contrasts with <i>Federal financial assistance</i>, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, which involves the provision of financial assistance. The mechanism to lift federal procurement requirements is not through the terms and conditions but rather through EPA Award Official approval of sole source procurement contracts—which is done rarely. Please review the EPA guidance on procurement. EPA believes that there are viable pathways to conduct competitive procurement for loan purchases and equity investments that are fair, transparent, and without conflicts of interest to ensure that the recipient or subrecipient is achieving the best deal for the taxpayer (e.g., a “rolling RFP” that could look like this EPA rolling RFP). 2. Financial assistance to qualified projects reflects the direct costs of the financial assistance that flows to qualified projects as well as any associated indirect costs. If a recipient or subrecipient subsidizes a financial product by paying for the origination or servicing fees as part of the financial product (with the financial product meeting the definition of “financial assistance”), then EPA does not anticipate any issue with categorizing these costs as part of the direct costs of “participant support cost” financial assistance. The EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs classifies subsidies as participant support cost. 3. EPA will provide post-award guidance on what constitutes “appropriate notices of record” for purchases of intangible personal property.

C | FINANCIAL COVENANTS

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
Including the financial covenants as presented creates multiple challenges: Private lenders will be very hesitant to provide any debt to an entity with the covenants proposed from a non-lending entity where the recourse and remedies are uncertain and subject to political risk. It also raises the possibility that any lenders would need to enter into something akin to an intercreditor agreement with the EPA to determine what would happen in the event of a covenant breach or default. This dramatically impairs our ability to leverage private capital, a core tenant of this program. The current portfolio quality covenants create the wrong incentive: - o Delinquency covenants limit the flexibility that an unregulated mission-driven financial institution can provide to borrowers in times of economic downturn or financial distress. This flexibility to restructure and patiently work with people, projects, or businesses is one of the primary reasons that nonprofit lenders are able to limit losses in recessions and other periods of economic shock when the rest of the market cannot; - o Charge-off covenants will not allow these entities to take the risks that this program is asking them to take to accelerate adoption of clean technologies and increase access in low-income and disadvantaged communities – and will limit the ability to meet two of the six qualified project tests, financing projects that “may otherwise not have been financed” and “leveraging private capital”. Therefore, we recommend sections O.2. and V.5. of the Terms and Conditions are modified as proposed.	Make all financial ratios reporting and monitoring items instead of financial covenants during the period of performance and during the closeout period so that there is full transparency around the health, risk management practices, and financial sustainability of the entities managing funds but that they do not limit our ability to manage our portfolio strategy to optimize impact across the three program objectives. We suggest that O.2. and V.5. instead both read: <i>(see next page for details)</i>	Given the uncertainty in accounting treatment as well as the most appropriate “levels” of the financial covenants, EPA will tentatively plan to change the financial covenants as follows: 1. Call them “financial metrics” as opposed to “covenants” or “ratios” 2. Shift to ratios that are reported and monitored in accordance with the requirement to maintain “sufficient progress” against the workplan—but without specific levels specified to measure such progress 3. Maintain the scope of ratios and corresponding definitions as defined in the terms and conditions shared (i.e., maintaining current ratio and delinquency rate in performance period as well as delinquency rate in closeout period) EPA would like to hear from selected applicants as to whether: 1. It would be easier to report such metrics at the “fund level” (i.e., aggregated across the GGRF assets held by recipients and subrecipients) rather than by each entity (i.e., each recipient or subrecipient) at the “entity level” 2. It would be easier to require reporting of such metrics aligned to the grant’s period of performance or the reporting entity’s fiscal year

D | REPORTING

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
The T&Cs require quarterly, annual and final reports on timelines consistent with 2 CFR 200.329 - 30 calendar days for quarterly reporting, 90 days for annual reporting and 120 days for the final report. This timeline for reporting, while consistent with 2 CFR 200.329, is not feasible for project and transaction level reporting given the scale, breadth, and complexity of this program. The guidelines are more frequent than other comparable federal reporting requirements (for comparison, the CDFI Fund requires only annual reporting which is due within 180 days of the end of the year, and that is for data owned only by the recipient and not aggregated across numerous partners and organizations.) Reporting such robust and detailed data on such a tight timeline opens the program up to risks that data is not effectively quality controlled, leading to significant risks for recipient's and subgrantees' Single Audits and ability to pursue future federal programs, as well as to risking the reputation of the program at large.	The reporting requirements should be revised as follows: 1. Annual reporting for recipients and annual organizational disclosures for recipients and subgrantees receiving more than \$10mm in EPA Funds due within 120 days to conform with audit delivery so that all annual reporting may be consistent (increase from current 90 day requirement); 2. Quarterly performance reports for recipients due within 30 days but without the inclusion of any project or transaction level data; 3. Remove requirement to report quarterly transaction level and project level reporting and change to annual; 4. Annual project level and transaction level reporting within 90 days (per the regs); 5. Allow for an extended reporting timeline for the first quarterly reporting period as we ramp up of 120 days.	1. EPA intentionally designed two annual reporting cycles: (i) performance period to align reporting across all recipients and (ii) entity fiscal year to align with the recipient or subrecipient's Single Audit submission. The 90-day requirement is a requirement of the grant regulations at 2 CFR 200.329(c)(1). However, EPA can update the terms and conditions to require annual reports within 90 days of the reporting entity's fiscal year-end (as opposed to within 90 days of the grant performance period's annual year-end) as well as update the terms and conditions to require organizational disclosures within 90 days of the reporting entity's fiscal year-end (as opposed to being tied to the Single Audit delivery). 2. EPA plans to shift the quarterly performance reports to semi-annual. 3. EPA plans to maintain the transaction- and project-level reporting on quarterly basis for NCIF (note that we are providing additional flexibility for CCIA given the volume of subrecipients). 4. Given that transaction- and project-level reporting would be quarterly, the regulations require submission within 30 calendar days after the reporting period. 5. EPA will update the terms and conditions such that the first reporting period ends on December 31, 2024. This should alleviate the ramp up concerns, although the Project Officer does have authority to provide case-by-case extensions.

E | CLOSEOUT AGREEMENTS

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
The T&C include pre-negotiated closeout terms that currently apply on an indefinite basis, such that essentially all investment income — including income earned well after all federal funds have been disbursed — will continue to be subject to applicable federal requirements. Additionally, EPA has provided additional financial covenants for the closeout agreement. It is not clear why there are more stringent or distinct requirements during closeout than during the period of performance.	EPA should follow the same approach to financial covenants for the closeout period as is suggested in our proposed revision to the T&C concerning financial covenants. EPA should also revise the term and condition to explicitly specify a termination date for the closeout period. Such a change is consistent with the policy objectives of the NCIF, which hopes to mobilize multiples of private capital beyond the initial grant award towards EPA's dual equity and decarbonization objectives. Additionally, other provisions of the award agreement contemplate a termination of the Closeout Agreement, but no termination date is specified in the text of the T&C document. For instance, T&C III.V.9 states that "[i]n accordance with 2 CFR 200.334(e), the recipient shall maintain appropriate records to document compliance with the requirements of the Closeout Agreement (i.e., records relating to the use of retained and post-closeout program income) for a three-year period following the end of the Closeout Agreement" (emphasis added). To address these issues, EPA should adopt the revision suggested in the bolded text in the term and condition below: 12. Termination of the Closeout Agreement The Closeout Agreement expires 3-years from the end of the period of performance, or on September 30, 2034, whichever is earlier. The EPA Award Official or Grants Management Officer and the recipient may also mutually agree to terminate this Closeout Agreement. The NCIF grantees propose a 3-year closeout period because after 3 years following the period of performance, it is likely that privately leveraged funds and program income would exceed the initial NCIF grant award.	EPA is happy to discuss the specific terms of the close-out agreement post-award, but EPA intends to keep requirements on the funds (i.e., program income) in perpetuity.

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Do the following types of common projects under GGRF meet the U.S. Department of Labor’s definition of “construction” under the Davis-Bacon Related Acts (codified at 29 CFR Part 5), applicable to GGRF-assisted projects by way of Section 314 of the Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7614) and incorporated in the Terms & Conditions?

- Installation of solar panels?
- Installation of heat pumps?
- Retrofits of buildings for energy efficiency?
- Pre-development work?

Each of these projects, with the exception of pre-development, would meet the definition of “construction” under the applicable DBRA statute and each would trigger DBRA labor standards. Whether pre-development work triggers DBRA depends on the nature of that work. Pre-construction activities such as environmental assessments, site acquisition, permitting, and engineering and design work do not in and of themselves trigger DBRA. Site preparation activities such as remediation of contaminated soil, abatement of asbestos or lead based paint, demolition, and similar construction activities are subject to DBRA.

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Are single-family residential construction projects subject to DBRA labor standards?

Yes, single-family residential construction projects will trigger DBRA labor standards. The DBRA statute governing the use of funds under the Clean Air Act is broad and extends to all construction projects funded under the GGRF, including single-family residential construction projects.

Why do some other federal agencies and grant programs exclude single-family residential projects from DBRA labor standards? Is EPA extending the scope of DBRA?

Some federal grant programs have statutory authority that provides for exclusions to DBRA labor standards on single-family residential construction projects. There are no similar exclusions in Section 314 of the Clean Air Act. Examples of federal grant programs with DBRA exclusions include the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) – both of which are funded by HUD – and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) as implemented under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), funded by DOE.

E | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Is there a distinction on DBRA applicability as it relates to different forms of loan-based financial assistance transactions?

Yes, the form of the loan-based financial assistance transaction can be determinative. The question of **timing and purpose of the funding** is especially important. For example, the purchases of completed construction loans as a form of acquisition of intangible property after all construction work has been completed would not trigger DBRA requirements. DBRA cannot apply retroactively in this manner, and such financial assistance cannot be reasonably interpreted as assisting construction since the recipient or subrecipient would be acquiring intangible property rather than hiring a construction contractor. A loan-based instrument originated or guaranteed to fund a construction project, on the other hand, would trigger DBRA requirements. As a general matter, GGRF recipients and subrecipients should apply this principle when determining whether certain forms of loan-based financial assistance are assisting construction or not.

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Is there a distinction on DBRA applicability as it relates to different forms of equity-based financial assistance transactions?

The same principle described for loan-based products would apply if a recipient or subrecipient acquired an equity interest through purchase of stock or another form of *Intangible property* as defined in 2 CFR 200.1 in a Clean Air Act 134(c)(3) qualified project such as the development of technology through a licensing arrangement or to carry out a manufacturing or service activity that reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Such a purchase does not require that the company selling the equity interest, licensing patented technology, or performing a manufacturing/service activity to use the funds for a specific construction project. On the other hand, if a recipient or subrecipient were to acquire an equity interest in a joint venture or similar arrangement to finance a **specific construction project**, DBRA would apply since GGRF funds would be used to assist construction within the meaning of Section 314 of the Clean Air Act.

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Is there an exception to DBRA on tribal lands, or specific tribal wage scales projects on tribal lands must reference?

No. There is no statutory exception to the Section 314 Clean Air Act DBRA requirement for projects carried out on tribal lands. Unlike the Department of the Interior, as authorized under the Indian Self-Determination Act ([25 USC 450e](#)), the Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the Native American Housing Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) ([25 USC 4114\(b\)](#)), and the Indian Health Service, [42 CFR § 137.379](#), EPA does not have statutory or regulatory authority to allow tribes to set their own prevailing market wage for construction projects funded with federal grants. There is nothing in the Department of Labor's DBRA regulations that indicates that tribal wage scales may be used in lieu of the Department of Labor's prevailing wage determinations.

