Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 8/26/2024 4:18:18 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Ridgeway, Charissee [Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov]
CC: Hunter-Pirtle, Ann (she/her/hers) [HunterPirtle.Ann@epa.gov]; Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]; Belford, Remmington [Belford.Remmington@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

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

Ah, I am working with them on this piece (I've been told). Jessie is taking the lead on it.

Thank you!

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

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Cc: Hunter-Pirtle, Ann (she/her/hers) <HunterPirtle.Ann@epa.gov>; Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Thanks, Jean. We've also previously worked with Jessie Blaser and Samantha Latson on this request and can share some updated figures since we last engaged in April. I'm looping my colleagues Ann and Nate to help see this through, we'll circle back ASAP on these Qs.

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 12:12 PM
To: Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

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

Hi guys,

I hope you got some time off over the summer. I just got back from break and found that I was supposed to be working on a piece with some Politico reporters about how various agencies including EPA are tracking funding obligations and outlays under the IRA. I'll let you know what my deadline is when I'm told that myself, but thought I'd reach out to give you as much time to answer as possible. So, sort of ASAP for now.

I know I've asked you very similar questions in the past, but we're really trying to not look at any announced awards and just zero in on obligations and outlays. The data journo over at Politico who is taking the lead on the piece has a detailed spreadsheet of information taken from invest.gov, so we have all of that.

Here is what I've been asked to look into from EPA:

1) How is EPA tracking obligations and outlays under the IRA? Does the agency have a database of its own?
2) I've been asked to ask you for the "FAIN IDs" for financial assistance obligations and the "PIID IDs" for contracts obligated – both for IRA programs. I'm trying to get clarity myself on what those are, but I'm sure the agency keeps track of those. Any chance I could get them?
3) If not, can we get a line-by-line accounting of obligations and outlays for IRA programs, by program?
4) This may still be current from the GGRF press release the other week, but how much IRA money has EPA obligated to date? Is there a total for outlays?

Thank you! I appreciate it. I'll be in touch soon.

Jean

Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 8/27/2024 3:56:34 PM
To: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Ridgeway, Charissee [Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov]
CC: Hunter-Pirtle, Ann (she/her/hers) [HunterPirtle.Ann@epa.gov]; Belford, Remmington [Belford.Remmington@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

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

Thank you!

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

From: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Cc: Hunter-Pirtle, Ann (she/her/hers) <HunterPirtle.Ann@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Jean – Quickly jumping in here! EOW should work on our end. Will keep you posted.

Best,

Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 2:03 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Cc: Hunter-Pirtle, Ann (she/her/hers) <HunterPirtle.Ann@epa.gov>; Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>; Belford,

Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: E&E News/Politico piece on obligated funds from the IRA

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

If it would be possible to get this by the end of the week, that would be ideal. Let me know if that's possible!

Jean

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

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
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To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
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3) If not, can we get a line-by-line accounting of obligations and outlays for IRA programs, by program?

4) This may still be current from the GGRF press release the other week, but how much IRA money has EPA obligated to date? Is there a total for outlays?

Thank you! I appreciate it. I'll be in touch soon.

Jean

Message

From: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: 1/9/2025 9:59:18 PM
To: Belford, Remmington [Belford.Remmington@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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

Hey everyone, I wanted to check in on the below and see if you had any update. Also, just a reminder that my deadline for this story is close of business tomorrow.

Further, I have received figures on EPA's funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act from my Politico colleagues who worked on the Biden's Billions project. Those figures are as follows:

-- By the close of the fiscal 2024 on Sept. 30, 2024, EPA had obligated $30 billion of its $60.9 in total appropriations under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including external awards and internal costs. By Jan. 9, the agency had obligated $25.3 billion in external awards from IIJA to recipients like state water boards and environmental protection agencies.

Does EPA have any more up-to-date figures related to IIJA?

-- As of Oct. 22, 2024, EPA has obligated $33.5 billion out of its $42.1 billion in appropriations under the Inflation Reduction Act, including both external and internal spending, according to EPA's Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation Nate Hitchings.

Does EPA have any more up-to-date figures related to IRA?

For your information, I plan to be on tomorrow's press call related to the Investing in America report. Please let me know if that report will have more up-to-date figures on EPA's funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

In addition, please keep me posted about my other questions regarding figures for EPA's full-time employees.

Again, my deadline is close of business tomorrow. Many thanks for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <conger.nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

Many thanks, Remmington. I really appreciate it. Please keep me posted. Talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:51 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Kevin
Acknowledging your inquiry.

Remmington F. Belford, MPS, *(he/him/his)*
Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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

Hey everyone,

Hi, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well.

I'm working on a story about President Biden and former Administrator Regan's legacy at EPA. I'm reaching out to former EPA officials who served in Democratic and Republican administrations to hear what they think about what the agency accomplished during these past four years as well as what is under threat or will last during the incoming administration and beyond.

I have a few questions about this, which are:

-- EPA will receive over $60 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years. Of that sum, what has EPA not obligated yet, as in what remains unspent?

Please provide dollar estimates by their program title. For example, EPA's Clean School Bus program was appropriated $5 billion by IIJA but has only spent this amount so far.

-- EPA will receive $41.5 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act over ten years. Of that sum, what has EPA not obligated yet, as in what remains unspent?

Please provide dollar estimates by their program title. For example, EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund program was appropriated $27 billion by IRA but has only spent this amount so far.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA have?

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA hire during the Biden administration?

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. I plan to note that former Administrator Regan said in a speech last year that EPA hired 5,200 EPA employees since 2021 (please see https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/06/27/regan-the-state-of-epa-is-stronger-than-ever-00165428).

Also, for this story, I would be interested in interviewing an EPA senior political appointee, such as Dan Utech, to discuss President Biden and former Administrator Regan's legacy at EPA. Please let me know if that would be possible.

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is close of business Friday, Jan. 10, but the sooner you get back to me. Please email me at kbogardus@eenews.net or call me on my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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Message

From: Milbourn, Cathy [Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/14/2025 7:11:40 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]; Belford, Remmington [Belford.Remmington@epa.gov]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

You are welcome Kevin!

Catherine C. Milbourn
U.S. EPA
Office of the Administrator
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Milbourn.cathy@epa.gov

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:11 PM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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Thanks so much, Cathy. This is a big help. As I said earlier, I will attribute this information, including these latest responses below, to Remmington on the record as EPA spokesperson Remmington Belford in my story. I'm copying him on this email so he is aware. Many thanks again and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Kevin,

I apologize for the delay. Here is our response below.

Regards,

Cathy

Both of these figures — 16,134 full-time employees on board at EPA as of Jan. 1, 2025, and 6,399 full-time employees hired at EPA between Jan. 20, 2021, and Jan. 8, 2025 — are full-time employees funded by annual appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.
Is that accurate?

Response:

1. **The timeframe for the numbers that we provided are accurate from the dates shown below:**

The data was pulled on 1/8/2025. The onboard count is as of 1/1/2025. The hiring is for the date range specified below (1/20/2021 – 1/8/2025).

2. **Is it accurate to say that these positions were funded through annual appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act?**
The vast majority of the positions are funded by annual appropriations, IIJA and IRA. There are additional sources of funding used by the agency (other supplemental appropriations, user fees, etc.), but they constitute a small percentage of our payroll.

Catherine C. Milbourn
U.S. EPA
Office of the Administrator
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Milbourn.cathy@epa.gov

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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

Hey everyone, I just want to check in about my one follow-up question for this story, which is related to EPA's full-time employee figures. That question is the following:

-- Both of these figures — 16,134 full-time employees on board at EPA as of Jan. 1, 2025 and 6,399 full-time employees hired at EPA between Jan. 20, 2021 and Jan. 8, 2025 — are full-time employees funded by annual appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Is that accurate?

Please get back to me before close of business today. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

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From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:35 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Thanks Kevin.

Catherine C. Milbourn
U.S. EPA
Office of the Administrator
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications

Milbourn.cathy@epa.gov

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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

Many thanks for checking in, Cathy. Yes, please send it to me. I will get it into the story. Thanks so much for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (o)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

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Greenwire, Climatewire, Energywire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: Milbourn, Cathy <Milbourn.Cathy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:29 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Kevin,

I believe we have one last remaining answer for you. Are you able to add it to your story if we send it soon?

Thank you,

Cathy

Catherine C. Milbourn
U.S. EPA
Office of the Administrator
Office of Media Relations and Risk Communications
Milbourn.cathy@epa.gov

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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Thanks so much, Remmington. This is a big help. I will attribute this information to you on the record as an EPA spokesperson in my story. Many thanks again!

Also, I have a follow-up question for you, which is:

-- Both of these figures — 16,134 full-time employees on board at EPA as of Jan. 1, 2025 and 6,399 full-time employees hired at EPA between Jan. 20, 2021 and Jan. 8, 2025 — are full-time employees funded by annual appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Is that accurate?

Please let me know before close of business today. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

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From: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 11:33 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Kevin –

Please see our report which will answer your first two questions.

Below you will find the answers to the last two questions.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA have? 16,134 full-time employees were onboard as of 1/1/2025.

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA hire during the Biden administration? 6,399 full-time employees were hired (1/20/2021 – 1/8/2025)

Below are the FTE ceilings established in the budget. It is best not to mix FTE and employee data because those numbers are different. For example, multiple employees may charge some of their time to BIL and IRA work in addition to other projects – so it can get complicated quickly.

- EPA's FTE ceiling funded from annual appropriations is currently 15,130. This is the FY 2024 level which the agency continues to operate with under a Continuing Resolution.
- The FY 2025 IIJA (BIL) FTE ceiling is 823.5.
- The agency established a lifetime (multiple fiscal year) FTE ceiling of 3,157 for the IRA, representing the total cumulative full-time equivalents available over the entire duration of IRA implementation.

EPA

Remmington F. Belford, MPS. (*he/him/his*)
Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Biden administration's EPA legacy

[redacted] **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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Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

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1000 Wilson Boulevard, 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209
www.eenews.net
Greenwire, Climatewire, Energywire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: Belford, Remmington [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=294815E043774D8D8DA318F1969BEB98-010D3E3F-15]
Sent: 6/13/2024 3:13:26 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: obligate vs. transfer funds

Hey Jean –

Thanks so much. Working on getting you a response. I know the story is running tomorrow, but what's your deadline?

Remmington F. Belford, MPS, *(he/him/his)*
Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 11:04 AM
To: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: obligate vs. transfer funds

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

Hi guys: one quick clarification: can you say anything about when the funds will actually be transferred? A couple of people have raised that with me – if the funds have been obligated before Jan. 20 (in the case of a Trump victory) but not transferred, grantees would have to go to court to get the funds released. Will the funds be transferred prior to Jan. 20?

Thanks! This is on the budget for tomorrow.

Jean

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

From: Jean Chemnick
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Flagging: GGRF in the case of a Trump presidency

One quick follow up (the story is running on Friday, so tomorrow is fine): I understand that obligating funds is not the same as cutting a check. Will EPA transfer the funds to the grantees before Jan. 20, 2025?

Thanks again.

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To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Flagging: GGRF in the case of a Trump presidency

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Of course thank you!

EPA

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Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Flagging: GGRF in the case of a Trump presidency

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From: Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:06 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Flagging: GGRF in the case of a Trump presidency

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Jean

I hope this finds you well.

Please see our response below:

"For all three Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) programs, EPA is on track to obligate funds – and thereby meet statutory deadlines – by September 30, 2024. Through robust governance, reporting, and auditing requirements of the GGRF, EPA will continue to manage its grants consistent with law, ensuring that capital is appropriately channeled into the low-income and disadvantaged communities that are most in need of capital for clean technology projects."