However, the Department of Labor acknowledges that federally funded construction work **carried out by employees of tribal governments is not subject to DBRA**: "The Department has also considered work by Tribal governments using their own employees to be excluded from DBRA coverage in a similar manner and for the same reasons as work by the Federal agencies and instrumentalities and by State or local recipients of Federal assistance. Under the final rule, the Department will continue to interpret DBRA coverage in this manner." ([Footnote 172 of Preamble to DOL's August 2023 Final Rule Updating Davis Bacon Regulations](#))

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Is DBRA compliance an allowable and allocable cost?

Yes. The cost associated with ensuring DBRA compliance is an allowable cost for recipients and subrecipients under GGRF and may be allocable as a direct cost to GGRF if certain requirements (described below) are met. Such direct costs would be deemed program administration activities for the recipient and any named subrecipient, and in the case of lower-tier subrecipients, administrative expenditures that are reasonable and necessary for the implementation of qualified projects. These costs must comply with requirements for allowability under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E including the provision in [2 CFR 200.403\(d\)](#) on charging costs consistently as either direct or indirect as well as applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500. Allowable direct costs include, but are not limited to, the procurement of a payroll reporting and compliance management software product to document and report DBRA compliance for all construction projects assisted under the award.

F | DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS

Will EPA be providing guidance regarding DBRA compliance and reporting? How will EPA ensure Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and contractors in LIDACS have wealth creation opportunities consistent with DBRA compliance?

Yes. OGGRF intends to furnish recipients and subrecipients with additional material on DBRA compliance after awards are made. EPA recognizes the importance of LIDAC contractor inclusion and wealth generation in this program, and welcomes future discussions on technical assistance opportunities related to DBRA that may be afforded under GGFR.

G | BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA

Will EPA be providing additional guidance for recipients and subrecipients with regards to what types of qualified projects constitute “infrastructure” for purposes of BABA?

Yes, EPA will provide further BABA guidance for GGFR programs as soon as possible. We expect this guidance will include additional examples of BABA applicability for different project types.

In the interim, selectees should presume that BABA applies to all qualified projects that meet the definition of “infrastructure”, according to regulations and OMB guidelines. Selectees can find more information at 2 CFR 184, M-24-02, and existing EPA FAQs at: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>.

In particular, EPA highlights the following statement in OMB’s guidance M-24-02: “projects consisting solely of the purchase, construction, or improvement of a private home for personal use, for example, would not constitute a public infrastructure project for purposes of BABA.” Based on this guidance, EPA is confirming that BABA does **not** apply to projects involving private homes.

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Do selected applicants agree with the breakdown of pre-award dealbreakers vs. other issues to address?

H | TERMINATION PROCESS

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
Section III.T.6 states: "EPA maintains the right to terminate the assistance agreement only as specified in 2 CFR 200.340, through either a partial or full termination. If EPA partially or fully terminates the assistance agreement, EPA must (1) deobligate unused funds and reobligate them to another entity within 90 days of the deobligation and (2) amend the recipient's assistance agreement to reflect the reduced amount, based on the deobligation."	PROPOSED REVISED LANGUAGE: EPA maintains the right to terminate the assistance agreement only as specified in 2 CFR 200.340, through either a partial or full termination, upon no less than 180 days' notice. If EPA partially or fully terminates the assistance agreement, EPA must (1) deobligate uncommitted funds and reobligate them to another entity to effectuate the objectives of Section 134 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC s. 7434, within 90 days of the deobligation, and (2) amend the recipient's assistance agreement to reflect the reduced amount, based on the deobligation. Any termination by EPA under 2 CFR 200.340(a)(2) shall be supported by a written determination of the Administrator that performance of the award no longer effectuates Section 134 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC s. 7434, which written determination shall be provided to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and Senate Committee on Energy of Natural Resources at least 90 days prior to its effective date. Such written determination shall state to which entity such uncommitted funds will be reobligated and describe in reasonable detail how such reobligation effectuates the objectives of Section 134 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC s. 7434.	EPA will plan to update the terms and conditions to reflect some of the proposed updates through "based on deobligation," as follows: <i>EPA maintains the right to terminate the assistance agreement only as specified in 2 CFR 200.339 and CFR 200.340, through either a partial or full termination. If EPA partially or fully terminates the assistance agreement, EPA must (1) deobligate uncommitted funds and reobligate them to another entity to effectuate the objectives of Section 134 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC s. 7434, within 90 days of the deobligation, and (2) amend the recipient's assistance agreement to reflect the reduced amount, based on the deobligation. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.341, EPA must provide notice of the effect of termination.</i> EPA will not plan to update the terms and conditions to reflect the proposed updates after "based on obligation," as those proposed updates interfere with the relationship between Congress and the EPA. Congress, however, has existing oversight mechanisms should it want explanations for any actions that EPA is taking under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs. Further, note that the recipient could disclose the notice provided under 2 CFR 200.341 publicly if they so choose. For awareness, the process to address non-compliance may (but not always) work as follows: 1. The EPA Project Officer identifies non-compliance and advises the recipient of concerns, asking the recipient to resolve concerns prior to involvement of the EPA Award Official 2. If the concerns are not resolved, then the EPA Award Official issues formal corrective action requirements under 2 CFR 200.208 3. If the concerns are still not resolved, then the EPA Award Official takes action under 2 CFR 200.339 and/or 2 CFR 200.340 and 200.341 4. After such action has been taken, the recipient has an opportunity to dispute remedial action under 2 CFR Part 1500 Subpart E

I | PROGRAM INCOME REQUIREMENTS

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
The T&C state that “In accordance with 2 CFR 1500.8(d) as supplemented by the Program Income Programmatic Term and Condition and the Period of Performance Programmatic Term and Condition, the recipient may only use program income once the award is fully drawn down or the period of performance ends for a different reason.” But it is not clear that program income can be used once the award is fully drawn down from the ASAP system. Additionally, for purposes of determining compliance, may EPA consider the funding for purposes of compliance to be workplan or project-specific, to ensure that generated program income may be expended efficiently? As stated by EPA in its April 11 briefing, the contract will require that federal income be expended first, in a stepwise manner, before program income – it states, “the recipient may only use program income once the award is fully drawn down or the period of performance ends for a different reason.” Finally, it is standard commercial practice to add an origination fee and a servicing fee when purchasing loans or participating in loans from other lenders to cover the costs of origination and servicing the loans. In order to ensure these expenses can be covered for the life of the loan, the origination fee and servicing fee must be considered a part of the loan rather than paid from administrative expenses.	We request the following clarifications and changes regarding these issues: 1. Please clarify that program income can be used once the award is fully drawn down from the ASAP system. 2. EPA should permit program income to be drawn down before the grant is fully expended when necessary to achieve NCIF objectives on a project-specific basis. 3. EPA should characterize the payment of origination fees and servicing fees as costs incidental to the generation of program income and a part of the financial assistance arrangement, and thereby allowable to pay the originator and servicer for their origination and servicing expenses. 4. Please clarify that program income requirements do not apply to Financial Intermediary Subawardees (those receiving loans) and only apply to the recipient, named subrecipient, or any other subgrantee receiving more than \$10M	1. Program income can be used once the award is fully used for actual and allowable project costs. This requires funds not just be drawn from ASAP but also expended for actual and allowable project costs. 2. EPA will happily adjust the terms and conditions to ensure that program income can be drawn in advance of the grant being fully used where (i) necessary to execute the activities in the workplan and (ii) the EPA Project Officer has given prior approval to use program income in advance of the grant being fully expended. Please note that the use of program income instead of the initial award delays the ability to enter into the closeout agreement. 3. Financial assistance to qualified projects reflects the direct costs of the financial assistance that flows to qualified projects as well as any associated indirect costs. If a recipient or subrecipient subsidizes a financial product by paying for the origination or servicing fees as part of the financial product (with the financial product meeting the definition of “financial assistance”), then EPA does not anticipate any issue with categorizing these costs as part of the direct costs of financial assistance. 4. EPA will plan to provide limited guidance on applicability of flow-down requirements to different types of subrecipients post-award. EPA will need additional time to consider how terms and conditions, including the closeout agreements (and associated program income requirements), flow down to financial intermediary subrecipients—but is hoping that it can relax the program income requirements on these types of subrecipients.

J | DISPOSITION CONTROLS ON REAL PROPERTY

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
We understand from EPA’s April 24 FAQ document that the real property controls set forth in section II.H will apply: (i) where program beneficiaries use NCIF financial assistance (e.g., loans) to purchase or improve real property; and/or (ii) where a recipient or subrecipient acquires title to real property through a foreclosure. As most relevant here, this suggests that all real property acquired or using program funds will be subject to the disposition controls. This will result in significant administrative burdens for both the recipients and for EPA: EPA will be required to provide the recipient with specific disposition instructions — i.e., “buy out” the federal share, sell the property and transfer to EPA its portion of the proceeds, or otherwise transfer title to EPA or a third-party beneficiary — each time it is determined that property acquired with NCIF funds is no longer needed for the “originally authorized purpose.” The existence of these disposition controls — and the related recordation requirements — will also significantly complicate the ability of program beneficiaries to combine NCIF funding with private financing, as private lenders will likely be unwilling to subordinate their rights to EPA. Potential program beneficiaries planning high-impact projects that combine private and NCIF funding could elect to descope their projects rather than accept the NCIF terms, thereby impeding the statutory goal of reducing emissions through partnership with the private sector. Last, we note that the property disposition rules could essentially serve as a permanent reduction in program income, as some amount of each property sale will have to be refunded to EPA.	As an initial matter, it bears emphasis that both the clause and 2 CFR 200.311 apply such that title “will vest upon acquisition in the recipient.” However, in many circumstances recipients will be investing in qualified projects without taking title — and EPA should therefore clarify its position with regards to instances where a program beneficiary (but not the recipient or a subrecipient) has title to the real property in question. Disposition controls applying to program beneficiary-owned property would directly threaten the viability of this program, and prevent the statutory goals from being achieved. Private capital would be unable to partner with the NCIF awardees. Disposition controls could still apply where the recipient does take title (after a foreclosure, for example). In those circumstances, EPA should consider programmatic terms in which title may be routinely disposed of without specific EPA consent or instruction as a natural part of the asset management process. This could take the form of a standing order from EPA to reinvest the proceeds of any property sale back into the program, for example. To that end, we understand from the FAQ that EPA is considering amending the T&Cs such that “if the recipient or subrecipient subsequently sells the property and uses the program income from the sale to replenish its loan or loan guarantee funds, that ‘use’ of the sale proceeds would be an authorized grant purpose under the terms of the lien term and condition.” Could EPA provide additional detail regarding this proposal? Finally, could EPA clarify the conditions under which real property is no longer needed for an authorized purpose in connection with the NCIF grant? Is the authorized purpose coterminous with the term of the grant, or may it extend into the closeout period?	If a recipient or subrecipient directly acquires <i>Real property</i>, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, then this term and condition will be applicable. If a program beneficiary acquires real property, then this term and condition is not applicable. EPA will clarify this distinction in the terms and conditions. If a recipient or subrecipient acquires real property and then sells the real property for the “originally authorized purpose” (i.e., for a “qualified project”), then the proceeds from the sale would be treated as <i>Program income</i> as defined in 2 CFR 200.1 and further clarified in the terms and conditions. However, if the real property is sold for another purpose (i.e., not for a “qualified project”), then the disposition requirements would apply to the transaction. EPA will clarify these points in the terms and conditions.

K | DEFINITION OF LOW-INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
The definition of "Properties Providing Affordable Housing" within the "Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities" definition is too narrow. The definition in the T&Cs should be expanded to include state and municipal affordable housing programs with active affordability covenants that restrict rents to 30% of 80% of AMI for at least half of the residential units. Recommend adding another component to the definition "Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities" based on population served in non-housing properties as follows as recommended in our suggested action.	Supplement the definition of "Properties Providing Affordable Housing" to include ", (b) naturally-occurring (unsubsidized) existing or new affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units, or (c) any state or municipal affordable housing programs which require affordability covenants." Expand the definition of "Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities" to include "schools where more than 50% of the students served qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program, medical facilities, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, where more than 50% of the patients serve qualify for Medicaid or Medicare, and community solar projects that have at least 50% of subscribers from low-income households." Provide a process or methodology that allows Recipients to determine whether the populations benefiting from the clean technology investment are from LIDAC in addition to the geographic tests.	Prior to obligating funds, EPA will not change the definition of "low-income and disadvantaged communities" from the version that was included in the NOFO. The definition went through extensive interagency review and approval. After obligating funds, EPA may consider changes to the definition. If EPA considers changes, then it will do so through a well-defined process. Please note that the requirement is that financial assistance is "in low-income and disadvantaged communities." Refer to <i>Appendix C: Guidance for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Community Expenditures</i> for details.

L | DEFINITION OF SUBRECIPIENT

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
There are numerous references to subrecipients in the agreement that do not distinguish between the three types of subrecipients noted in the Terms and Conditions, "Named Subrecipients", "Subgrantees carrying out program admin, market building or predevelopment" (AKA "Program Subgrantees"), and Community Lender Subawardees receiving financial assistance (AKA "Financial Intermediary Subawardees") We need clarity throughout the document about what requirements apply to which subrecipients so we can effectively communicate to our partners.	Please provide definitions of the three types of Subrecipients named in the Terms and Conditions. Whenever the term Subrecipient is included in the document, please indicate which of the three types of subrecipients are being referenced. This will allow us to better manage expectations and requirements with all of our partners. Modify the definition of "Subrecipient" to reflect the following: In this program, there are three types of subrecipients: (1) a subrecipient that receives a subgrant that will be used, either in whole or in part, to provide financial assistance to qualified projects, or a "Named Subrecipient"; (2) a subrecipient that receives a subgrant that will be used exclusively for predevelopment, market-building, and/or program administration activities, or a "Program Subgrantee"; and (3) a subrecipient that receives a loan or other form of financial assistance in the form of a subaward as a financial intermediary, with the subrecipient then using the subaward to provide financial assistance to qualified projects, or a "Financial Intermediary Subawardee". References to subrecipients throughout this agreement should note where requirements apply for these three types of entities.	EPA will modify the definition to reflect three types of subrecipients as follows (some slight differences in terminology from those suggested by selectees). <i>In this program, there are three types of subrecipients: (1) a subrecipient that receives a subgrant that will be used, either in whole or in part, to provide financial assistance to qualified projects, or a "Financial Assistance Subrecipient"; (2) a subrecipient that receives a subgrant that will be used exclusively for predevelopment, market-building, and/or program administration activities, or a "Technical Assistance Subrecipient"; and (3) a subrecipient that receives a loan or other form of financial assistance in the form of a subaward as a financial intermediary, with the subrecipient then using the subaward to provide financial assistance to qualified projects, or a "Financial Intermediary Subawardee".</i> EPA will plan to provide limited guidance on applicability of flow-down requirements to different types of subrecipients post-award.

M | DEFINITION OF CASH RESERVES

Description of Issue (300 words or less)	Suggested Action to Address Issue (300 words or less)	EPA Response
A strong balance sheet is critical to the ability of recipients to leverage and attract private capital for qualified projects. We understand that EPA is exploring options to facilitate a one-time balance sheet capitalization. In the near term, the cash reserves definition could be amended to facilitate grantees acquiring upfront working capital that can be held in interest bearing accounts. EPA should clarify whether (a) cash reserves may be deployed for all allowable purposes contemplated in the approved work plan, including, e.g., financial assistance, subgrants, market building, predevelopment, and program administration; and (b) deposit of funds into a qualified account to serve as cash reserves constitutes a disbursement for purposes of the advance payment rules in 2 CFR 200.305 and the EPA General Terms & Conditions. Further, the definition of qualified account should be amended to eliminate the restrictions in clauses (1) and (2) that appear to prohibit the grantee from accessing and transferring cash reserves for permitted purposes or holding such reserves as balance sheet assets. The definition also should be modified to align with the Cash Management Requirements provided for elsewhere in the T&C, and to clarify that recipients may hold cash reserves in excess of federal deposit insurance limits. Finally, reasonable amendments to the types of accounts into which cash reserves may be deposited would result in greater program efficiency, while still assuring prudent and safe depository investment of such reserves. If the definitions cannot be amended along the foregoing lines, then revisions to the terms regarding advance payments are required to assure efficient cash management before EPA implements its capitalization solution.	In addition to the solution EPA previewed on balance sheet capitalization, EPA should: - Confirm that cash reserves are not advance payments, may be deployed for all allowable purposes contemplated in the work plan, and may be deposited in amounts greater than \$250,000; - Revise the definition of "Qualified Account" to: - Remove the following: "(1) the recipient does not retain possession of the grant funds; and (2) the recipient cannot get the funds back from the account upon demand" - Include the following: "transfer of funds to the qualified account is irrevocable, except to the extent that the recipient is able to use the funds in the account in accordance with the recipient's approved workplan"; - Expand the types of eligible accounts and depository institutions to include those customarily used by corporate treasurers for secure cash management investments; and - Conform with the cash management requirements in the T&C. - To ease administrative burdens, permit recipients, without prior review by the EPA Project Officer, to deposit cash reserves with well capitalized asset management firms or well capitalized banks or credit unions insured by the FDIC or NCUA. If the definitions cannot be amended per the above, then revisions to EPA's General T&C regarding advance payments are required. In particular, the timeline for disbursement should be extended from 5 business days to a longer period of time, and recipients should be permitted to draw down all funds required for a financial assistance award (e.g., a loan), even where such financial assistance will consist of multiple advances.	1. Drawing down funds and disbursing them into qualified accounts for program purposes may be considered disbursements of grant funds, after the <i>Advance payment</i> has been made to the recipient in accordance with 2 CFR 200.1. As reflected in the terms and conditions, EPA anticipates that there are cases in which drawing down funds and disbursing them into qualified accounts as cash reserves is allowable (e.g., to provide a loan guarantee, an eligible form of financial assistance, to support a qualified project). 2a. EPA will modify the definition of qualified account to include some flexibility, as follows: <i>"A qualified account must include restrictions on the assets transferred into the account such that those assets are restricted to grant purposes."</i> 2b. EPA does not believe such a clause is needed, given the flexibility reflected in 2a. 2c. EPA does not believe that there is a strong rationale to relax the requirement that qualified accounts are with insured depository institutions (as a minimum qualification). 2d. EPA will ensure the cash management requirements in the terms and conditions apply equally to cash reserves. 3. Given the added flexibility described in 2a, EPA will maintain its right to review and approve the substantive terms and conditions to ensure compliance with the grant regulations. Note that once the substantive terms and conditions are approved for one account, those same terms and conditions can be used for additional accounts without additional approvals. Note that EPA believes the details on these accounts will be of less concern after sharing these materials on the approach to payments under the program.

AGENDA

- 1. Review pre-award timeline to ensure obligation prior to statutory deadline**
- 2. Align on post-award plan to resolve remaining issues necessary to execute the workplan and comply with the terms and conditions**
- 3. Identify “pre-award dealbreakers” and propose path to resolution**
- 4. Identify other key issues raised and propose path to resolution**
- 5. Align on next steps**

Next section

KEY DATES AS PART OF THE OBLIGATION PROCESS

Workplan and Budget

- By Monday, May 13: Selected applicants submit workplan and budget to EPA Project Officer
- By Wednesday, May 22: EPA provides any required revisions to the submitted workplan and budget
- By Wednesday, May 29: Selected applicants submit revised workplan and budget to EPA Project Officer

Note: Workplan and budget can be amended post-award

Terms and Conditions

- By Monday, May 20: Selected applicants provide final considerations for EPA on the “Top 10 Issues (Plus)” via additional column on existing Excel sheet (*feel free to add three rows—one row each to cover BABA, DBRA, and payments*)
- By Mid/Late June (potentially earlier): EPA provides final version of terms and conditions that will be included in awards, after having cleared the terms and conditions through the agency

Note: Terms and conditions can and will be amended post-award

Funding Recommendations

- By Friday, May 31: EPA begins “funding recommendations” using selected applicant workplans and budgets
- By Early July: EPA Award Official signs Notice of Award to obligate funds
- By Early July: Selected applicant is notified of award, along with final set of terms and conditions, and has an opportunity to “reject” the award

Message

From: CCIA [CCIA@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/3/2024 9:35:45 PM
To: CCIA [CCIA@epa.gov]; Nowlan, Aileen [Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov]; Hitz, Thomas [Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov]; Drummond, James [Drummond.James@epa.gov]; Christopher, Katherine [Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov]; Hales, Daniel [Hales.Daniel@epa.gov]; Mayerson, Asher [Mayerson.Asher@epa.gov]; Amber Bell [abell@OFN.org]; Emily Robichaux [ERobichaux@OFN.org]; Bhumip Patel [bpatel@OFN.org]; narabshahi_inclusiv.org [narabshahi@inclusiv.org]; cmahon_inclusiv.org [cmahon@inclusiv.org]; srincon@inclusiv.org; ESheaffer@inclusiv.org; pete@nativecdfi.net; kristen@nativecdfi.net; shauntel@nativecdfi.net; dsims@justiceclimatefund.org; dgambrell_acc1.org [dgambrell@acc1.org]; rdaffner@acc1.org; pporter@acc1.org; jfripp@acc1.org; msbalys@ofn.org; dwilliams_ofn.org [dwilliams@ofn.org]; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF@epa.gov]
CC: Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) [Zavala.Julie@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Wynne, Andrew [wynne.andrew@epa.gov]; Romero, Clarisa [Romero.Clarisa@epa.gov]; McNealy, Zachary [McNealy.Zachary@epa.gov]; O'Brien, Daniel [OBrien.Daniel@epa.gov]; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) [Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov]; Pete Upton [pete.upton@live.com]; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#); [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#); Lieberman, Judy [Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; ezoli@wsgr.com; hpettigrew@ofn.org
Subject: RE: Path Forward on CCIA Top 10 Issues
Attachments: 05 03 2024 Top 10 Issues for CCIA Selected Applicants.vShare.pdf

Hello everyone,

Please find attached materials that we will walk through in Monday's discussion on the top 10 issues raised by CCIA selected applicants. The materials include, but are not limited to, EPA's responses to those top 10 issues.