EPA

Remmington F. Belford, MPS, *(he/him/his)*
Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 1:58 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: GGRF in the case of a Trump presidency

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

Hello again, guys:

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Sent: 6/13/2024 5:41:56 PM
To: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
CC: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: obligate vs. transfer funds

Hey Jean –

Please see our response below. Thanks so much.

"As previously stated, we expect to meet all statutory deadlines, so that awardees can begin deployment of tens of thousands of clean technology projects to reduce pollution and deliver critical benefits like cost savings and high-quality jobs in line with the requirements of the statue."

EPA

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EPA

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From: Belford, Remmington [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=294815E043774D8D8DA318F1969BEB98-010D3E3F-15]
Sent: 1/10/2025 4:33:39 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Biden administration's EPA legacy
Attachments: EPA IIJA and IRA Financial Status as of January 6 2025.xlsx

Hey Kevin –

Please see our report which will answer your first two questions.

Below you will find the answers to the last two questions.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA have? 16,134 full-time employees were onboard as of 1/1/2025.

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA hire during the Biden administration? 6,399 full-time employees were hired (1/20/2021 – 1/8/2025)

Below are the FTE ceilings established in the budget. It is best not to mix FTE and employee data because those numbers are different. For example, multiple employees may charge some of their time to BIL and IRA work in addition to other projects – so it can get complicated quickly.

- EPA's FTE ceiling funded from annual appropriations is currently 15,130. This is the FY 2024 level which the agency continues to operate with under a Continuing Resolution.
- The FY 2025 IIJA (BIL) FTE ceiling is 823.5.
- The agency established a lifetime (multiple fiscal year) FTE ceiling of 3,157 for the IRA, representing the total cumulative full-time equivalents available over the entire duration of IRA implementation.

EPA

Remmington F. Belford, MPS. *(he/him/his)*
Press Secretary
C: (202) 904-9164

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Biden administration's EPA legacy

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

Hey everyone,

Hi, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well.

I'm working on a story about President Biden and former Administrator Regan's legacy at EPA. I'm reaching out to former EPA officials who served in Democratic and Republican administrations to hear what they think about what the agency accomplished during these past four years as well as what is under threat or will last during the incoming administration and beyond.

I have a few questions about this, which are:

-- EPA will receive over $60 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years. Of that sum, what has EPA not obligated yet, as in what remains unspent?

Please provide dollar estimates by their program title. For example, EPA's Clean School Bus program was appropriated $5 billion by IIJA but has only spent this amount so far.

-- EPA will receive $41.5 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act over ten years. Of that sum, what has EPA not obligated yet, as in what remains unspent?

Please provide dollar estimates by their program title. For example, EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund program was appropriated $27 billion by IRA but has only spent this amount so far.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA have?

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

-- As of Jan. 1, 2025, how many full-time employees did EPA hire during the Biden administration?

Please give me the EPA full-time employee figure funded by core appropriations, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. I plan to note that former Administrator Regan said in a speech last year that EPA hired 5,200 EPA employees since 2021 (please see https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2024/06/27/regan-the-state-of-epa-is-stronger-than-ever-00165428).

Also, for this story, I would be interested in interviewing an EPA senior political appointee, such as Dan Utech, to discuss President Biden and former Administrator Regan's legacy at EPA. Please let me know if that would be possible.

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is close of business Friday, Jan. 10, but the sooner you get back to me. Please email me at kbogardus@eenews.net or call me on my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (o)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

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www.eenews.net
Greenwire, Climatewire, Energywire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Categories	Programs
Taking Climate Action	
	GGRF (Gre
	Climate Po
	Climate Po
	Methane E
	Low Embo
	GHG Corpc
	Undergrou
	Environme
Investing in our Air	
	School Air
	Clean Scho
	DERA (Dies
	Other Air C
	Low Emissi

EPA's Investing in America Status by Major Category as of January 6, 2

Specific Line Item	BIL/IRA	Total Appropriation (2)
enhouse Gas Reduction Funds)	IRA	
Solar for All		$7,000
National Clean Investment Fund		$11,970
Clean Communities Investment Accelerator		$8,000
Administration		$30
llution Reduction Grants — Planning	IRA	
CPRG — Planning Grant		$250
llution Reduction Grants — Implementation		
CPRG — Implementation Grant		$4,750
missions Reduction Program	IRA	
Financial and Technical Assistance		$850
Marginal Wells		$700
died Carbon Labeling	IRA	
Low Embodied Carbon		$100
rate Reporting		
GHG Corporate Reporting	IRA	$5
nd Injection Grants		
UIC Grants	BIL	$50
ntal Product Declaration		
Environmental Product Declaration	IRA	$250
Quality (Funding to Address Air Pollution at Schools & Tech Assistance)	IRA	
School Grants		$38
Disadvantaged Communities		$13
ol Bus	BIL	
Clean School Bus Program		$4,975
el Emission Reduction Grants)	IRA	
DERA Grants		$60
rants and Programs	IRA	
Fenceline Monitoring		$118
Multipollutant Monitoring		$50
Community AQ Sensors		$3
Wood Heaters		$15
Methane Monitoring		$20
CAA Grants		$25
Mobile Source Grants		$5
ons Electricity Program	IRA	
Consumer		$17

2025

Financial Status - Dollars in Millions (1)			
Budget Authority (3)	Total Awarded (Obligated) (4)	Remaining Balance (Authority - Awarded) (5)	% Obligated
$7,000	$7,000	$0	100%
$11,970	$11,970	$0	100%
$8,000	$8,000	$0	100%
$30	$10	$20	34%
$250	$250	$0	100%
$4,750	$4,568	$182	96%
$850	$700	$150	82%
$700	$696	$4	99%
$100	$28	$72	28%
$5	$1	$4	20%
$50	$20	$29	41%
$250	$9	$241	4%
$38	$35	$2	95%
$13	$1	$11	9%
$2,985	$2,796	$189	94%
$60	$0	$60	0%
$118	$79	$38	67%
$50	$46	$4	93%
$3	$2	$1	72%
$15	$12	$3	78%
$20	$2	$18	8%
$25	$24	$1	97%
$5	$0	$5	0%
$17	$9	$8	50%

	RFS (Sec 21
	Clean Port
	Clean Heav
	AIM Act (A

Investing in our Water	
	Clean Wat
	SRF Emergi
	Drinking W
	Emerging C
	Geographi
Investing in our Land	

Education, Tech Assistance, Partnership		$17
Industry Related		$17
State, Tribal, and Local Governments		$17
Assessment		$1
Ensure Reductions		$18
.1, Fuel Testing, and Biofuels)	IRA	
Test and Protocols Development		$5
Industry Grants		$10
ı Program	IRA	
Competitive Rebates and Grants		$2,250
Air Quality Non-attainment		$750
ıy-Duty Vehicles	IRA	
Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles		$600
Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles Non-attainment		$400
merican Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020)	IRA	
General		$20
New Implementation and Compliance Tools		$4
Competitive Reclaim and Destruct Tech		$15
er & Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	BIL	
Clean (Waste) Water SRF		$11,672
Drinking Water SRF		$11,672
ing Contaminants	BIL	
Clean (Waste) Water SRF Contam		$995
Drinking Water SRF Contam		$3,980
ater SRF to Remove Lead Pipes	BIL	
DW SRF to Remove Lead Pipes		$14,925
ontaminant Grants	BIL	
Addressing Emerging Contaminant Grants		$4,975
c and Related Programs	BIL	
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative		$995
Chesapeake Bay		$237
San Francisco Bay		$24
Puget Sound		$89
Long Island Sound		$105
Gulf of Mexico		$53
South Florida		$16
Lake Champlain		$40
Lake Pontchartrain		$53
Southern New England Estuaries		$15
Columbia River Basin		$79
Pacific Northwest		$4
National Estuary Program Grants		$131
NEP Gulf Hypoxia		$60
DW Programs - Class VI Wells		$25

$17	$5	$12	28%
$17	$9	$8	51%
$17	$15	$2	88%
$1	$1	$0	87%
$18	$8	$10	42%
$5	$2	$3	44%
$10	$10	$0	98%
$2,250	$1,843	$407	82%
$750	$737	$13	98%
$600	$219	$381	37%
$400	$148	$252	37%
$20	$13	$7	67%
$4	$3	$1	77%
$15	$15	$0	97%
$6,484	$5,931	$553	91%
$6,484	$5,553	$931	86%
$490	$344	$146	70%
$2,446	$2,079	$367	85%
$8,955	$6,446	$2,509	72%
$2,985	$1,950	$1,035	65%
$597	$241	$356	40%
$142	$140	$2	99%
$14	$11	$3	77%
$53	$50	$3	95%
$63	$59	$4	94%
$32	$0	$31	1%
$10	$6	$3	68%
$24	$23	$1	96%
$32	$31	$0	98%
$9	$8	$1	87%
$47	$47	$0	99%
$2	$2	$1	70%
$79	$76	$3	97%
$36	$29	$7	80%
$15	$11	$4	72%

	Recycling a
	Brownfield
	Superfund
Protecting our Communities	
	Pollution P
	Environme
	Enforceme
	EPA Efficie
	Inspector G

	Grand Tota
	SubTotals I
	SubTotals I

(1) This Cha
(2) The Tot
(2) Budget
(4) Total Av
(5) Total Re

ınd Waste Management	BIL	
Battery Recycling Best Practices		$10
Voluntary Battery Labeling Guidelines		$15
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycycling (Save Our Seas Act Grants)		$274
Recycling Grants		$75
ds	BIL	
Brownfields Projects		$1,194
Brownfields Categorical Grant		$299
	BIL	
Superfund Remedial Site Cleanups		$3,483
revention	BIL	
Pollution Prevention Grants		$100
ntal and Climate Justice Grants	IRA	
Grants		$2,800
Tech Assistance		$200
nt Technology and Public Information	IRA	
Compliance Monitoring		$18
ICIS (Integrated Compliance Information System) Communications		$3
Update Inspections and Devices		$4
ncy (Permitting)	IRA	
		$40
General (6)		
Inspector General	BIL	$269

ıls - BIL + IRA		**$102,341**
oy Statute:		
BIL		$60,885
IRA		$41,456
		$102,341
oy Category:		
Climate Action		$33,955
Air Investments		$9,461
Water Investments		$50,143
Land Investments		$5,348
Protecting Communities		$3,165
Inspector General		$269
		$102,341

art shows EPA's BIL/IRA financial status as of January 6, 2025, with dollars rounded in millions.
al Appropriated shows the total funding that Congress included in both BIL and IRA.
Authority shows the total funding that Congress appropriated to date for these programs. Note that Co
varded equals the total amounts EPA has obligated for all items, including contracts, grants, payroll, etc
maining shows how much funding in each line item remains to be awarded or obligated.

$10	$7	$3	71%
$15	$10	$5	64%
$164	$142	$22	87%
$45	$32	$12	72%
$716	$695	$21	97%
$179	$174	$6	97%
$3,483	$3,332	$151	96%
$60	$39	$21	65%
$2,800	$1,826	$974	65%
$200	$111	$89	55%
$18	$14	$4	75%
$3	$0	$3	0%
$4	$1	$3	24%
$40	$18	$22	44%
$165	$54	$111	33%

$78,325	**$68,778**	**$9,548**	**88%**
$36,869	$30,338	$6,531	82%
$41,456	$38,439	$3,017	93%
$78,325	**$68,778**	**$9,548**	**88%**
$33,955	$33,253	$702	98%
$7,471	$6,033	$1,438	81%
$28,998	$23,038	$5,960	79%
$4,612	$4,392	$220	95%
$3,125	$2,008	$1,117	64%
$165	$54	$111	33%
$78,325	**$68,778**	**$9,548**	**88%**

ıngress appropriated all IRA funds upfront, but BIL appropriations for FY 2025

.

(6) Congres

1000000

ss appropriated Inspector General funds in BIL, but not in IRA.

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 8/15/2024 4:53:21 PM
To: Zolan Kanno-Youngs [zolan.kanno-youngs@nytimes.com]
Subject: RE: NYT Inquiry On Deadline -- Harris Story

Hey Zolan, thanks for taking time to speak with Administrator Regan yesterday. I'm following up with the two items we discussed on the call. Let me know if you have any follow up questions here and we can track those down!

Vice President Harris and Administrator Regan visited Milwaukee, WI on January 24, 2022 to discuss the administration's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan and met with Deanna Branch and her son Aidan. Both had suffered from serious lead exposure, resulting in hospitalizations for Adian and other health impacts for Deanna.

On the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the Administrator mentioned the program's focus on community lenders. The full $27 billion fund is made up of three programs, including a $7B residential solar program, a $14 billion National Clean Investment Fund to establish national clean financing institutions and a $6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator focused on provide funding and technical assistance to community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Of the two latter funds, at least 70% of capital will flow to low-income and disadvantaged communities, at least 20% of capital will flow to rural communities, and at least 5% of capital will flow to Tribal communities.

From: Zolan Kanno-Youngs <zolan.kanno-youngs@nytimes.com>
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 7:05 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: NYT Inquiry On Deadline -- Harris Story

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

That works just fine! Thanks sir

Zolan Kanno-Youngs
The New York Times
Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: 617-233-9507
@KannoYoungs

On Mon, Aug 12, 2024 at 6:38 PM Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Zolan, great to connect! Administrator Regan would be happy to chat on this and I think he can speak to a few examples, especially on the VP's engagement in the development of EPA's $27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.
>
> Would 9:15-9:30 AM on Wednesday work? I can give you a ring at the number in your signature and connect you if that time works.
>
> **From:** Zolan Kanno-Youngs <zolan.kanno-youngs@nytimes.com>
> **Sent:** Monday, August 12, 2024 6:06:32 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: NYT Inquiry On Deadline -- Harris Story

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

Hi Timothy,

Hope you're well. I was referred to you by the vice president's office for a story we're doing on Vice President Kamala Harris's time as vice president. We're curious about exploring what the VP did and did not do on policy. What were the big decisions she made? How did she help shape some of the policies in Biden's agenda? I thought the Administrator would be able to provide his perspective? The thing we're looking for here is **examples** of the VP's work, rather than just analysis.

Might the administrator have time tomorrow or Wednesday?

Thanks,

Zolan Kanno-Youngs
The New York Times
Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: 617-233-9507
@KannoYoungs

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 8/15/2024 6:35:39 PM
To: Maxine Joselow [Maxine.joselow@washpost.com]
Subject: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

Hey Maxine! Hope all is well. Reaching out to see if you'd be interested in some embargoed news for tomorrow morning on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as EPA and the Administration celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. For planning only, we'll be announcing the obligation (money officially out the door) for all three GGRF programs totaling $27 billion, ahead of the statutory deadline in September.

If you're alright with a 5 AM embargo, I can pass along more details!

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 8/15/2024 6:36:40 PM
To: Ella Nilsen [ella.nilsen@cnn.com]
Subject: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

Hey Ella! Hope all is well. Reaching out to see if you'd be interested in some embargoed news for tomorrow morning on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as EPA and the Administration celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. For planning only, we'll be announcing the obligation (money officially out the door) for all three GGRF programs totaling $27 billion, ahead of the statutory deadline in September.

If you're all right with a 5 AM embargo, I can pass along more details!

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 8/15/2024 7:08:10 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine [Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com]
Subject: RE: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

Cool – sharing our release below, embargoed for 5AM tomorrow. The WH may also be in touch with more IRA anniversary news, they'll be putting out a fact sheet with the same embargo.

Let me know if you have any Qs here!

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00 AM ET ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

EPA Awards $27B in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grants to Accelerate Clean Energy Solutions, Combat the Climate Crisis, and Save Families Money

On the 2-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, award recipients can now begin accessing funds to mobilize financing for thousands of climate and clean energy projects

Contact: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON - Today, Aug. 16, on the second anniversary of the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it has obligated $27 billion in grants under three competitions to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund recipients as part of the Biden-Harris Administration Investing in America agenda. Together, the grant recipients receiving funds under EPA's $14 billion National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF), the $6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA), and the $7 billion Solar for All program will create a national financing network for clean energy and climate solutions across the country. Since they were selected in April, recipients have worked directly with EPA to fulfill federal requirements and revise their workplans in order to receive their grants. With funds now accessible to the recipients, programs that give communities access to the resources and investment capital to build cleaner, more sustainable economies can begin being implemented.

EPA's historic $27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has been made possible by President Biden and Vice President Harris' Inflation Reduction Act, which is the largest climate investment in history. Since the legislation was signed into law on August 16, 2022, **EPA has obligated more than $28.8 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding in total, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and is on track to obligate nearly $38.3 billion in total from this historic investment by the end of the calendar year**. EPA has ensured these federal investments deliver on the law's promise to dramatically reduce emissions, build a clean economy, lower energy costs for American households and businesses, create good-paying jobs, and advance environmental justice.

"With climate impacts increasingly impacting all Americans, and especially those in communities that have been historically left behind, EPA knew it had to move swiftly and deliberately to get this historic funding out the door," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Two years after he signed the law, President Biden is delivering the full $27 billion that he secured in this legislation. American families will soon feel the benefits in

the form of lower energy costs and revitalized communities, while the United States leads the clean energy economy of the future."

With funds now in hand, NCIF recipients can begin delivering accessible, affordable financing for clean technology projects in communities across the country. CCIA recipients can begin providing funding and technical assistance to community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Solar for All recipients can soon begin expanding existing solar programs for low-income and disadvantaged communities and launching new ones, which will collectively deliver residential solar to over 900,000 low-income households nationwide. Solar for All recipients will spend the next few months working with EPA to finalize their program workplans and budgets and will then begin implementing their programs and funding projects, starting in early 2025.

Together, the NCIF, CCIA, and Solar for All programs will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Solar for All recipients will invest 100% of program funds in low-income and disadvantaged communities. NCIF and CCIA recipients will dedicate over $14 billion of program funds toward low-income and disadvantaged communities — including over $4 billion for rural communities as well as almost $1.5 billion for Tribal communities — ensuring that program benefits flow to the communities most in need and advance the President's Justice40 Initiative.

All entities with eligible projects that are interested in applying for funds from or working with an NCIF, CCIA, or Solar for All recipient should contact their relevant recipient directly to learn more about potential opportunities and their program timelines. Learn more about the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and its grant recipients on EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage. Information and registration details for upcoming public webinars that will provide updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs are posted on the Engagement Opportunities webpage.

In addition to the agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, EPA has fully obligated awards for several additional Inflation Reduction Act programs, including the Methane Emission Reduction Program, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning, and various environmental justice, clean air monitoring, and carbon labeling programs. Learn more about EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Programs.

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:42 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

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

Hey Tim! Yes, I am interested in receiving the embargoed news, and I will of course respect the embargo. Thank you!

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:35 PM

To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Subject: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hey Maxine! Hope all is well. Reaching out to see if you'd be interested in some embargoed news for tomorrow morning on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as EPA and the Administration celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. For planning only, we'll be announcing the obligation (money officially out the door) for all three GGRF programs totaling $27 billion, ahead of the statutory deadline in September.

If you're alright with a 5 AM embargo, I can pass along more details!

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice [twitter.com]

Message

From: Carroll, Timothy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7C1EF325560047F3A017036A7486B8F2-CARROLL, TI]
Sent: 8/15/2024 7:08:56 PM
To: Nilsen, Ella [ella.nilsen@cnn.com]
Subject: RE: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

Sounds good, sharing our release below. The WH may also be in touch with more IRA anniversary news, they'll be putting out a fact sheet with the same embargo.

Let me know if you have any Qs here!

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00 AM ET ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

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On the 2-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, award recipients can now begin accessing funds to mobilize financing for thousands of climate and clean energy projects

Contact: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

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"With climate impacts increasingly impacting all Americans, and especially those in communities that have been historically left behind, EPA knew it had to move swiftly and deliberately to get this historic funding out the door," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Two years after he signed the law, President Biden is delivering the full $27 billion that he secured in this legislation. American families will soon feel the benefits in

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Together, the NCIF, CCIA, and Solar for All programs will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Solar for All recipients will invest 100% of program funds in low-income and disadvantaged communities. NCIF and CCIA recipients will dedicate over $14 billion of program funds toward low-income and disadvantaged communities — including over $4 billion for rural communities as well as almost $1.5 billion for Tribal communities — ensuring that program benefits flow to the communities most in need and advance the President's Justice40 Initiative.

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In addition to the agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, EPA has fully obligated awards for several additional Inflation Reduction Act programs, including the Methane Emission Reduction Program, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning, and various environmental justice, clean air monitoring, and carbon labeling programs. Learn more about EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Programs.

From: Nilsen, Ella <ella.nilsen@cnn.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

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

Hey Tim, thanks for the heads up and feel free to send; I'm good with the embargo. I'm not sure we'll cover standalone but may be able to work it into another story.

Thanks,
Ella

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 15, 2024, at 2:36 PM, Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov> wrote:

EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments

Hey Ella! Hope all is well. Reaching out to see if you'd be interested in some embargoed news for tomorrow morning on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as EPA and the Administration celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. For planning only, we'll be announcing the obligation (money officially out the door) for all three GGRF programs totaling $27 billion, ahead of the statutory deadline in September.

If you're all right with a 5 AM embargo, I can pass along more details!

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

Message

From: Joselow, Maxine [Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com]
Sent: 7/9/2024 7:39:40 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Hi Tim, Nick, and EPA press team,

I hope you're all doing well and staying cool in this heat. I'm working on a piece about how environmental agencies are working to get funding out the door before the end of President Biden's first term.

Are you able to share how much money EPA has formally awarded from the Inflation Reduction Act so far? I saw that Politico reported in May that EPA had formally awarded $2 billion out of $42 billion in IRA-related funding. But that article didn't seem to account for the $27 billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, including the Solar for All awards.

Please let me know about this either way when you get the chance. My deadline is currently set for 5pm ET on Friday, although it may be extended to next week.

Many thanks,
Maxine
--
Maxine Joselow
Staff Writer
The Washington Post
Cell: 202-948-1924

Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 7/10/2024 8:34:21 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject:RE: GGRF again

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

Got this, thanks.

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

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:32 PM
To: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: GGRF again

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean, thanks for reaching back out here. Sharing a statement below, please let us know if you have any other Qs and we can track those down.

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

NCIF and CCIA award agreements are still in the process of being finalized. EPA does not have a specific date for when award agreements will be signed yet, but we are on track to formally obligate the funds before the deadline of September 30. EPA expects to publish an updated version of GGRF reporting requirements in the Federal Register for public comment later this summer.

From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 2:23 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: GGRF again

Hi, Jean,

Acknowledging your inquiry and deadline. Thanks!