We look forward to the discussion on Monday, and we hope you have a great weekend.

-Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Mayerson, Asher **On Behalf Of** CCIA
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:51 AM
To: CCIA; Nowlan, Aileen; Hitz, Thomas; Drummond, James; Christopher, Katherine; Hales, Daniel; Mayerson, Asher; Amber Bell; Emily Robichaux; Bhumip Patel; narabshahi_inclusiv.org; cmahon_inclusiv.org; srincon@inclusiv.org; ESheaffer@inclusiv.org; pete@nativecdfi.net; kristen@nativecdfi.net; shauntel@nativecdfi.net; dsims@justiceclimatefund.org; dgambrell_acc1.org; rdaffner@acc1.org; pporter@acc1.org; jfripp@acc1.org; msbalys@ofn.org; dwilliams_ofn.org; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
Cc: Widawsky, David; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers); Wise, Jahi; Wynne, Andrew; Romero, Clarisa; McNealy, Zachary; O'Brien, Daniel; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his); Pete Upton; [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#); Lieberman, Judy; Utech, Dan; Zoli, Elise; Harold Pettigrew
Subject: Path Forward on CCIA Top 10 Issues
When: Monday, May 6, 2024 12:00 PM-1:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Message

From: CCIA [CCIA@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/16/2024 5:17:29 PM
To: CCIA [CCIA@epa.gov]; Nowlan, Aileen [Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov]; Hitz, Thomas [Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov]; Drummond, James [Drummond.James@epa.gov]; Christopher, Katherine [Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov]; Hales, Daniel [Hales.Daniel@epa.gov]; Amber Bell [abell@OFN.org]; Emily Robichaux [ERobichaux@OFN.org]; Bhumip Patel [bpatel@OFN.org]; narabshahi_inclusiv.org [narabshahi@inclusiv.org]; cmahon_inclusiv.org [cmahon@inclusiv.org]; srincon@inclusiv.org; ESheaffer@inclusiv.org; pete@nativecdfi.net; kristen@nativecdfi.net; shauntel@nativecdfi.net; dsims@justiceclimatefund.org; dgambrell_acc1.org [dgambrell@acc1.org]; rdaffner@acc1.org; pporter@acc1.org; jfripp@acc1.org; msbalys@ofn.org; dwilliams_ofn.org [dwilliams@ofn.org]; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund [GGRF@epa.gov]
CC: Widawsky, David [Widawsky.David@epa.gov]; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) [Zavala.Julie@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]; Wynne, Andrew [wynne.andrew@epa.gov]; Romero, Clarisa [Romero.Clarisa@epa.gov]; McNealy, Zachary [McNealy.Zachary@epa.gov]; O'Brien, Daniel [OBrien.Daniel@epa.gov]; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) [Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov]; Pete Upton [pete.upton@live.com]; Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Lieberman, Judy [Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov]; Utech, Dan [Utech.Dan@epa.gov]; ezoli@wsgr.com; hpettigrew@ofn.org; Le, Hieu [Le.Hieu@epa.gov]; Sampriti Ganguli [sganguli@justiceclimatefund.org]; mtrilli@impactassets.org; Brendon Miller [bmiller@OFN.org]; Baltera, Danielle [baltera.danielle@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Path Forward on CCIA Top 10 Issues
Attachments: 05 03 2024 Top 10 Issues for CCIA Selected Applicants.vShare.pdf; 05 06 2024 Additional Considerations for CCIA Selectees.vTemplate.xlsx
Flag: Follow up

Hello everyone,

Given the ongoing efforts on the workplans and budgets, we are extending the deadline for additional considerations from CCIA selected applicants, sent as one Excel in the attached format on behalf of all CCIA selected applicants, to Monday, June 3rd.

We look forward to hearing your additional considerations then.

Sincerely,
Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

From: CCIA
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 10:32 PM
To: CCIA <CCIA@epa.gov>; Nowlan, Aileen <Nowlan.Aileen@epa.gov>; Hitz, Thomas <Hitz.Thomas@epa.gov>; Drummond, James <Drummond.James@epa.gov>; Christopher, Katherine <Christopher.Katherine@epa.gov>; Hales, Daniel <Hales.Daniel@epa.gov>; Amber Bell <abell@OFN.org>; Emily Robichaux <ERobichaux@OFN.org>; Bhumip Patel <bpatel@OFN.org>; narabshahi_inclusiv.org <narabshahi@inclusiv.org>; cmahon_inclusiv.org <cmahon@inclusiv.org>; srincon@inclusiv.org; ESheaffer@inclusiv.org; pete@nativecdfi.net; kristen@nativecdfi.net; shauntel@nativecdfi.net; dsims@justiceclimatefund.org; dgambrell_acc1.org <dgambrell@acc1.org>; rdaffner@acc1.org; pporter@acc1.org; jfripp@acc1.org; msbalys@ofn.org; dwilliams_ofn.org <dwilliams@ofn.org>; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund <GGRF@epa.gov>
Cc: Widawsky, David <Widawsky.David@epa.gov>; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers) <Zavala.Julie@epa.gov>; Wise, Jahi <Wise.Jahi@epa.gov>; Wynne, Andrew <wynne.andrew@epa.gov>; Romero, Clarisa <Romero.Clarisa@epa.gov>; McNealy, Zachary <McNealy.Zachary@epa.gov>; O'Brien, Daniel <OBrien.Daniel@epa.gov>; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his) <Franzoni.Marc@epa.gov>; Pete Upton <pete.upton@live.com>; raydaffner_gmail.com [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Lieberman, Judy <Lieberman.Judy@epa.gov>; Utech, Dan <Utech.Dan@epa.gov>; ezoli@wsgr.com; hpettigrew@ofn.org; Le, Hieu <Le.Hieu@epa.gov>; Sampriti Ganguli <sganguli@justiceclimatefund.org>; mtrilli@impactassets.org; Brendon Miller <bmiller@OFN.org>; Baltera, Danielle <baltera.danielle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Path Forward on CCIA Top 10 Issues

Hi all,

Thank you for joining us for a very productive meeting on the path forward to resolve the top 10 issues for selected applicants. Attached are the materials that we shared in the meeting, which are identical to the materials circulated this past Friday.

Here are the next steps that we captured directly related to the meeting:

1. **Top 10 Issues:** Please provide us with any additional considerations on the top 10 issues (as well as payments, DBRA, and BABA) by Monday, May 20th via the highlighted column in the attached Excel spreadsheet, which also includes EPA's responses that were shared in the PowerPoint materials. We are asking that the additional considerations are consolidated across selected applicants under the competition.
2. **FAQs:** We will provide a set of FAQs by tomorrow (Tuesday) evening that will provide further some additional clarity on common questions related to the terms and conditions, workplans, budgets, and more. We will circulate updates to the FAQs every week. We know that these FAQs will only scratch the surface and that much more detailed guidance will be needed post-award.
3. **Sessions with Selectees:** As a follow-up from today's conversation, we wanted to schedule two completely optional sessions with selectees later this week:
 - *Q&A Session -- Transfers of Funds between Affiliated Entities*
 - Topic: Considerations for transfers of funds between affiliated entities
 - Time: Thursday, May 9th from 330-415pm ET
 - Format: Q&A (*we will prepare Q&As in advance to walk through with the group*)
 - *Follow-Up Session – Payment Procedures under the NCIF/CCIA*
 - Topic: Payment procedures (i.e., financial agent and nonexchange capital contributions)
 - Time: Friday, May 10th from 1-130pm ET
 - Format: Listening Session (*we will briefly walk through the materials already shared and then hear from selectees your considerations as we implement effectively*)

We are excited to work with you all throughout the week as we look ahead to the May 13th deadline for submission of workplans and budgets.

Sincerely,
Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

-----Original Appointment-----

From: CCIA <CCIA@epa.gov>

Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:52 AM

To: CCIA; Nowlan, Aileen; Hitz, Thomas; Drummond, James; Christopher, Katherine; Hales, Daniel; Mayerson, Asher; Amber Bell; Emily Robichaux; Bhumip Patel; narabshahi_inclusiv.org; cmahon_inclusiv.org; srincon@inclusiv.org; ESheaffer@inclusiv.org; pete@nativecdfi.net; kristen@nativecdfi.net; shauntel@nativecdfi.net; dsims@justiceclimatefund.org; dgambrell_acc1.org; rdaffner@acc1.org; pporter@acc1.org; jfripp@acc1.org; msbalys@ofn.org; dwilliams_ofn.org; Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Cc: Widawsky, David; Zavala, Julie (she/her/hers); Wise, Jahi; Wynne, Andrew; Romero, Clarisa; McNealy, Zachary; O'Brien, Daniel; Franzoni, Marc (he/him/his); Pete Upton; Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Lieberman, Judy; Utech, Dan; Zoli, Elise; Harold Pettigrew; Le, Hieu; Sampriti Ganguli; Margret Trilli; Brendon Miller; Baltera, Danielle

Subject: Path Forward on CCIA Top 10 Issues

When: Monday, May 6, 2024 12:00 PM-1:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Message

From: Adm16.Michael.Regan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6267D0AAE1FE4B8ABF0EEF2E90885C8C-ADM16.MICHA]
Sent: 4/5/2024 9:47:27 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Fwd: E&E: Regan touts strides made with journalists

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Adm16.Michael.Regan" <adm16.michael.regan@epa.gov>
Date: April 5, 2024 at 5:46:06 PM EDT
To: "Carroll, Timothy" <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Conger, Nick" <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: E&E: Regan touts strides made with journalists

Glad it all came together ... you all never steer me wrong! I'll take a look!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 5, 2024, at 2:36 PM, Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Administrator – thanks again for joining our pals at the SEJ conference this morning. If this E&E coverage is any indication, mission accomplished in touting our progress to build a more positive and constructive relationship with the media! AP also ran a quick piece on your GGRF comments and some of the other answers from this morning.

We'll be tracking any other clips today and over the weekend, especially coverage generated by the audience Q&A.

Let us know of any questions or feedback and we'll report back with any new clips.

E&E: [Regan touts strides made with journalists](#)
AP: [EPA head Regan defends \\$20B green bank: 'I feel really good about this program'](#)

E&E: Regan touts strides made with journalists

The EPA administrator addressed the Society of Environmental Journalists conference Friday, the first such appearance for the agency leader in 20 years.

BY: KEVIN BOGARDUS 04.05.2024 01:37 PM EDT



EPA Administrator Michael Regan, pictured here on Capitol Hill on March 28, 2023, spoke to the Society of Environmental Journalists on Friday. Francis Chung/POLITICO

GREENWIRE | EPA Administrator Michael Regan took wide-ranging questions about plans for civil rights investigations and pollution cleanup while stressing wanting to have positive relations with the media as the agency plows ahead on issuing environmental rules and distributing billions of dollars in aid.

Regan spoke Friday at the Society of Environmental Journalists annual conference in Philadelphia. He was the first EPA administrator to address the group since Mike Leavitt, who led EPA during the George W. Bush administration, [spoke at SEJ's 2004 meeting](#).

"I'm starting to question whether I am the unlucky one that has answered this call in 20 years. I forgot to do that research," Regan joked about accepting the group's invitation.

He was quizzed about EPA's actions regarding "Cancer Alley," a stretch of Louisiana land along the Mississippi River that is packed with chemical plants and oil refineries. Last year, EPA dropped its investigation of civil rights complaints against the state's environmental and health agencies after being challenged by then Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican who has since been elected governor.