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: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 2:19 PM
To: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: GGRF again

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 updating my GGRF oversight story, which I'm told might actually run Thursday or Friday. Have the contracts with NCIF and CCIA selectees been signed yet? Do you have any intel on when that might be? And have there recently been any updates to reporting requirements for awardees? I understood that was imminent.

Finally: we see now that the $5 million for GGRF implementation didn't make it into the FY 2025 spending bill. Do you have a comment on that?

This would be for COB tomorrow. Thanks.

Jean

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

Message

From: Joselow, Maxine [Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com]
Sent: 7/10/2024 10:32:49 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Great, thanks!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:36:38 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

Yep, fine to use my name!

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Thanks so much for chatting and following up with this statement. Can I attribute it to you? It would be great to stay in touch on this, and just let me know if you are able to share those updated numbers at a later date.

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 4:21 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

Hi again, don't think we'll have updated numbers to share, but did want to pass along a statement as discussed! Let me know if there's anything more you need from EPA and we can tack that down, happy to stay in touch on this topic generally too.

Funding from the Inflation Reduction Act represents a historic investment in the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency. As part of the Biden Administration's Investing in America Agenda, these resources are designed to

have a significant impact on the health and environment in communities across the country. EPA continues to work quickly and prudently to design, open for competition, select for award, and obligate these funds. The Agency anticipates that more than $32 billion in funds will be obligated by the end of the year.

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 12:31 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Thanks so much, and again, no worries if today isn't possible.

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

Hey – today may be tough but let me see what we can do!

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 12:27 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Hi again, Tim -- I just wanted to see if there's any way you could share this information by tonight, since it would be great to include in a story publishing tomorrow morning about an Energy Department funding announcement. No worries at all if not. I know I originally shared that my deadline was Friday at 5pm.

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:44 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

Great, thanks so much, Tim.

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:43 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hey Maxine, will check on this and circle back before your deadline!

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Washington Post deadline inquiry: IRA funding

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

Hi Tim, Nick, and EPA press team,

I hope you're all doing well and staying cool in this heat. I'm working on a piece about how environmental agencies are working to get funding out the door before the end of President Biden's first term.

Are you able to share how much money EPA has formally awarded from the Inflation Reduction Act so far? I saw that Politico reported [politico.com] in May that EPA had formally awarded $2 billion out of $42 billion in IRA-related funding. But that article didn't seem to account for the $27 billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, including the Solar for All awards.

Please let me know about this either way when you get the chance. My deadline is currently set for 5pm ET on Friday, although it may be extended to next week.

Many thanks,
Maxine

--

Maxine Joselow
Staff Writer
The Washington Post
Cell: 202-948-1924

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
07/17/2024 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 andthe 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
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Message

From: Zack Colman [zcolman@politico.com]
Sent: 7/25/2024 10:49:01 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Wise, Jahi [Wise.Jahi@epa.gov]
CC: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Ridgeway, Charissee [Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov]; EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject:Re: Connecting

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

Thank you, Tim! I honestly thought it was running tomorrow… turns out that another story I was working on is what's running tomorrow. My apologies. Thank you for the statement!

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:16:18 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>; Wise, Jahi <Wise.Jahi@epa.gov>
Cc: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Connecting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Zack, looks like the story just dropped but wanted to close the loop here with a statement. Let us know if you need anything else here!

Vice President Kamala Harris is a leader who doesn't do surface, she digs in and she was a driving force behind EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, a $27 billion program from the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Vice President was actively engaged during the development of the program and emphasized the importance of community lenders in the work to reach underserved communities. Her engagement resulted in a program that will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community lenders, especially in disadvantaged and underserved areas, have access to billions of dollars of new capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods.

From: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:30 PM
To: Wise, Jahi <Wise.Jahi@epa.gov>
Cc: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Connecting

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

Thanks, Jahi. And hello, all. I know Alex Guillen had reached out but wanted to circle back with something for a story running tomorrow. Is it accurate to say VP Harris was instrumental in formulating the idea to send $20B in climate funding under the Inflation Reduction Act to community lenders?

Thanks,
-Zack

--
Zack Colman
POLITICO
Climate & energy reporter
(248) 563-9744

From: Wise, Jahi <Wise.Jahi@epa.gov>
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 4:29 PM
To: Zack Colman <zcolman@politico.com>
Cc: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>, Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>, EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Connecting

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Zack: You here with the press team re the question you asked. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 7/30/2024 5:27:54 PM
To: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]
Subject:RE: Grants question

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

And sorry – COB today, but if it takes longer to get some of those answers I'd still take them!

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

From: Jean Chemnick
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 1:27 PM
To: 'Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers)' <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grants question

Hello – I'm following the EFAB workshop on the GGRF and will write a short piece for the morning. Is it the case that some CCIA and NCIF contract negotiations have concluded and some are still in progress? Or are they all still being negotiated? I do hear about Solar for All contracts that have been finalized.

Any timeframe on finishing negotiations on contracts yet? And I think there's supposed to be an updated set of reporting requirements at some point? Is there an ETA on that yet?

Finally: what role do the EFAB workshops play in EPA's implementation of the GGRF, or on how the contracts are structured?

Thanks much.

Jean

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

From: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 12:13 PM

To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grants question

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,

I wanted to circle back on your second question below.

Please see our response:

1) Will all of these grant programs be obligated by the end of this calendar year? All the grant programs under the IRA?

We are still in the process of negotiating award agreements under NCIF and CCIA, and remain on track to finalize those later this summer.

Thanks!

Angela

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grants question

Hi Jean – good place to start would be EPA's own version of invest.gov at https://www.epa.gov/invest/. We'll check on the second Q and circle back. Is this on a deadline for the news tomorrow or will this have a later deadline?

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Grants question

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 prewriting for the EJ grants. But I'm also interested in doing a bit of a wrap-up of all the IRA grants administered by EPA that have been announced this spring.

1) Is there an EPA website that shows what programs have already been announced and which haven't? I'm aware of invest.gov, but it's too much information. I don't need to see all the recipients. Just – I know GGRF, CPRG, etc. have been announced. Is there a full rundown somewhere? If not, could I get one from you? (ideally today, but I'd take one whenever you can).

2) Will all of these grant programs be obligated by the end of this calendar year? All the grant programs under the IRA?

Thank you.

Jean

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

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 7/30/2024 8:54:23 PM
To: Powell, Shayla [Powell.Shayla@epa.gov]
CC: EPA Press Office [Press@epa.gov]; Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) [Hackel.Angela@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Finance advisory board questions

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

Thanks for this.

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

From: Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:53 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Finance advisory board questions

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi, Jean,

Please see our response below. Thanks!

Solar for All award agreements are currently in the process of being finalized and accepted by the selected applicants -- EPA expects to fully obligate the funds under the Solar for All program in the next few weeks. Award agreements under the NCIF and CCIA programs are also being finalized – funds under both of those programs are on track to be obligated ahead of the September 30, 2024 statutory deadline. EPA expects to publish an updated version of GGRF reporting requirements in the Federal Register for comment in the next few weeks.

The Environmental Financial Advisory Board provides feedback and input to EPA's program offices to consider as they implement their programs. Though grant recipients will be running subaward programs on a day-to-day basis, EPA will be in regular communication with grantees over the course of the program and will share feedback on program implementation that EPA is hearing from other stakeholders. The EFAB virtual workshop series is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the GGRF program and stimulate dialogue around mobilizing private capital with stakeholders across the finance sector.

Respectfully,

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

From: Powell, Shayla
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>; Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Finance advisory board questions

Hi, Jean,

Acknowledging your inquiry and deadline. Thanks!

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: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Finance advisory board questions

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 not sure if this registered as a new question. I'm following the EFAB workshop on the GGRF and will write a short piece for the morning, so deadline COB today.

Is there an ETA yet for when GGRF contract negotiations will be completed? And I think there's supposed to be an updated set of reporting requirements at some point? Is there an ETA on that yet?

How is this advisory board's advice factoring in to the GGRF program, given that the grantees are going to be running this program day to day?

Thanks much.

Jean

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

From: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 12:13 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grants question

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1) Will all of these grant programs be obligated by the end of this calendar year? All the grant programs under the IRA?

We are still in the process of negotiating award agreements under NCIF and CCIA, and remain on track to finalize those later this summer.

Thanks!

Angela

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Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Grants question

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Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Hackel, Angela (she/her/hers) <Hackel.Angela@epa.gov>; Powell, Shayla <Powell.Shayla@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Grants question

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1) Is there an EPA website that shows what programs have already been announced and which haven't? I'm aware of invest.gov, but it's too much information. I don't need to see all the recipients. Just – I know GGRF, CPRG, etc. have been announced. Is there a full rundown somewhere? If not, could I get one from you? (ideally today, but I'd take one whenever you can).
2) Will all of these grant programs be obligated by the end of this calendar year? All the grant programs under the IRA?

Thank you.

Jean

Jean Chemnick
Reporter
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Message

From: Joselow, Maxine [Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com]
Sent: 8/15/2024 7:28:28 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

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

Got it, thank you!

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:08 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

Cool – sharing our release below, embargoed for 5AM tomorrow. The WH may also be in touch with more IRA anniversary news, they'll be putting out a fact sheet with the same embargo.

Let me know if you have any Qs here!

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00 AM ET ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

EPA Awards $27B in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grants to Accelerate Clean Energy Solutions, Combat the Climate Crisis, and Save Families Money

On the 2-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, award recipients can now begin accessing funds to mobilize financing for thousands of climate and clean energy projects

Contact: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON - Today, Aug. 16, on the second anniversary of the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it has obligated $27 billion in grants under three competitions to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund recipients as part of the Biden-Harris Administration Investing in America agenda. Together, the grant recipients receiving funds under EPA's $14 billion National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) [epa.gov], the $6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) [epa.gov], and the $7 billion Solar for All program [epa.gov] will create a national financing network for clean energy and climate solutions across the country. Since they were selected in April, recipients have worked directly with EPA to fulfill federal requirements and revise their workplans in order to receive their grants. With funds now accessible to the recipients, programs that give communities access to the resources and investment capital to build cleaner, more sustainable economies can begin being implemented.

EPA's historic $27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has been made possible by President Biden and Vice President Harris' Inflation Reduction Act, which is the largest climate investment in history. Since the legislation was signed into law on August 16, 2022, **EPA has obligated more than $28.8 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding in total, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and is on track to obligate nearly $38.3 billion in total from this historic investment by the end of the calendar year**. EPA has ensured these federal investments deliver on the law's promise to dramatically reduce emissions, build a clean economy, lower energy costs for American households and businesses, create good-paying jobs, and advance environmental justice.

"With climate impacts increasingly impacting all Americans, and especially those in communities that have been historically left behind, EPA knew it had to move swiftly and deliberately to get this historic funding out the door," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Two years after he signed the law, President Biden is delivering the full $27 billion that he secured in this legislation. American families will soon feel the benefits in the form of lower energy costs and revitalized communities, while the United States leads the clean energy economy of the future."

With funds now in hand, NCIF recipients can begin delivering accessible, affordable financing for clean technology projects in communities across the country. CCIA recipients can begin providing funding and technical assistance to community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Solar for All recipients can soon begin expanding existing solar programs for low-income and disadvantaged communities and launching new ones, which will collectively deliver residential solar to over 900,000 low-income households nationwide. Solar for All recipients will spend the next few months working with EPA to finalize their program workplans and budgets and will then begin implementing their programs and funding projects, starting in early 2025.