Regan acknowledged the headwind his agency faces in the courts amid efforts to ensure its policies are legally sound as it aids marginalized communities, often of color and low income, that are struggling with pollution.

"My message to the folks in Louisiana and those on the front lines is we have more than one tool in the toolbox," Regan said. "Some of these decisions in the near term have been disappointing, but continue to watch what the agency does because we're going to hold these polluters accountable."

Another tool EPA has for places like Cancer Alley is its newfound status as a massive funding hub, with billions of dollars now at its disposal. On Thursday, EPA announced \$20 billion in grants under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created by President Joe Biden's signature climate law.

Regan said he felt "really good" about the program, which sets up a network of financing institutions, nonprofit groups and credit unions to help stand up clean energy projects across the country.

He said, "\$20 billion is a heck of a lot of money," adding, "But we know based on the eight recipients that we've chosen, the metrics that we put in place, we're going to pull hundreds of billions of private capital off the sidelines."

EPA is also in the midst of a sprint to churn out capstone regulations on air and climate as well as chemicals and water.

The agency and other top regulators in the administration want to avoid those rules being overturned by the Congressional Review Act in 2025. That would be possible if those regulations are issued late this year, Biden loses his reelection bid and Republican lawmakers gain control of Capitol Hill.

Regan said he wasn't focused on the law's deadline for when its "look-back" window opens, which remains unknown.

"From Day One, a lot of people have focused on CRAs. I'm focused on these families and these people that I'm talking to in real time, that need our help now, so that's the driver," Regan said. "We're trying to do as much as we can, as quickly as we can, for the people of this country."

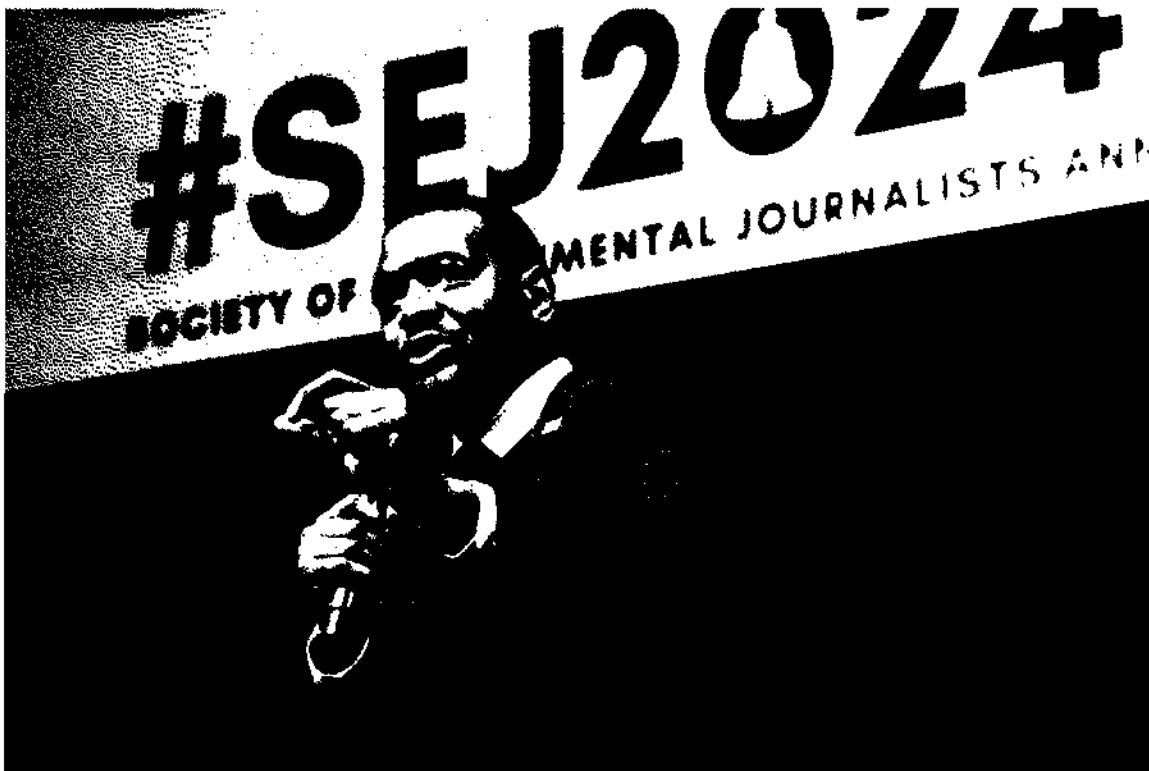
The EPA administrator was asked about a range of topics, including the Biden administration's support for Israel's military campaign in Gaza. In that instance, he said he would leave that to the experts. In others, Regan said his staff would get back to the reporter, including one query about whiskey fungus and emissions from distilleries.

"That is such a niche question that I was saying there is somebody on my team that has the answer to that," Regan said to laughs. "But we are for whiskey. The right answer is we are for whiskey."

EPA during the Trump administration had a more combative approach with the press, even criticizing journalists and news outlets by name in press releases. In contrast, Regan said he wanted the agency to be transparent and work with the media.

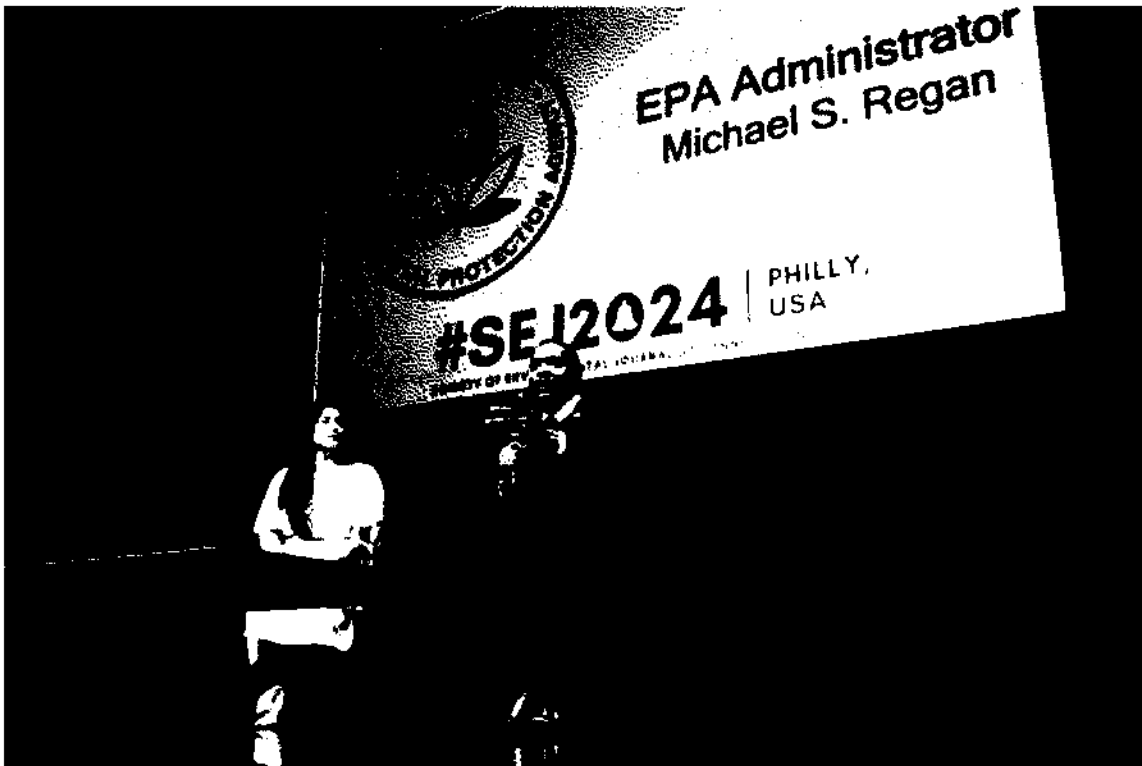
"We want to have a very positive relationship with the press. Disinformation, misinformation is so prevalent," Regan said. "It's so important that we have a partner and an ally in the press to get the facts out there."

AP: EPA head Regan defends \$20B green bank: 'I feel really good about this program'



1 of 2

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan speaks during the Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Philadelphia on Friday, April 5, 2024. (AP Photo)



2 of 2

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan speaks during the Society of Environmental Journalists conference in Philadelphia on Friday, April 5, 2024. (AP Photo)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency on Friday defended a new \$20 billion federal “green bank” program, saying it will finance a variety of projects to create

low-carbon solutions to combat climate change, including in disadvantaged communities that are most affected by pollution.

The money could fund tens of thousands of eligible projects ranging from residential heat pumps and other energy-efficient home improvements to larger-scale projects such as electric vehicle charging stations and community cooling centers, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said.

Republicans in Congress have called the program a “slush fund” and voiced concern over how the money will be used and whether there will be sufficient accountability and transparency from private groups that have received the money. The Republican-controlled House approved a bill last month to repeal the bank and other parts of President Joe Biden’s climate agenda.

“Here’s the real deal: EPA received \$20 billion to invest in climate solutions. We felt ‘hey, the government isn’t the best at doing this, so why not have a transparent grant competition nationwide?’” Regan said at a meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

“So we had a great competition. We had eight great national recipients. We have metrics for how they can use capital to finance some of these projects that we believe will create low-carbon solutions,” he said, adding that the agency consulted with commercial banks and other financial experts.

“Twenty billion dollars is a heck of a lot of money,” Regan said. “But we know based on the eight recipients that we’ve chosen, the metrics that we put in place, we’re going to pull hundreds of billions of (dollars in) private capital off the sidelines” for climate-related projects. “I feel really good about this program.”

Regan, who has battled Republicans over a range of agency actions, including stricter emissions standards for cars, trucks and power plants, said it was “frustrating” to hear “some of the disingenuous attitudes from those on Capitol Hill who want to legislate public private partnerships ... and then they complain about public-private partnerships” such as the green bank.

The program was created under the landmark climate law passed in 2022 with no Republican votes in the House or Senate.

Formally known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the \$27 billion bank — including earlier money — is one of many federal efforts to invest in solutions that cut planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and address human-caused climate change, a topic the Democratic president has emphasized in his first three years in office and his reelection campaign.

The bank’s goals are to reduce climate and air pollution and mobilize public and private capital in the communities that need it most.

A total of \$14 billion was awarded Thursday to the National Clean Investment Fund, which designated three private groups that will partner with states and the private sector to provide affordable financing for projects across the country.

Another \$6 billion was awarded to the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, which in turned granted money to five institutions that will work with other groups to establish regional hubs that make funding and technical assistance accessible to community lenders.

The investments follow a \$7 billion Solar for All program launched last year for residential and community solar projects in low-income communities.

Grant recipients committed to spending \$7 in private sector funding for each \$1 in public funds to “reduce or avoid” 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year. The program earmarks 70% of the grants for disadvantaged and low-income communities that are often passed over by commercial banks and investors yet are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

On other topics, Regan said the agency is doing its best to ensure that a range of environmental rules survive likely court challenges by industry groups and Republican-led states. Lawsuits have been filed challenging an EPA rule over deadly soot pollution and other regulations.

The Supreme Court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, has restricted EPA’s authority to fight air and water pollution — including a landmark 2022 ruling that limited its authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that contribute to global warming. Justices heard arguments in February on a GOP challenge to the agency’s “good neighbor rule,” which restricts smokestack emissions from power plants and other industrial sources that burden downwind areas.

“We are living in challenging times in so many ways, but we at EPA are staying focused on the mission,” Regan said. “And one of the important reasons for shoring up scientific integrity is to lead with science, lead with the data to make sure ... we’re setting environmental goals based on the data and the science.”

He added, “If we have to move just a tiny bit slower so that we write the rule a little bit more strategically, or stronger, based on experiences that we’ve had over the past couple years,” that’s what officials will do. “And then we have to really just defend that case in court.”

Regan also said the EPA will soon announce the first drinking water standards for PFAS chemical compounds, so-called “forever chemicals” that contribute to kidney disease, cancer and other illnesses.

“We are going to be very bold and very aggressive,” he said.

Separately, the EPA will soon announce a plan to sharply reduce the amount of chemical toxins released into the air by a Louisiana rubber plant and other industrial sites, Regan said.

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

<image001.jpg>

<image002.jpg>

<image003.jpg>

Message

From: Adm16.Michael.Regan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6267D0AAE1FE4B8ABF0EEF2E90885C8C-ADM16.MICHA]
Sent: 4/4/2024 2:28:56 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Fwd: Initial Clips - GGRF Selectees

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Carroll, Timothy" <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Date: April 4, 2024 at 6:14:20 AM EDT
To: "Adm16.Michael.Regan" <adm16.michael.regan@epa.gov>
Cc: "Wise, Jahi" <Wise.Jahi@epa.gov>, "Utech, Dan" <Utech.Dan@epa.gov>, "Conger, Nick" <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>, "Ridgeway, Charissee" <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Subject: Initial Clips - GGRF Selectees

Hi Administrator, flagging the initial clips dropping this morning, with strong, people-oriented framing leading in the NYT and WaPo pieces and good coverage across the others. We had about 150 reporters on the WH call yesterday, so expecting more to drop this morning, and we'll be tracking throughout the day. Let us know of any thoughts or questions here, thanks!

New York Times: [Environmental Protection Agency Gives \\$20 Billion in 'Green Bank' Grants](#)
Washington Post: [U.S. approves \\$20 billion to help poor communities go green](#)
AP: [EPA awards \\$20 billion in green bank grants for clean energy projects nationwide](#)
Reuters: [Biden administration awards \\$20 bln for clean energy investment in low-income communities](#)
Politico: [EPA sends \\$20 billion in climate funds to community lenders](#)
Politico Energy Podcast: [Interview with Jahi Wise](#)
Spectrum News: [White House announces \\$20 billion in grant awards for green banks, climate projects](#)
Newsweek: [White House Announces \\$20B in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Awards](#)
Washington Examiner: [EPA issues majority of grants for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)

Local NC TV Coverage

WCNC: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=4aa15c74-e972-4b43-a6c6-1a6159b0455b>
Spectrum/Fox 46: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=bcbc48e9-7a1d-4afa-a947-81e51f912f10>

New York Times: Environmental Protection Agency Gives \$20 Billion in 'Green Bank' Grants

The E.P.A. said the fund will spur a clean energy transition in overlooked communities. Republicans called it a "greendoggle."

By [Lisa Friedman](#)
April 4, 2024, 5:05 a.m. ET

When Marcus Jones and his business partner, Akunna Olumba, set out to open a pizzeria in Detroit, they spoke with banks about their green vision: solar panels on the roof, an energy-efficient tankless water heater and a rooftop system to capture storm water.

“The lenders thought we were crazy,” Mr. Jones said. Traditional banks were skeptical that such investments would yield a return, and few had ever issued loans for clean energy or efficiency measures. They told the restaurateurs that it simply was not done.

Instead, the pair connected with a so-called green bank, one of a growing number of entities that loan money to businesses and individuals for equipment or technology that reduces the pollution driving climate change.

The movement will get a \$20 billion infusion from the Biden administration on Thursday in what Vice President Kamala Harris calls “the largest investment in financing for community-based climate projects in our nation’s history.”

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to award grants ranging from \$500 million to \$6.9 billion to eight nonprofits. The organizations will in turn use the money to offer loans businesses, homeowners and others to spur clean energy across the country, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

Loans could be for something as small as helping one family purchase an electric induction stove or as ambitious as helping to build energy-efficient low-income housing.

The Biden Administration’s Environmental Agenda

1. **New Rules for Trucks:** The Biden administration announced a regulation designed to turbocharge sales of electric or other zero-emission heavy vehicles, increasingly limiting the amount of pollution allowed from heavy trucks starting in 2027.

2. **Restoring Wildlife Protections:** After three years of planning and navigating the slow bureaucracy of federal rule-making, the Biden administration is restoring a series of protections for imperiled animals and plants that had been loosened under President Donald Trump.

3. **Coal-Fired Power Plants:** The last two coal-fired power plants in New England are set to close by 2025 and 2028, ending the use of a fossil fuel that supplied electricity to the region for over 50 years, making it the second region in the country, after the Pacific Northwest, to stop burning coal.

4. **Cutting Carbon:** The Biden administration plans to spend up to \$6 billion on new technologies to cut carbon dioxide emissions from heavy industries like steel, cement, chemicals and aluminum, which are all enormous contributors to global warming but incredibly difficult to clean up.

“We’re putting an unprecedented \$20 billion to work in communities that for too long have been shut out of resources to lower costs and benefit from clean technology solutions,” Michael S. Regan, the administrator of the E.P.A., said in a statement.

Republicans, however, have slammed the money as a “greendoggle” and said that the E.P.A. is not prepared to oversee such a large program. House Republicans passed a bill in March that would repeal the greenhouse gas reduction program.

President Biden threatened to veto the measure if it were to reach his desk, and it has not come for a vote in the Senate. Representative Gary Palmer, the Alabama congressman who wrote the bill, called the E.P.A. initiative a “Green New Deal slush fund” that “raises many concerns about lack of accountability and oversight.”

The Biden administration is working to quickly distribute money from the program before January 2025, when a future administration or a Republican-controlled Congress could eliminate the funds.

The administration estimated the program would attract about \$150 billion in private capital, or about \$7 for every federal dollar spent. The awardees have committed to collectively cut or avoid up to

40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions in the next seven years. That would be the equivalent of taking about 9.5 million cars off the road for a year.

Mr. Regan said the new network of clean energy financing would “unleash tens of thousands of clean technology projects like putting solar on small businesses, electrifying affordable housing, providing EV loans for young families, and countless others.”

The \$20 billion comes from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden's signature climate law, which included \$27 billion for a program known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

The biggest grants under the program include \$6.97 billion to a coalition called Climate United Fund, which is led by Calvert Impact, a nonprofit investment firm. The Coalition for Green Capital, a nonprofit founded by Reed Hundt, a former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, was awarded \$5 billion. Power Forward America, which is made up of five climate and housing organizations, was awarded \$2 billion.

The idea for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund goes back more than two decades, when a group of financiers proposed the idea of a national bank that could attract private investment by pumping public money into things like electric vehicle charging station networks, community solar projects and other renewable energy adoption.

The E.P.A. program is similar to that concept, but instead of one national bank, the agency is funding the different nonprofit groups, which will act as lenders.

“This has been a long road to get here,” said Senator Chris Van Hollen, Democrat of Maryland, who introduced legislation in 2009 to create a green bank.

Mr. Van Hollen said he expects the funding will make a significant difference in low-income communities where residents may be less likely to take advantage of federal tax incentives that are available for electric vehicles or certain home appliances, like induction stoves and heat pumps, because they lack the upfront cash to make the purchase.

“We don't want any community to be left behind in the transition to the clean energy economy,” he said.

One grant recipient, Rewiring America, currently does work in communities like De Soto, Ga., a rural area where it has made loans and awarded grants to help about 78 families upgrade appliances and weatherize homes.

Mildred Carter, 73, said when the water heater in her De Soto home gave out last year she thought, “Oh my God, not this now on top of everything else, I can't afford a new water heater.” Retired after 21 years working at Walmart, Ms. Carter said she went without hot water for two months before she found Rewiring America and applied for a grant for a free electric heat pump and installation.

Ms. Carter said she is concerned about clean energy and climate change. But when it came to her heat pump, she said, “At the time I didn't care, I just wanted to make sure I had hot water.”

In Detroit, Mr. Jones and Ms. Olumba's restaurant, Detroit Pizza Bar, has been open for two years and is the first Black-owned pizzeria in the city's Livernois Six-Mile area. It also is the first sit-down restaurant in the area in more than three decades.

Mr. Jones said the money he borrowed from Michigan Saves, a nonprofit, to purchase solar panels and energy efficiency measures has more than paid off. He said his customers only notice the solar panels and rooftop rain barrels when he points them out. “They're coming for pizza,” he said.

Vice President Harris and Mr. Regan were expected to announce the awards in Charlotte, N.C.

Washington Post: U.S. approves \$20 billion to help poor communities go green

In a high-risk, high-reward effort to fight climate change, the EPA is helping local groups finance clean-energy projects

The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday awarded \$20 billion to help finance clean-energy projects across the country, marking one of the Biden administration's biggest investments in combating climate change and curbing pollution in disadvantaged communities.

The money comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund established by President Biden's signature climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act. The fund seeks to leverage public and private dollars to invest in clean-energy technologies such as solar panels, heat pumps and more.

The program is potentially one of the most consequential — yet least understood — parts of the climate law. Because of the size of the spending, it is sure to be closely watched by opponents and supporters of the nation's energy transition. Simply put, the program allows people to access low-interest loans for clean-energy projects that they might not otherwise have received. Imagine a community group that wants to install electric vehicle charging stations at its neighborhood recreation center but can't get a loan from a bank or a lender. As is often the case, potential lenders say they're hesitant to support a novel green technology or a business without a track record of success.

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Low-income and minority communities have long encountered such obstacles in trying to attract private capital. The program aims to overcome this problem by providing a huge influx of federal cash — \$27 billion in total — for nonprofit organizations to dole out to clean-energy projects nationwide. Each nonprofit will serve as a "green bank" that offers more favorable lending rates than commercial banks.

"It's just really hard to get banks to bring capital into low-income communities, especially for these new projects that they're not used to financing," said Adrian Deveny, the founder of the firm Climate Vision and the former director of energy and environmental policy for Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), a key architect of the Inflation Reduction Act.

The new program, Deveny added, is "filling a really important niche in the market that's not being served by commercial banks."

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The EPA is awarding money to eight nonprofits, which have committed to leverage nearly \$7 in private capital for every \$1 of federal investment. The nonprofits have also pledged to ensure that at least 70 percent of the funds will benefit disadvantaged communities, and that the financed projects will reduce up to 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year — equivalent to the annual emissions of nearly 9 million gasoline-powered cars.

Power Forward Communities, a coalition of five nonprofit groups, will receive \$2 billion to help homeowners and apartment building owners adopt energy-efficient appliances. Coalition member Rewiring America has already helped communities across the country swap out fossil-fuel-powered appliances for more efficient, electricity-powered versions. When her water heater died last year, Mildred Carter of De Soto, Ga., couldn't afford to replace it until Rewiring America got involved. The nonprofit helped Carter enroll in a program that provided incentives of up to \$5,000 from Georgia Power, the local utility, for home energy-efficiency upgrades. Her new heat pump water heater was installed Dec. 23, just in time for the holidays.