Together, the NCIF, CCIA, and Solar for All programs will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative [whitehouse.gov], which aims to ensure 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Solar for All recipients will invest 100% of program funds in low-income and disadvantaged communities. NCIF and CCIA recipients will dedicate over $14 billion of program funds toward low-income and disadvantaged communities — including over $4 billion for rural communities as well as almost $1.5 billion for Tribal communities — ensuring that program benefits flow to the communities most in need and advance the President's Justice40 Initiative.

All entities with eligible projects that are interested in applying for funds from or working with an NCIF, CCIA, or Solar for All recipient should contact their relevant recipient directly to learn more about potential opportunities and their program timelines. Learn more about the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and its grant recipients on EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage [epa.gov]. Information and registration details for upcoming public webinars that will provide updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs are posted on the Engagement Opportunities webpage [epa.gov].

In addition to the agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, EPA has fully obligated awards for several additional Inflation Reduction Act programs, including the Methane Emission Reduction Program, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning, and various environmental justice, clean air monitoring, and carbon labeling programs. Learn more about EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Programs. [epa.gov]

From: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:42 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

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

Hey Tim! Yes, I am interested in receiving the embargoed news, and I will of course respect the embargo. Thank you!

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Joselow, Maxine <Maxine.Joselow@washpost.com>
Subject: Heads up from EPA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund news

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hey Maxine! Hope all is well. Reaching out to see if you'd be interested in some embargoed news for tomorrow morning on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as EPA and the Administration celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act. For planning only, we'll be announcing the obligation (money officially out the door) for all three GGRF programs totaling $27 billion, ahead of the statutory deadline in September.

If you're alright with a 5 AM embargo, I can pass along more details!

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice [twitter.com]

Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 8/16/2024 12:18:44 PM
To: Ridgeway, Charissee [Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Embargoed GGRF news from EPA

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

Thanks!

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

From: Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 8:00 AM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: Embargoed GGRF news from EPA

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean,
Know you were able to get your story up. Sharing the below so you have it. We'll keep you posted on updates here. Thanks for connecting on this one.

On background from EPA:

Obligation of the GGRF funds means that grant recipients can begin accessing their funds under the three programs. Under NCIF and CCIA, grant recipients can use these funds to begin implementing their programs, which will fund clean technology projects nationwide. Under Solar for All, grant recipients will be able to draw down a small percentage of their awards while they continue working with EPA to finalize their workplans and budgets through the end of the year. Starting in 2025, once final workplans have been approved, Solar for All recipients will gain access to the full amount of their funds to start funding projects, and in some cases, embarking on a one-year planning period to engage in communities to inform their program design.

The remaining unobligated funds are primarily from the OEJECR Community Change Grant program which will likely be obligated in early 2025 based on applications received up to the November deadline — as well as a small number of administrative program grants.

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:43 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>

Cc: Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Embargoed GGRF news from EPA

Got this, and looping Charissee to help track down!

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:32 PM
To: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Embargoed GGRF news from EPA

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

A couple of questions:

1) I think that once funds are "obligated" they're effectively placed in a checking account for the recipient, and it would be hard for EPA (under another administration) to claw them back. Do I have that right? So, are these funds basically impossible to rescind now?
2) It's interesting that EPA is on track to obligate $38.3 billion from the IRA by the end of 2024. It looks like that's out of a total of $41.5 billion that the agency received in the IRA. What program funds won't be fully obligated by the end of 2024?

Thanks so much!

Jean

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

From: Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 3:11 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Subject: Embargoed GGRF news from EPA

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Jean, as discussed, sharing details on the obligation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund dollars below, embargoed for 5:00 AM tomorrow. As I mentioned, the WH may also be in touch with more IRA anniversary news, they'll be putting out a fact sheet with the same embargo.

Let me know if you have any Qs here!

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00 AM ET ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

EPA Awards $27B in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grants to Accelerate Clean Energy Solutions, Combat the Climate Crisis, and Save Families Money

On the 2-year anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, award recipients can now begin accessing funds to mobilize financing for thousands of climate and clean energy projects

Contact: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON - Today, Aug. 16, on the second anniversary of the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it has obligated $27 billion in grants under three competitions to Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund recipients as part of the Biden-Harris Administration Investing in America agenda. Together, the grant recipients receiving funds under EPA's $14 billion National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF), the $6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA), and the $7 billion Solar for All program will create a national financing network for clean energy and climate solutions across the country. Since they were selected in April, recipients have worked directly with EPA to fulfill federal requirements and revise their workplans in order to receive their grants. With funds now accessible to the recipients, programs that give communities access to the resources and investment capital to build cleaner, more sustainable economies can begin being implemented.

EPA's historic $27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund has been made possible by President Biden and Vice President Harris' Inflation Reduction Act, which is the largest climate investment in history. Since the legislation was signed into law on August 16, 2022, **EPA has obligated more than $28.8 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding in total, including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and is on track to obligate nearly $38.3 billion in total from this historic investment by the end of the calendar year**. EPA has ensured these federal investments deliver on the law's promise to dramatically reduce emissions, build a clean economy, lower energy costs for American households and businesses, create good-paying jobs, and advance environmental justice.

"With climate impacts increasingly impacting all Americans, and especially those in communities that have been historically left behind, EPA knew it had to move swiftly and deliberately to get this historic funding out the door," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Two years after he signed the law, President Biden is delivering the full $27 billion that he secured in this legislation. American families will soon feel the benefits in the form of lower energy costs and revitalized communities, while the United States leads the clean energy economy of the future."

With funds now in hand, NCIF recipients can begin delivering accessible, affordable financing for clean technology projects in communities across the country. CCIA recipients can begin providing funding and technical assistance to community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Solar for All recipients can soon begin expanding existing solar programs for low-income and disadvantaged communities and launching new ones, which will collectively deliver residential solar to over 900,000 low-income households nationwide. Solar for All recipients will spend the next few months working with EPA to finalize their program workplans and budgets and will then begin implementing their programs and funding projects, starting in early 2025.

Together, the NCIF, CCIA, and Solar for All programs will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure 40% of the overall benefits of certain climate, clean energy, and other federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. Solar for All recipients will invest 100% of program funds in low-income and disadvantaged communities. NCIF and CCIA recipients will dedicate over $14 billion of program funds toward low-income and

disadvantaged communities — including over $4 billion for rural communities as well as almost $1.5 billion for Tribal communities — ensuring that program benefits flow to the communities most in need and advance the President's Justice40 Initiative.

All entities with eligible projects that are interested in applying for funds from or working with an NCIF, CCIA, or Solar for All recipient should contact their relevant recipient directly to learn more about potential opportunities and their program timelines. Learn more about the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and its grant recipients on EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund webpage. Information and registration details for upcoming public webinars that will provide updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs are posted on the Engagement Opportunities webpage.

In addition to the agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, EPA has fully obligated awards for several additional Inflation Reduction Act programs, including the Methane Emission Reduction Program, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning, and various environmental justice, clean air monitoring, and carbon labeling programs. Learn more about EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Programs.

Tim Carroll (he/him)
Deputy Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-384-7510 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

Message

From: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]
Sent: 8/23/2024 6:02:27 PM
To: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Flag: Follow up

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

And I was told this morning that my story was likely to hold again, which it has. My apologies for the wait. Thank you for your patience!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:48 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

I just got an update on this. I'm now told my story is being held one more day. Thank you so much!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

The story was held today and I'm told it will run tomorrow. Thanks so much!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Sounds good, thank you. When do you expect your story to run?

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Also, Nick, I just wanted to give you a heads up that I will mention in my story that Administrator Regan was spotted at the Democratic National Convention this week (please see https://x.com/FlaDems/status/1825902621275607469 and https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2024/08/20/dnc-live-updates-coverage/julia-louis-dreyfus-veep-climate-00175200).

Many thanks again for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 8:35 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Great. Many thanks, Nick. Talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

That is correct!

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Thanks so much for passing this along, Nick. I will quote you from your email below on the record as an EPA spokesperson in my story.

For your information, I will also mention in my story that Administrator Regan and Vice President Harris have worked together on EPA's Clean School Bus program, along with the other issues you described below.

Finally, I have one last fact-checking question for you, which is:

-- Administrator Regan is 48 years old. Is that accurate?

Please let me know as soon as you can. Thank you for your help again and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:03 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Thank you, Kevin! Sounds good.

VP Harris and Administrator Regan have a strong and productive working relationship. She was a driving force behind EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and she has championed our work to remove every lead pipe in this country.

The Vice President was actively engaged during the development of the GGRF program and emphasized the importance of community lenders in the work to reach underserved communities. Her engagement resulted in a program that will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community lenders, especially in disadvantaged and underserved areas, have access to billions of dollars of new capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods. On lead, she met with families in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and from the White House to discuss the threat lead exposure poses to our children, and she's ensured these lived experiences are at the center of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic resources and rulemakings to remove every lead pipe in ten years.

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Many thanks for the phone call just now, Nick. I really appreciate it.

As we discussed, regarding my questions about Administrator Regan's future plans, you directed me to prior comments from Administrator Regan, including whether he is interested in being part of a potential Harris administration. I will use that in the following in italics in my story:

EPA spokesperson Nick Conger directed E&E News to prior comments Administrator Michael Regan made about his future plans, including whether he was interested in being part of a potential Harris administration.

"I've learned not to get out ahead of any conversations I've had with the president and the vice president," Regan said at an event last month.

Also, as we discussed as well, please pass on that on-the-record statement regarding Vice President Harris and Administrator Regan's working relationship as soon as you can.

Thanks so much again for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Great. Many thanks for letting me know, Nick. Talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Kevin- I will call you this afternoon.

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Hey everyone, Kevin Bogardus with E&E News here. I just wanted to check in on the below. Please let me know if you plan to respond to my follow-up question as well as my initial questions. My

deadline is close of business today so it would be great if you could get back to me before then. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Conger, Nick <conger.nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Hey everyone, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News again. I have a follow-up question regarding the below, which is:

-- How would you characterize Administrator Regan's working relationship with Vice President Harris? Have they worked closely together during the Biden-Harris administration? If so, on what issues?

Please get back to me about my follow-up question above and my initial questions below. My deadline is close of business tomorrow so please get back to me before then.

Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:22 PM

To: Conger, Nick <conger.nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: What's next for Administrator Regan

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well.

I'm working on a story about what's next for Administrator Regan. It is a sensitive time to be a member of President Biden's cabinet as the election draws closer. If former President Donald Trump wins the election, Administrator Regan will leave EPA, while if Vice President Harris wins the election, Administrator Regan could stay at EPA or leave EPA. I'm talking to people about what the future holds for Administrator Regan and what he could do next if he leaves EPA.

Former EPA staffers have told me they think Administrator Regan will leave EPA after the election, even if Vice President Harris is elected president, and go into the private sector and then perhaps later run for public office, which I will report in my story.

I have a few questions about this, which are:

-- Would Administrator Regan stay at EPA or leave EPA after the election if Vice President Harris is elected president?

-- Would Administrator Regan stay at EPA after the election if Vice President Harris, if elected president, asked him to stay at EPA?

-- What would Administrator Regan do next if he leaves EPA after the election? Would he go into the private sector, run an environmental group or join academia?

-- Does Administrator Regan plan to run for public office if he leaves EPA after the election? What elected office would he run for?

Also, please let me know if EPA has any other comment on Administrator Regan's future plans.

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is close of business Tuesday, Aug. 20, but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Please email me at kbogardus@eenews.net or call my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
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202-737-5299 (f)

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Message

From: Shipley, David [David.Shipley@washpost.com]
Sent: 9/20/2024 6:15:20 PM
To: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Stromberg, Stephen [Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com]
CC: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator

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

Many thanks for this, Nick, but I'm afraid I'm going to have to decline.
My best,
David

From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Date: Friday, September 20, 2024 at 6:59 AM
To: Shipley, David <David.Shipley@washpost.com>, Stromberg, Stephen <Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com>
Cc: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Subject: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello David and Stephen:

Ahead of Climate Week and UNGA next week, I'm reaching out on behalf of EPA Administrator Michael Regan to submit an op-ed for your consideration. It is below and attached. Please let me know if The Washington Post is interested.

Best,

Nick

Nick Conger
Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-909-7391 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice [twitter.com]

Rolling Back Biden-Harris Infrastructure and Climate Investments Would Mean Backlash in American Communities

As federal investments pour into communities across the country, the case for climate optimism is growing quickly.

By Michael S. Regan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Over the past few months, I've heard voices calling to dismantle, block, rewrite, or otherwise slow-walk major parts of the Biden-Harris Administration's signature climate and infrastructure legislation. Let me be clear:

these calls and legislative proposals are out of touch with the needs and priorities of Americans regardless of political, socio-economic, or geographical boundaries.

As EPA administrator, I've had the privilege of traveling all across our great nation. I've traveled to big cities, small rural towns, and everything in between. I've visited solar-powered community centers in **Las Vegas** [shorturl.at] and **Atlanta** [shorturl.at]; a school district in **Alma** [wibw.com], Kansas with brand new electric school buses; natural areas restored outside **Wilmington** [newsobserver.com], North Carolina; and sustainable, retrofitted factories in **Pittsburgh** [shorturl.at]. If you're wondering what these projects have in common, they were made possible thanks to President Biden's investments in America.

I reflect on my travels to **Lowndes County, Alabama** [epa.gov], whose aging water infrastructure, stressed by climate impacts, regularly spewed sewage onto their front lawns. After decades of neglect, the community has finally received federal resources from the Biden-Harris Administration to address the community's wastewater challenges.

As I head to **Climate Week** [google.com] in New York City, I'm bringing these stories with me. Stories that illustrate the real-world impact of President Biden and Vice President Harris' ambitious agenda to cut climate pollution and bring environmental justice communities to the table.

Together, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are the largest-ever climate investment in American history.

In every corner of this country, Americans are reaping their benefits. From red states to blue states, federally funded infrastructure and clean energy projects are coming online. Already, we've created **334,000 new clean energy jobs** [climatepower.us]. In 2023, clean energy jobs grew more than double the rate of **employment growth** [energy.gov] in the overall economy.

Not only will these projects train the next generation of tradespeople with good-paying union jobs, but they will also help keep the lights on during emergencies, bolster America's energy independence, and ensure we win the economic competition for the 21st century, over China and anyone else.

This administration's signature climate and infrastructure laws have set America on a path to transform every economic sector that produces carbon pollution: power, transportation, buildings, industry, agriculture, and forestry.

These laws are incredibly popular, and any attempt to take us backwards could disrupt the lives of millions of hardworking Americans across our country.

I'm proud that EPA has awarded more than $55 billion in Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, and my agency is on track to award more than $65 billion of historic investments by the end of the calendar year.

That includes implementing our $27 billion **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund** [epa.gov], which will support **tens of thousands of clean energy projects** [whitehouse.gov] and avoid up to 40 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually over the next seven years. That program will, for example, save over **$350 million each year** [epa.gov] on energy bills for 900,000 low-income and disadvantaged households through rooftop solar.

But Republicans in Congress have continuously called for rescinding these funds. Do we really want to take away over $65 billion of investments from the American people? Do we want to take away the benefits of

cleaner air and water, new jobs, and growing economies that these investments are already delivering for people? In fact, our programs are so successful with constituents, some Republicans are banding together to defend this administration's climate and infrastructure laws.

In August, **eighteen House Republicans** [garbarino.house.gov] asked Speaker Mike Johnson to protect the Inflation Reduction Act's popular energy tax credits. Why? Because their districts are seeing tangible benefits from clean energy manufacturing investments. The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** and the **American Petroleum Institute** [subscriber.politicopro.com] have also gone to bat for protecting large portions of the Inflation Reduction Act, demonstrating widespread, bipartisan support.

These investments are being implemented to spur innovation and make people healthier. Earlier this year, we issued our final **national pollution standards** [epa.gov] for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles, avoiding more than 7 billion tons of carbon emissions and saving the average American driver an estimated $6,000 in reduced fuel and maintenance over the life of their next vehicle.

Here's the bottom line: All Americans have the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and lead a healthy life. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, more communities finally have a fighting chance.

Michael S. Regan is the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###

Message

From: Larabee, Michael [Michael.Larabee@washpost.com]
Sent: 9/20/2024 6:24:02 PM
To: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
CC: Stromberg, Stephen [Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com]; Oped [oped@washpost.com]
Subject: Fw: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator
Attachments: Climate Week Op-Ed for WaPo 9.20.24.docx

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

Dear Nick, Stephen forwarded this piece to me to review.
Thank you for the look but we have to pass on it.
My best
Mike Larabee
Post Opinions

From: Stromberg, Stephen <Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 10:01 AM
To: Oped <oped@washpost.com>; Larabee, Michael <Michael.Larabee@washpost.com>
Subject: Fwd: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator

Stephen Stromberg
Office: 202.334.6370
Cell: 310.770.6646

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Conger, Nick" <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Date: September 20, 2024 at 9:59:55 AM EDT
To: "Shipley, David" <David.Shipley@washpost.com>, "Stromberg, Stephen" <Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com>
Cc: "Hitchings, Nate" <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Subject: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Hello David and Stephen:

Ahead of Climate Week and UNGA next week, I'm reaching out on behalf of EPA Administrator Michael Regan to submit an op-ed for your consideration. It is below and attached. Please let me know if The Washington Post is interested.

Best,

Nick

Nick Conger
Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-909-7391 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice [twitter.com]

Rolling Back Biden-Harris Infrastructure and Climate Investments Would Mean Backlash in American Communities

As federal investments pour into communities across the country, the case for climate optimism is growing quickly.

By Michael S. Regan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Over the past few months, I've heard voices calling to dismantle, block, rewrite, or otherwise slow-walk major parts of the Biden-Harris Administration's signature climate and infrastructure legislation. Let me be clear: these calls and legislative proposals are out of touch with the needs and priorities of Americans regardless of political, socio-economic, or geographical boundaries.

As EPA administrator, I've had the privilege of traveling all across our great nation. I've traveled to big cities, small rural towns, and everything in between. I've visited solar-powered community centers in **Las Vegas** [shorturl.at] and **Atlanta** [shorturl.at]; a school district in **Alma** [wibw.com], Kansas with brand new electric school buses; natural areas restored outside **Wilmington** [newsobserver.com], North Carolina; and sustainable, retrofitted factories in **Pittsburgh** [shorturl.at]. If you're wondering what these projects have in common, they were made possible thanks to President Biden's investments in America.

I reflect on my travels to **Lowndes County, Alabama** [epa.gov], whose aging water infrastructure, stressed by climate impacts, regularly spewed sewage onto their front lawns. After decades of neglect, the community has finally received federal resources from the Biden-Harris Administration to address the community's wastewater challenges.

As I head to **Climate Week** [google.com] in New York City, I'm bringing these stories with me. Stories that illustrate the real-world impact of President Biden and Vice President Harris' ambitious agenda to cut climate pollution and bring environmental justice communities to the table.

Together, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are the largest-ever climate investment in American history.

In every corner of this country, Americans are reaping their benefits. From red states to blue states, federally funded infrastructure and clean energy projects are coming online. Already, we've created **334,000 new clean energy jobs** [climatepower.us]. In 2023, clean energy jobs grew more than double the rate of **employment growth** [energy.gov] in the overall economy.

Not only will these projects train the next generation of tradespeople with good-paying union jobs, but they will also help keep the lights on during emergencies, bolster America's energy independence, and ensure we win the economic competition for the 21st century, over China and anyone else.

This administration's signature climate and infrastructure laws have set America on a path to transform every economic sector that produces carbon pollution: power, transportation, buildings, industry, agriculture, and forestry.

These laws are incredibly popular, and any attempt to take us backwards could disrupt the lives of millions of hardworking Americans across our country.

I'm proud that EPA has awarded more than $55 billion in Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, and my agency is on track to award more than $65 billion of historic investments by the end of the calendar year.

That includes implementing our $27 billion **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund** [epa.gov], which will support **tens of thousands of clean energy projects** [whitehouse.gov] and avoid up to 40 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually over the next seven years. That program will, for example, save over **$350 million each year** [epa.gov] on energy bills for 900,000 low-income and disadvantaged households through rooftop solar.

But Republicans in Congress have continuously called for rescinding these funds. Do we really want to take away over $65 billion of investments from the American people? Do we want to take away the benefits of cleaner air and water, new jobs, and growing economies that these investments are already delivering for people? In fact, our programs are so successful with constituents, some Republicans are banding together to defend this administration's climate and infrastructure laws.

In August, **eighteen House Republicans** [garbarino.house.gov] asked Speaker Mike Johnson to protect the Inflation Reduction Act's popular energy tax credits. Why? Because their districts are seeing tangible benefits from clean energy manufacturing investments. The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** and the **American Petroleum Institute** [subscriber.politicopro.com] have also gone to bat for protecting large portions of the Inflation Reduction Act, demonstrating widespread, bipartisan support.

These investments are being implemented to spur innovation and make people healthier. Earlier this year, we issued our final **national pollution standards** [epa.gov] for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles, avoiding more than 7 billion tons of carbon emissions and saving the average American driver an estimated $6,000 in reduced fuel and maintenance over the life of their next vehicle.

Here's the bottom line: All Americans have the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and lead a healthy life. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, more communities finally have a fighting chance.

Michael S. Regan is the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###

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As EPA administrator, I've had the privilege of traveling all across our great nation. I've traveled to big cities, small rural towns, and everything in between. I've visited solar-powered community centers in [HYPERLINK "https://shorturl.at/6Swxc" \h] and [HYPERLINK "https://shorturl.at/eCP4j" \h]; a school district in [HYPERLINK "https://www.wibw.com/2023/02/09/epa-administrator-alma-speak-about-electric-school-buses/"], Kansas with brand new electric school buses; natural areas restored outside [HYPERLINK "https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article290371239.html"], North Carolina; and sustainable, retrofitted factories in [HYPERLINK "https://shorturl.at/1kB9R" \h]. If you're wondering what these projects have in common, they were made possible thanks to President Biden's investments in America.

I reflect on my travels to [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-expands-epa-program-bring-wastewater-sanitation-services-3" \h], whose aging water infrastructure, stressed by climate impacts, regularly spewed sewage onto their front lawns. After decades of neglect, the community has finally received federal resources from the Biden-Harris Administration to address the community's wastewater challenges.

As I head to [HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/search?q=climate+week&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS1123US1123&oq=climate+week&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQRRg7MgYIAhBFGDzSAQgxMzgyajBqMagCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8" \h] in New York City, I'm bringing these stories with me. Stories that illustrate the real-world impact of President Biden and Vice President Harris' ambitious agenda to cut climate pollution and bring environmental justice communities to the table.

Together, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are the largest-ever climate investment in American history.