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Another nonprofit, the Coalition for Green Capital, will use a \$5 billion award to establish a "national green bank," co-founder and CEO Reed Hundt said. "We're going to be able to cause about \$100 billion of total additional investment over a seven-year time period with that number, because we can leverage it," Hundt said.

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Vice President Harris and EPA Administrator Michael Regan will deliver remarks on the program Thursday in Charlotte, where they will meet with residents of the historically Black community Grier Heights. The community is home to 49 energy-efficient affordable houses financed and built by Self-Help, a partner of Climate United, which will use a \$6.97 billion award to support climate-friendly projects in homes, small businesses, schools and other organizations.

"This is a game changer for us and our partners to accelerate and scale the work that we're doing," said Beth Bafford, the CEO of Climate United.

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More than a dozen states have already established green banks without waiting for the EPA, as have several clean-energy entrepreneurs. Reginald Parker, the president of a solar company called Optimal Technology Corp., co-founded Freedmen Green Bank & Trust last year to help communities of color access funding from the climate law.

Freedmen is helping to finance solar panel installations at several historically Black colleges and universities in the Atlanta area, Parker said. It also helped finance solar and battery storage systems at two recreation centers in the Detroit suburbs, allowing the centers to lower their energy bills and increase their resilience to extreme weather events, he said. "People in these communities are usually what we call the first, worst and hardest-hit by climate change," Parker said. "This can give them the climate resiliency that they deserve."

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Republicans on Capitol Hill have slammed the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, saying it lacks oversight and seems ripe for abuse. Rep. Gary Palmer (R-Ala.) has introduced legislation to repeal the program, which he has called a "slush fund" meant to benefit liberal groups that support Biden. The House last month passed Palmer's bill, which Biden has vowed to veto should it reach his desk.

Other Republicans have warned that the program could squander taxpayer dollars, just as when the solar panel manufacturer Solyndra filed for bankruptcy in 2011 after receiving \$535 million in loans from the Obama administration. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, has said the climate law could lead to "Solyndra on steroids."

But supporters say the program will play a crucial role in reducing energy consumption, creating clean-energy jobs and delivering on Biden's environmental justice goals. Under the Justice40 initiative, the Biden administration is seeking to direct at least 40 percent of the benefits of federal climate spending to disadvantaged communities that have historically borne the brunt of pollution.

The new program "is a game changer," Parker said, because "people who are overlooked, underestimated and underserved now have a seat at the table."

AP: EPA awards \$20 billion in green bank grants for clean energy projects nationwide

DETROIT (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday awarded \$20 billion in federal "green bank" grants to eight community development banks and nonprofit organizations to use on projects combating climate change in disadvantaged communities and helping Americans save money and reduce their carbon footprints.

The money could fund tens of thousands of eligible projects ranging from residential heat pumps and other energy-efficient home improvements to larger-scale projects such as electric vehicle charging stations and community cooling centers, according to senior administration officials.

Vice President Kamala Harris, EPA Administrator Michael Regan and other officials planned to announce the grant selections during a visit to Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday.

Recipients were awarded competitive grants from two of the three programs overseen by the "green bank" created in the Biden administration's landmark climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act, passed in 2022.

Formally known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the \$27 billion bank is one of many federal efforts to invest in solutions that cut planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and address human-caused climate change, a topic President Joe Biden has emphasized in his presidency and reelection campaign.

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Swiss central bank makes a surprise cut to its key interest rate as others hold steady



Czech Republic's central bank cuts a key interest rate again to help the economy as inflation falls

The bank's goals are to reduce climate and air pollution and mobilize public and private capital in the communities that need it most.

As part of Thursday's news, the \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund program granted money to three nonprofits that will partner with states and the private sector to provide affordable financing for projects across the country.

The \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator also granted money to five institutions that will work with other groups to establish hubs that make funding and technical assistance accessible to community lenders.

Recipients committed to spending \$7 in private sector funding for each \$1 from the federal investment money, to "reduce or avoid" 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year and earmark 70% of the money for disadvantaged and low-income communities. These groups are often passed over by commercial banks and investors yet are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Among the eight funding recipients are:

—Coalition for Green Capital, a nonprofit working with a nationwide network of state, local, and nonprofit green banks, received \$5 billion.

—Power Forward Communities, a nonprofit coalition formed by five housing, climate, and community investment groups, received \$2 billion.

—Appalachian Community Capital, a nonprofit community development financial institution working with lenders in Appalachia, received \$500 million.

Also part of the bank is the \$7 billion Solar for All program, which will award states, tribes and municipalities money for a variety of residential and community solar projects at a later date.

Specifics around the bank were outlined last February, with applications for the programs sought in July and due last fall.

"I do think this is a really important part of our national strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and engage every community in the clean energy revolution," Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen told The Associated Press in an interview. The Democrat first introduced legislation to create a national green bank 15 years ago. "Now we just need to work very hard on implementation," he said.

But the taxpayer-funded green bank has also faced opposition, notably from Republicans in Congress, who have called it a "slush fund" and voiced concern over accountability and transparency on how the money is used. House Republicans passed a bill last month to repeal the bank and other parts of the president's climate agenda.

At the state level, Connecticut's Green Bank and others have been successful in tracking the impact of their programs.

Through the national program, projects included could be larger, make more money and be more impactful.

“The scale envisioned for these entities could model successful state green banks while supercharging the number of communities served,” Katherine Hamilton, chair of public policy firm 38 North Solutions and who worked on underlying legislation for the fund, said in an email. She said that would help the country move “more quickly through the energy transition.”

Reuters: Biden administration awards \$20 bln for clean energy investment in low-income communities

By [Valerie Volcovici](#)

April 4, 2024 5:17 AM EDT Updated 7 min ago

WASHINGTON, April 4 (Reuters) - Vice President Kamala Harris and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator (EPA) Michael Regan on Thursday announced eight organizations that will oversee the spending of \$20 billion in grants to fund tens of thousands of clean energy and transportation projects in disadvantaged communities across the United States.

The \$20 billion, made available through the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) created in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, will largely be invested in projects ranging from home energy retrofitting programs to off-grid renewable energy in communities that have not had access to green financing.

The selected organizations will create a national clean financing network that will help kickstart projects over the next seven years that are expected to reduce or avoid up to 40 million metric tons of climate pollution annually.

“The grantees announced today will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community leaders have access to the capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods,” Harris said in a statement.

The EPA plans to get the money to the organizations by September this year. The GGRF has been a target of congressional Republicans, who passed a resolution this year attempting to repeal what they have called a climate “slush fund.”

Three non-profit coalitions comprised of community development financial institutions, local green banks and other community lending organizations were chosen to distribute \$14 billion from a National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF), that aims to support affordable clean technology projects nationwide.

Another five groups have been chosen to administer the \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, which will provide funding and technical assistance to community lenders working to back clean technology projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Of the \$20 billion, at least \$4 billion will be dedicated to investment in rural communities and \$1.5 billion will be directed to programs benefiting tribal nations.

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The grantees are expected to mobilize almost \$7 of private capital for every \$1 of federal funds they spend.

Politico: EPA sends \$20 billion in climate funds to community lenders

The spending is part of Democrats' signature climate legislation that aims to push the U.S. toward Biden's goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century.

Vice President Kamala Harris and EPA Administrator Michael Regan will announce the awards on Thursday in North Carolina. AFP via Getty Images

EPA is announcing plans on Thursday to dole out \$20 billion from the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act to eight groups to finance projects designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with much of the money targeted to smaller community lenders.

The spending is part of Democrats' signature climate legislation that aims to push the U.S. toward Biden's goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by mid-century and head off the worst effects of climate change. Around 70 percent of the spending announced on Thursday will go to low-income and disadvantaged communities, including former coal communities and communities of color, according to EPA.

"The grantees announced today will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community leaders have access to the capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods," Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement.

The awards will be formally announced in Charlotte, N.C., by Harris and EPA Administrator Michael Regan.

The Inflation Reduction Act's hundreds of billions of dollars in climate spending included \$27 billion for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to be administered by EPA. Of the first \$20 billion in awards being announced in Charlotte from that fund, \$14 billion will be directed to a "National Clean Investment Fund" and \$6 billion will go to a "Clean Communities Investment Accelerator."

The administration has not yet announced who will receive the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's other \$7 billion that will finance [a solar competition](#). EPA received \$38 billion in requests from states, cities and non-profits last year.

The investments announced Thursday will mobilize almost seven times as much private capital for a total of \$150 billion, according to the White House. EPA estimated the money will finance projects that will avoid 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent annual emissions of 9.5 million vehicles.

The first \$14 billion in the National Clean Investment Fund will be split between three groups. Half of that amount will go to the Climate United Fund, a partnership of three non-profit groups: Calvert Impact, the Community Preservation Corporation and Self-Help. Those organizations will invest in "harder-to-reach market segments" like small businesses, farms and schools, the White House said.

Another \$5 billion will go to the Coalition for Green Capital, a non-profit that will focus on public-private investments, while the remaining \$2 billion will go to Power Forward Communities, a newly formed coalition whose members include Habitat for Humanity and the United Way. The group will focus on financing projects in single- and multi-family homes.

The other \$6 billion for the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator program will be split among five recipients to create programs providing money and technical assistance to community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The Opportunity Finance Network, an intermediary between community development financial institutions, or CDFIs, and public and private sector partners, will get \$2.29 billion. Inclusive, another intermediary that works with credit unions, will get \$1.87 billion.

The Justice Climate Fund, a coalition of lenders focused on communities of color, will get \$940 million. Another \$500 million will go to the regional non-profit group Appalachian Community Capital. And the remaining \$400 million will go to the Native CDFI Network, which serves Native American community lenders.

In an interview with the POLITICO Energy podcast, Jahi Wise, senior adviser to Regan and the acting director of the fund, said the Biden administration was focused on delivering to communities that were overburdened by pollution, lack of economic mobility and economic distress.

"Those are rural communities, they are what we know of as environmental justice and frontline fenceline communities," he said.

"They're also communities in urban areas that are looking for new economic opportunities, they're energy communities, they're communities that have historically depended on the fossil fuel economy for their livelihood and are looking for a new future. These are the folks who could actually realize those benefits."

EPA said it plans to sign award agreements by July, after which the funds will be obligated and available for draw-down by the recipients for seven years. The IRA included a deadline of Sept. 30 to issue the awards.

Key Democrats praised the administration's planned deployment of the funds in statements released by the White House, including House Minority Leader [Hakeem Jeffries](#), House Energy and Commerce ranking member [Frank Pallone](#) (D-N.J.), Rep. [Debbie Dingell](#) (D-Mich.) and Sen. [Chris Van Hollen](#) (D-Md.).

"After more than a decade of hard work, our vision to create a national climate bank is a reality," Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) said in a statement. "Even more than money, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is delivering hope – hope for justice and for a livable future."

But Republicans have been harshly critical.

Last month, the House Energy and Commerce Committee derided the program as a "slush fund" that it alleged the Biden administration will use "to launder money to a limited number of extreme, liberal non-profits to promote green programs and technology."

In a party-line 209-204 vote, the House in March [passed a bill](#) that would repeal the fund and other parts of the IRA. The bill is not expected to advance in the Democratic-controlled Senate, but the White House [threatened to veto](#) in the event it made its way to the president's desk.