In every corner of this country, Americans are reaping their benefits. From red states to blue states, federally funded infrastructure and clean energy projects are coming online. Already, we've created [HYPERLINK "https://climatepower.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Clean-Energy-Boom-Two-Year-Anniversary-Report-RES-2024_07_30-DR.pdf"]. In 2023, clean energy jobs grew

more than double the rate of [HYPERLINK "https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-report-shows-clean-energy-jobs-grew-more-twice-rate-overall-us-employment" \h] in the overall economy.

Not only will these projects train the next generation of tradespeople with good-paying union jobs, but they will also help keep the lights on during emergencies, bolster America's energy independence, and ensure we win the economic competition for the 21st century, over China and anyone else.

This administration's signature climate and infrastructure laws have set America on a path to transform every economic sector that produces carbon pollution: power, transportation, buildings, industry, agriculture, and forestry.

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I'm proud that EPA has awarded more than $55 billion in Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, and my agency is on track to award more than $65 billion of historic investments by the end of the calendar year.

That includes implementing our $27 billion [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund" \h], which will support [HYPERLINK "https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/04/04/biden-harris-administration-announces-historic-20-billion-in-awards-to-expand-access-to-clean-energy-and-climate-solutions-and-lower-energy-costs-for-communities-across-the-nation/" \h] and avoid up to 40 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually over the next seven years. That program will, for example, save over [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-7-billion-solar-all-grants-deliver-residential" \h] on energy bills for 900,000 low-income and disadvantaged households through rooftop solar.

But Republicans in Congress have continuously called for rescinding these funds. Do we really want to take away over $65 billion of investments from the American people? Do we want to take away the benefits of cleaner air and water, new jobs, and growing economies that these investments are already delivering for people? In fact, our programs are so successful with constituents, some Republicans are banding together to defend this administration's climate and infrastructure laws.

In August, [HYPERLINK "https://garbarino.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/garbarino.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/FINAL%20Credits%20Letter%202024.08.06.pdf?source=email" \h] asked Speaker Mike Johnson to protect the Inflation Reduction Act's popular energy tax credits. Why? Because their districts are seeing tangible benefits from clean energy manufacturing investments. The [HYPERLINK "https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2024/05/will-big-business-rescue-the-democrats-climate-law-00160085?source=email" \h] have also gone to bat for protecting large portions of the Inflation Reduction Act, demonstrating widespread, bipartisan support.

These investments are being implemented to spur innovation and make people healthier. Earlier this year, we issued our final [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-strongest-ever-pollution-standards-cars-position" \h] for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles, avoiding more than 7 billion tons of carbon emissions and saving the average American driver an estimated $6,000 in reduced fuel and maintenance over the life of their next vehicle.

Here's the bottom line: All Americans have the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and lead a healthy life. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, more communities finally have a fighting chance.

Michael S. Regan is the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###

Message

From: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/23/2024 2:04:55 PM
To: Jarvis.DeBerry@nbcuni.com
CC: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
Subject: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator
Attachments: Admin Regan Climate Week Op-Ed 9.23.24.docx

Hi Jarvis – Hope you're doing well!

With Climate Week and UNGA kicking off this week, reaching out on behalf of EPA Administrator Michael Regan to submit a 728-word op-ed for consideration. See below and attached – happy to cut down, as needed. Let me know if MSNBC's interested!

Best,

Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

[SAMPLE HED] Rolling Back Biden-Harris Infrastructure and Climate Investments Would Mean Backlash in American Communities

[SAMPLE DEK] As federal investments pour into communities across the country, the case for climate optimism is growing quickly.

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###

Message

From: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/23/2024 3:38:41 PM
To: kfossett@politico.com
CC: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]
Subject: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator

Hi Katelyn – Hope you're doing well!

With Climate Week and UNGA kicking off this week, reaching out on behalf of EPA Administrator Michael Regan to submit a 728-word op-ed for consideration. See below and attached – happy to cut down, as needed. Let me know if Politico Mag's interested!

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Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

[SAMPLE HED] Rolling Back Biden-Harris Infrastructure and Climate Investments Would Mean Backlash in American Communities

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Michael S. Regan is the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###

Message

From: Jessie Blaeser [jblaeser@politico.com]
Sent: 11/12/2024 2:56:13 PM
To: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]
CC: Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Thomas, Rachel R. EOP/WHO Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Fernandez Hernandez, Angelo EOP/WHO Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Re: Press Inquiry: EPA obligations under IRA, POLITICO
Attachments: Question_hangs_over_Trump_s_return__How_much_Biden_climate_money_is_safe__-_POLITICO_PRO.pdf

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

Hi Nate,

Just following up on this with our piece. This published this morning on our subscriber site and will publish on our main site this afternoon, I believe.

Thanks again and talk soon!
Jessie

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

From: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Cc: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Thomas, Rachel R. EOP/WHO Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Fernandez Hernandez, Angelo EOP/WHO Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: Re: Press Inquiry: EPA obligations under IRA, POLITICO

Hi Nate,

Thanks for this. Given you have previously shared obligation information with POLITICO, we will refer back to the latest information we have available. I'll continue to reach out for updates.

Particularly given EPA has shared obligation information in the past, can you explain why you cannot share that information now?

Thanks again,
Jessie

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

From: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 4:30 PM
To: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Cc: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Thomas, Rachel R. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Fernandez Hernandez, Angelo EOP/WHO <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: EPA obligations under IRA, POLITICO

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Jessie – Apologies for the delayed response.

All we can say at the moment is that EPA intends to obligate nearly all IRA investments by the end of the calendar year (as we've **previously announced**). Defer any other questions to my White House colleagues, Rachel and Angelo.

Best,

Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

From: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Cc: EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Press Inquiry: EPA obligations under IRA, POLITICO

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

Hi Nate,

I hope you were out of office until yesterday, so just following up on this thread. Can you break down the $33.5 billion EPA has obligated under the IRA by program, or in the same buckets you previously broke down funding in the table below?

Following the results of last night's election, I am working on a project looking at the state of IRA spending, under a fairly tight deadline. Could you get back to me on this by **noon tomorrow**?

Thanks so much,
Jessie

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

From: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Jessie Blaeser <jblaeser@politico.com>
Subject: Automatic reply: Press Inquiry: EPA obligations under IRA, POLITICO

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hello! I am currently out of office, returning back on Tuesday, November 5th. For anything press related, please reach out to Charissee Ridgeway (Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov). For everything else, please get in touch with AO_Implementation@epa.gov.

Thanks,

Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

Message

From: Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED49EEF3EBD447E29A2CAF77C44F6020-644FDB18-7F]
Sent: 8/23/2024 6:02:16 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

Looks like its been pushed off again...unless I missed it?

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:48 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

I just got an update on this. I'm now told my story is being held one more day. Thank you so much!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

E&E News
1000 Wilson Boulevard, 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209
www.eenews.net
Greenwire, Climatewire, Energywire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

The story was held today and I'm told it will run tomorrow. Thanks so much!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

E&E News
1000 Wilson Boulevard, 8th Floor, Arlington, VA 22209
www.eenews.net
Greenwire, Climatewire, Energywire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:46 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Sounds good, thank you. When do you expect your story to run?

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Also, Nick, I just wanted to give you a heads up that I will mention in my story that Administrator Regan was spotted at the Democratic National Convention this week (please see https://x.com/FlaDems/status/1825902621275607469 and https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2024/08/20/dnc-live-updates-coverage/julia-louis-dreyfus-veep-climate-00175200).

Many thanks again for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 8:35 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Great. Many thanks, Nick. Talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:51 PM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

That is correct!

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Thanks so much for passing this along, Nick. I will quote you from your email below on the record as an EPA spokesperson in my story.

For your information, I will also mention in my story that Administrator Regan and Vice President Harris have worked together on EPA's Clean School Bus program, along with the other issues you described below.

Finally, I have one last fact-checking question for you, which is:

-- Administrator Regan is 48 years old. Is that accurate?

Please let me know as soon as you can. Thank you for your help again and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:03 PM

To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Thank you, Kevin! Sounds good.

VP Harris and Administrator Regan have a strong and productive working relationship. She was a driving force behind EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and she has championed our work to remove every lead pipe in this country.

The Vice President was actively engaged during the development of the GGRF program and emphasized the importance of community lenders in the work to reach underserved communities. Her engagement resulted in a program that will help ensure that families, small businesses, and community lenders, especially in disadvantaged and underserved areas, have access to billions of dollars of new capital they need to make climate and clean energy projects a reality in their neighborhoods. On lead, she met with families in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and from the White House to discuss the threat lead exposure poses to our children, and she's ensured these lived experiences are at the center of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic resources and rulemakings to remove every lead pipe in ten years.

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Many thanks for the phone call just now, Nick. I really appreciate it.

As we discussed, regarding my questions about Administrator Regan's future plans, you directed me to prior comments from Administrator Regan, including whether he is interested in being part of a potential Harris administration. I will use that in the following in italics in my story:

EPA spokesperson Nick Conger directed E&E News to prior comments Administrator Michael Regan made about his future plans, including whether he was interested in being part of a potential Harris administration.

"I've learned not to get out ahead of any conversations I've had with the president and the vice president," Regan said at an event last month.

Also, as we discussed as well, please pass on that on-the-record statement regarding Vice President Harris and Administrator Regan's working relationship as soon as you can.

Thanks so much again for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Great. Many thanks for letting me know, Nick. Talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus
E&E News Reporter
kbogardus@eenews.net
202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: What's next for Administrator Regan

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hi Kevin- I will call you this afternoon.

Nick Conger

202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; EPA Press Office <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

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

Hey everyone, Kevin Bogardus with E&E News here. I just wanted to check in on the below. Please let me know if you plan to respond to my follow-up question as well as my initial questions. My deadline is close of business today so it would be great if you could get back to me before then. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (o)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Conger, Nick <conger.nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: What's next for Administrator Regan

Hey everyone, it's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News again. I have a follow-up question regarding the below, which is:

-- How would you characterize Administrator Regan's working relationship with Vice President Harris? Have they worked closely together during the Biden-Harris administration? If so, on what issues?

Please get back to me about my follow-up question above and my initial questions below. My deadline is close of business tomorrow so please get back to me before then.

Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (o)

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From: Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Conger, Nick <conger.nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Belford, Remmington <Belford.Remmington@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: What's next for Administrator Regan

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. I hope all is well.

I'm working on a story about what's next for Administrator Regan. It is a sensitive time to be a member of President Biden's cabinet as the election draws closer. If former President Donald Trump wins the election, Administrator Regan will leave EPA, while if Vice President Harris wins the election, Administrator Regan could stay at EPA or leave EPA. I'm talking to people about what the future holds for Administrator Regan and what he could do next if he leaves EPA.

Former EPA staffers have told me they think Administrator Regan will leave EPA after the election, even if Vice President Harris is elected president, and go into the private sector and then perhaps later run for public office, which I will report in my story.

I have a few questions about this, which are:

-- Would Administrator Regan stay at EPA or leave EPA after the election if Vice President Harris is elected president?

-- Would Administrator Regan stay at EPA after the election if Vice President Harris, if elected president, asked him to stay at EPA?

-- What would Administrator Regan do next if he leaves EPA after the election? Would he go into the private sector, run an environmental group or join academia?

-- Does Administrator Regan plan to run for public office if he leaves EPA after the election? What elected office would he run for?

Also, please let me know if EPA has any other comment on Administrator Regan's future plans.

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is close of business Tuesday, Aug. 20, but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Please email me at kbogardus@eenews.net or call my cell phone at 202-247-7844. Thank you for your help and talk to you later!

Kevin Bogardus

E&E News Reporter

kbogardus@eenews.net

202-446-0401 (o)
202-247-7844 (c)
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

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Message

From: Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED49EEF3EBD447E29A2CAF77C44F6020-644FDB18-7F]
Sent: 9/20/2024 1:56:43 PM
To: David.Shipley@washpost.com; Stephen.Stromberg@washpost.com
CC: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]
Subject: Op-ed submission from Michael Regan, EPA Administrator
Attachments: Climate Week Op-Ed for WaPo 9.20.24.docx

Hello David and Stephen:

Ahead of Climate Week and UNGA next week, I'm reaching out on behalf of EPA Administrator Michael Regan to submit an op-ed for your consideration. It is below and attached. Please let me know if The Washington Post is interested.

Best,

Nick

Nick Conger
Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
202-909-7391 (mobile)
Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

Rolling Back Biden-Harris Infrastructure and Climate Investments Would Mean Backlash in American Communities

As federal investments pour into communities across the country, the case for climate optimism is growing quickly.

By Michael S. Regan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Over the past few months, I've heard voices calling to dismantle, block, rewrite, or otherwise slow-walk major parts of the Biden-Harris Administration's signature climate and infrastructure legislation. Let me be clear: these calls and legislative proposals are out of touch with the needs and priorities of Americans regardless of political, socio-economic, or geographical boundaries.

As EPA administrator, I've had the privilege of traveling all across our great nation. I've traveled to big cities, small rural towns, and everything in between. I've visited solar-powered community centers in **Las Vegas** and **Atlanta**; a school district in **Alma**, Kansas with brand new electric school buses; natural areas restored outside **Wilmington**, North Carolina; and sustainable, retrofitted factories in **Pittsburgh**. If you're wondering what these projects have in common, they were made possible thanks to President Biden's investments in America.

I reflect on my travels to **Lowndes County, Alabama**, whose aging water infrastructure, stressed by climate impacts, regularly spewed sewage onto their front lawns. After decades of neglect, the community has finally received federal resources from the Biden-Harris Administration to address the community's wastewater challenges.

As I head to **Climate Week** in New York City, I'm bringing these stories with me. Stories that illustrate the real-world impact of President Biden and Vice President Harris' ambitious agenda to cut climate pollution and bring environmental justice communities to the table.

Together, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are the largest-ever climate investment in American history.

In every corner of this country, Americans are reaping their benefits. From red states to blue states, federally funded infrastructure and clean energy projects are coming online. Already, we've created **334,000 new clean energy jobs**. In 2023, clean energy jobs grew more than double the rate of **employment growth** in the overall economy.

Not only will these projects train the next generation of tradespeople with good-paying union jobs, but they will also help keep the lights on during emergencies, bolster America's energy independence, and ensure we win the economic competition for the 21st century, over China and anyone else.

This administration's signature climate and infrastructure laws have set America on a path to transform every economic sector that produces carbon pollution: power, transportation, buildings, industry, agriculture, and forestry.

These laws are incredibly popular, and any attempt to take us backwards could disrupt the lives of millions of hardworking Americans across our country.

I'm proud that EPA has awarded more than $55 billion in Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, and my agency is on track to award more than $65 billion of historic investments by the end of the calendar year.

That includes implementing our $27 billion **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**, which will support **tens of thousands of clean energy projects** and avoid up to 40 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually over the next seven years. That program will, for example, save over **$350 million each year** on energy bills for 900,000 low-income and disadvantaged households through rooftop solar.

But Republicans in Congress have continuously called for rescinding these funds. Do we really want to take away over $65 billion of investments from the American people? Do we want to take away the benefits of cleaner air and water, new jobs, and growing economies that these investments are already delivering for people? In fact, our programs are so successful with constituents, some Republicans are banding together to defend this administration's climate and infrastructure laws.

In August, **eighteen House Republicans** asked Speaker Mike Johnson to protect the Inflation Reduction Act's popular energy tax credits. Why? Because their districts are seeing tangible benefits from clean energy manufacturing investments. The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** and the **American Petroleum Institute** have also gone to bat for protecting large portions of the Inflation Reduction Act, demonstrating widespread, bipartisan support.

These investments are being implemented to spur innovation and make people healthier. Earlier this year, we issued our final **national pollution standards** for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles, avoiding more than 7 billion tons of carbon emissions and saving the average American driver an estimated $6,000 in reduced fuel and maintenance over the life of their next vehicle.

Here's the bottom line: All Americans have the right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and lead a healthy life. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, more communities finally have a fighting chance.

Michael S. Regan is the 16th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

###

Message

From: Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED49EEF3EBD447E29A2CAF77C44F6020-644FDB18-7F]
Sent: 10/23/2024 3:28:38 PM
To: Lisa Friedman [lisa.friedman@nytimes.com]
Subject: RE: IRA projects

Sure thing. Can you give me a heads up when the story runs?

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Lisa Friedman <lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:35 AM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: IRA projects

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hey ty

On Wed, Oct 23, 2024 at 9:14 AM Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov> wrote:

There are so many examples of projects that are now being funding by IRA dollars from EPA! I bulleted out a few below, from our Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, and also listed a few other programs with links to other projects.

- **The Montana Forest, Community and Working Landscapes Climate Resiliency Project** will fund measures that improve forest management and expand urban and community forests. The selected application will also assist efforts to mitigate wildfires and coal seam fires and support local initiatives to improve soil health and reduce pollution from agriculture.
- **The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy** will fund measures to increase the adoption of climate-smart and precision agriculture and reduce agricultural waste from livestock. The selected application will also fund projects to improve energy efficiency in commercial and industrial facilities and low-income households as well as deploy solar and electrify irrigation wells.
- **The Clean Corridor Coalition's** proposal for ZE-MHDV Infrastructure along the I-95 Corridor project will deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure for commercial zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles on the Interstate-95 freight corridor. This is a joint venture amongst the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Delaware Department of Transportation, and Maryland Departments of the Environment and Transportation. The selected application will provide technical assistance for workforce development and corridor planning across **New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Maryland**.
- **The Accelerating Siting, Zoning, and Permitting of 60% Renewable Energy in Michigan** grant will provide incentives and technical assistance to local and Tribal governments to accelerate the siting, zoning, and permitting of renewable energy. The selected application will help spur the adoption of renewable energy at the scale and pace needed to reach **Michigan's** goal of 60 percent renewable energy by 2030.

- **The Atlantic Conservation Coalition** is a regional approach focused on natural climate solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The selected application will fund efforts across **North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia** to leverage the carbon sequestration power of natural and working lands, including coastal wetlands, peatlands, forests, and urban forestry. The Atlantic Conservation Coalition is a partnership amongst the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, South Carolina Office of Resilience, Maryland Department of the Environment, and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality .
- **The Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities** grant will provide advisory services and incentives to replace residential oil burning systems with energy-efficient heat pumps in 50 **Alaskan** communities.

GGRF: Some examples of what projects will look like in this release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-20-billion-grants-mobilize-private-capital-and

Environmental Justice: some examples here in a release: https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-nearly-128-million-environmental-justice

Solar for All: https://www.epa.gov/greenhouse-gas-reduction-fund/solar-all (full list)

Nick Conger

Associate Administrator, Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

202-909-7391 (mobile)

Twitter: @EPAPressOffice

--

Lisa Friedman
Reporter, New York Times
(202) 862-0306 office
(202) 251-2083 cell
Twitter: @LFFriedman

Message

From: Conger, Nick [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ED49EEF3EBD447E29A2CAF77C44F6020-644FDB18-7F]
Sent: 10/24/2024 7:41:38 PM
To: Brad Plumer [brad.plumer@nytimes.com]
CC: Thomas, Rachel R. EOP/WHO [Rachel.R.Thomas@who.eop.gov]; Fernandez Hernandez, Angelo EOP/WHO [Angelo.FernandezHernandez@who.eop.gov]
Subject: RE: press question from New York Times // IRA spending

All good. Just want to make sure we're all coordinated.

Nick Conger
202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Brad Plumer <brad.plumer@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 3:41 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Cc: Thomas, Rachel R. EOP/WHO <Rachel.R.Thomas@who.eop.gov>; Fernandez Hernandez, Angelo EOP/WHO <Angelo.FernandezHernandez@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: press question from New York Times // IRA spending

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Great, thank you! I've also been in touch with Angelo so if I'm being redundant here just let me know!

On Thu, Oct 24, 2024 at 3:40 PM Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Brad! Hope you're well. Thanks for your note. We will get back to you. Also adding my colleagues from the WH here.

Nick Conger

202-909-7391 (mobile)

From: Brad Plumer <brad.plumer@nytimes.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Conger, Nick <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>
Subject: press question from New York Times // IRA spending

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

Hi Nick,

I'm a reporter at the NYT working on a piece about how the IRA has changed the energy/climate landscape in the US over the past few years but also looking at what the election could mean for the law/programs within it. I had a question I was hoping EPA could help with — **my deadline is end of this week.**

Basically, I'm trying to figure out if the money for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is completely out the door at this point. I know that EPA already announced awards for states for the CPRG funds but has that money actually been committed or are some of the awards still under negotiation with the states? And if the latter, is the EPA aiming to finish these negotiations by the end of year?

What I'm basically getting at it is there the possibility that a new administration hostile to these programs could slow or rescind these programs? My understanding is that they cannot do that once the money's committed, so I'm trying to figure out the status here. Might you be able to help? Also happy to chat by phone if that's easier — 1-303-519-9614

Thank you so much and all best,

Brad

--

Reporter, New York Times

Cell: 303-519-9614

twitter.com/bradplumer

--

Reporter, New York Times
Cell: 303-519-9614
twitter.com/bradplumer

Message

From: Jean Chemnick [jchemnick@eenews.net]
Sent: 11/8/2024 6:28:01 PM
To: Hitchings, Nate [Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov]; Ridgeway, Charissee [Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov]
Subject:RE: GGRF questions

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

Sounds good. If you hear something about House Energy and Commerce sending letters to awardees I'd appreciate it.

From: Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 12:26 PM
To: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>; Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: GGRF questions

EXTERNAL SENDER: Use caution with links and attachments.

Hey Jean – Apologies for the delayed response! Here's the answer to your question, attributable to EPA.

Solar for All grants have been obligated to awardees. Unlike NCIF and CCIA—which involve more varied financial service offerings—Solar for All functions similarly to typical EPA grant programs and does not require an external financial agent.

That's all we can say for now. Thanks!

Nate Hitchings | Strategic Communications Advisor for Implementation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Administrator
Washington, D.C. | (202) 931-8274 | He/Him

From: Jean Chemnick <jchemnick@eenews.net>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Ridgeway, Charissee <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>; Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: GGRF questions

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

I think Nate is out. Did you receive this, Charissee?

Thanks!

From: Jean Chemnick
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 10:35 AM
To: Ridgeway <Ridgeway.Charissee@epa.gov>; Hitchings, Nate <Hitchings.Nate@epa.gov>
Subject: GGRF questions

Hello guys,

I hope you're doing well. A couple of things, for the end of today if possible.

I wanted to check to see if all of the Solar for All grants are now obligated and the money has been transferred to the financial agent. (btw, I believe that's Citi? Or is that just for the NCIF and CCIA)? If some of those grants aren't obligated yet, what is the timeline for that and why have they taken longer?

Also: I am hearing that House Energy & Commerce is sending out letters to some or all of the awardees asking for details of the grants, transactions etc. Is that something you're hearing, and do you know anything about that? Background is fine, I just wonder if you're tracking that.

Thanks!

Jean

Jean Chemnick
Climate Reporter
E&E News/Politico
202-631-6485