Spectrum News: White House announces \$20 billion in grant awards for green banks, climate projects

By [David Mendez](#) Washington, D.C.

PUBLISHED 5:00 AM ET Apr. 04, 2024

The Biden administration on Thursday announced it has selected eight applicants to split \$20 billion in grants from competitions under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, seeking to bolster the White House's commitment to reducing climate change emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the GGRF, has chosen three grant recipients under the \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund, and five selections under the \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator Program, which the administration hopes will reduce or avoid up to 40 million metric tons of emissions per year. These grants, which are intended to create a "national network of clean technology financing institutions," a senior administration official said, will also flow capital to low-income and disadvantaged communities, rural communities and tribal communities.

"For almost every dollar of federal funds, the selectees have committed to mobilizing almost \$7 of private capital, turning \$20 billion of public funds into over \$150 billion of public and private investment," a senior White House official said on a call Wednesday previewing the announcement.

Thursday's announcement is the launch of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created under the Inflation Reduction Act, with goals of lowering energy costs, providing a boost to economically and environmentally depressed areas and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The EPA launched its grant competition window last summer, opening up the NCIF and CCIA programs in July 2023. A month prior, the administration kicked off a \$7 billion Solar for All competition, seeking to expand residential solar development in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Both the NCIF and the CCIA grant projects gave priority to projects centered on net-zero emissions buildings, zero-emissions transportation and distributed energy generation and storage.

The difference is scale: The NCIF competition focused on establishing national nonprofit financing entities, which would then back and boost state- and local-level green banks — banks focused on deploying and financing clean projects to address climate change — while the CCIA targeted nonprofits that would act as hubs to fund and assist green banking on a community level.

In keeping with Thursday's announcement, Vice President Kamala Harris will meet with a homeowner in a historically Black community where a local non-profit and grantee, Self-Help, worked with partners in the community to finance, renovate and build energy-efficient, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families.

While opponents to the Biden White House's climate agenda often assert that climate funds are essentially easily exploitable slush funds — former President Donald Trump, the GOP's presumptive nominee in November, has taken to calling these efforts the "Green New Scam" — administration officials assured that the program will have a robust reporting framework: transaction-level reporting that will be rolled into a "large scale database" to be managed by the EPA.

The funds are also expected to be protected and obligated, should an administration opposed to addressing climate change come into power, administration officials said.

"Our next step is to sign award agreements with those grantees, and that's what we expect to happen over the next 90 days or so. And then once we've signed the board agreements, the funds will be considered obligated," an official said, adding that grantees will have a period of seven years to expend their awards, through a performance period ending in 2031.

"So there's a seven-year window under which this \$20 billion will be lent out by this group of eight selectees into projects — clean technology projects — in literally every corner of our country," an administration official said, adding that the money has been appropriated by Congress as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

White House Announces \$20B in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Awards

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02:40

The Cities Shaping A Carbon-Neutral And Resilient Future

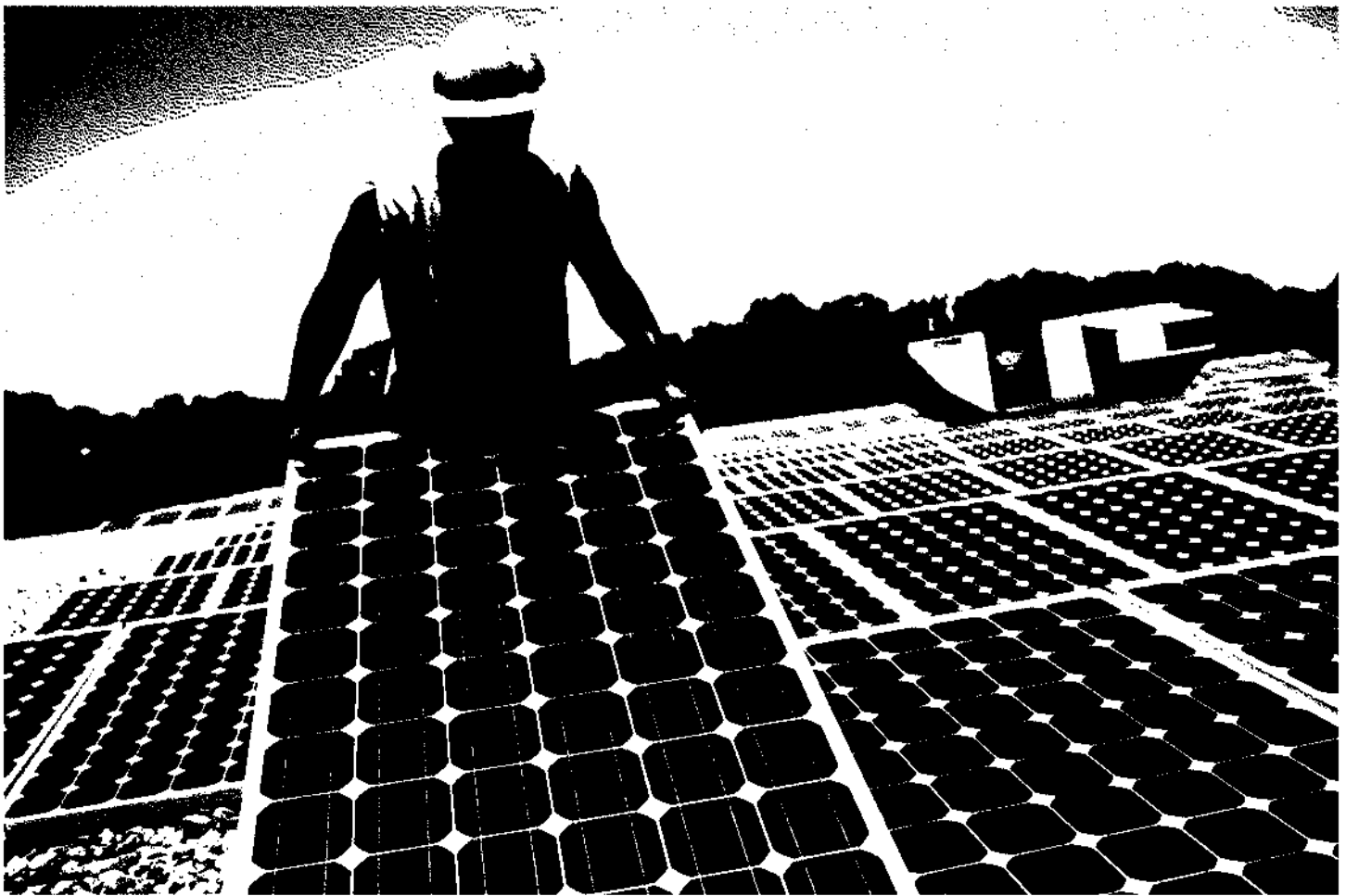
By Jeff Young

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Vice President Kamala Harris visits North Carolina today to unveil eight recipients of \$20 billion from the Biden administration's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund intended to give lower income and disadvantaged communities access to financing for clean-energy and climate-related projects. The first-of-its-kind financing network will provide capital for projects that cut emissions, create jobs and attract private investment, ranging from the installation of electric vehicle chargers to energy-efficiency improvements in affordable housing.

"The grantees announced today will help ensure that families, small businesses and community leaders have access to the capital they need to make climate and clean-energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods," Harris said in a prepared statement.



A rooftop solar installation on a commercial property in New Jersey. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund aims to expand capital access so that more disadvantaged communities can add clean energy and make efficiency improvements. **ROBERT NICKELSBURG/GETTY IMAGES**

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is part of the Biden administration's signature legislation on climate change, the Inflation Reduction Act, and includes two programs intended to stand up new community-level climate financing, the National Clean Investment Fund and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator.

Top recipients include \$6.97 billion for the Climate United Fund, \$5 billion for the Coalition for Green Capital, and \$2 billion for Power Forward Communities.

The White House said the groups will dedicate 70 percent of their financing toward low-income and disadvantaged communities, including on tribal lands, in rural areas and in communities of color. In a press briefing, a senior administration official said the recipients were carefully vetted in the application process and collectively have decades of experience financing community-level improvements.

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the projects the fund will support will reduce or avoid up to 40 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year over the next seven years.

"Today, we're putting an unprecedented \$20 billion to work in communities that for too long have been shut out of resources to lower costs and benefit from clean technology solutions," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement.

Adam Kent works on green financing issues for the Washington-based nonprofit environmental group the Natural Resources Defense Council. Kent said the fund is expected to attract \$7 of private money for every \$1 of federal money.

"The level of capital needed to meet our climate goals is immense," Kent told *Newsweek*. "[This] uses limited public capital smartly to crowd in private capital."

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has become a target for Republican critics in Congress who have proposed legislation that would claw back its funding. An administration official said the president has pledged to veto that legislation if it reaches his desk.

Washington Examiner: EPA issues majority of grants for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

By Nancy Vu

The Environmental Protection Agency is issuing \$20 billion in grants under a program reducing greenhouse gas emissions in disadvantaged communities — allocating the majority of funds that were obligated under the Inflation Reduction Act.

The announcement will be made Thursday by Vice President Kamala Harris and EPA Administrator Michael Regan in Charlotte, North Carolina, in an effort to tout the impacts of the Biden administration's historic climate investments. The applicants receiving funding will operate under two programs within the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was created by the IRA. Eight non-profit organizations were picked for the two competitions, with \$14 billion and \$6 billion allocated to each program.

According to Regan, the nonprofit organizations will use the funding to direct capital toward projects such as putting solar on small businesses, electrifying affordable housing, and providing loans for families to purchase electric vehicles.

"When President Biden and I made the largest investment in our nation's history to address the climate crisis and to build a clean energy economy, we made sure that every community would be able to participate and benefit," Harris said in a written statement. "The grantees announced today will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community leaders have access to the capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods."

House Republicans had sought to repeal a number of provisions within the IRA, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. However, the statutory deadline to obligate these funds is September 30, and with grantees selected for the majority of the program's money ahead of the deadline, it will likely prevent Republicans from rolling back the larger half of the program if the party takes back Congress or the White House.

The grants will be issued under two competitions. The first one is the National Clean Investment Fund, which will establish financing institutions that will aim to fund clean technology projects across the country, in hopes of mobilizing private investment into the projects. The awardees include the nonprofit organizations Climate United Fund, Coalition for Green Capital, and Power Forward Communities.

The other program, the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, would establish hubs that provide funding and technical assistance to lenders to help deploy clean energy projects. Some of these projects would include the building of net-zero buildings and emissions-free transportation projects within low-income communities.

Each of the selectees can provide up to \$10 million per community lender to fund these projects and technical assistance of up to \$1 million for each lender. The selected applicants include nonprofit groups Opportunity Finance Network, Inclusiv, Justice Climate Fund, Appalachian Community Capital, and Native CDFI Network.

The programs will fund projects reducing or avoiding GHG emissions by up to 40 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year, equivalent to the emissions of nearly 9 million passenger vehicles.

The programs will invest \$4 billion within rural communities and \$1.5 billion for tribal communities to reduce emissions. And according to administration officials, the funds are expected to be matched with seven dollars in private investment for every dollar contributed by the federal government — turning \$20 billion of public funds into \$150 billion of both public and private investment.

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