

EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Planning and Implementation

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
Department of Environmental Programs
Climate, Energy, and Air Program

December 1, 2023



PART I

Basics of EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant

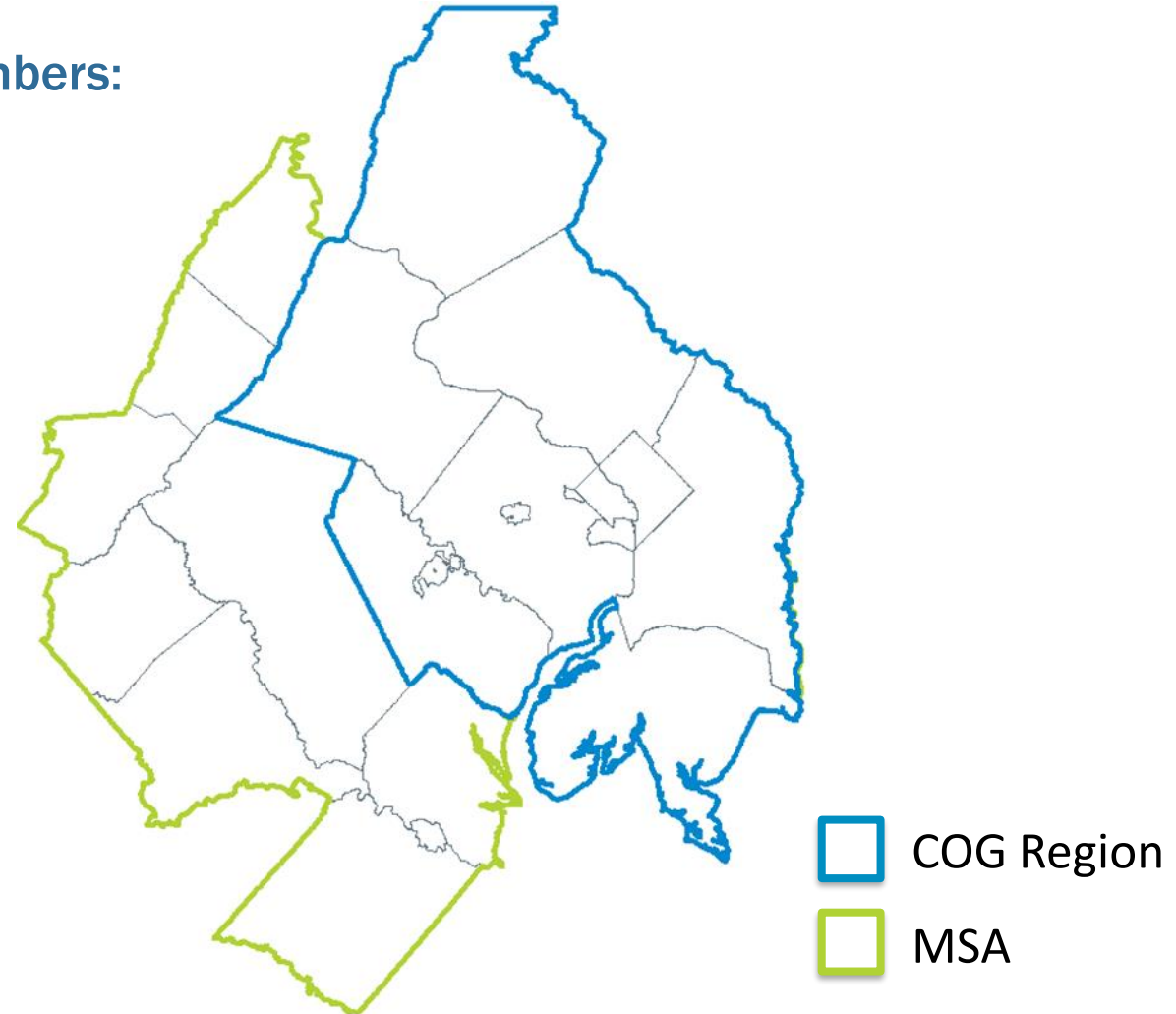
EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

- The **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program** will provide grants to States, regions, and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.
- Section 60114 of the **Inflation Reduction Act** provides an investment of \$5 billion to support these efforts.
- This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and **\$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants**.
- Non-competitive allocations include - States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico: \$3 million; Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs): \$1 million each.
- COG, via DC's allocation, is managing **\$1 million for MSA climate planning**, which includes communities from VA and WV.

COG Region and MSA

Jurisdictions in the MSA that are not COG Members:

1. City of Fredericksburg, VA
2. Clarke County, VA
3. Culpeper County, VA
4. Fauquier County, VA
5. Rappahannock County, VA
6. Spotsylvania County, VA
7. Stafford County, VA
8. Warren County, VA
9. Jefferson County, WV



CPRG Planning Grant Elements

Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024;

- A simplified GHG inventory;
- Quantified GHG reduction measures;
- A low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis; and
- A review of authority to implement;

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due summer-fall 2025

- A comprehensive GHG inventory;
- GHG emissions projections (2030-2035 and 2050);
- GHG reduction target setting: 50-52% by 2030, net zero by 2050.
- Quantified GHG reduction measures;
- A benefits analysis of co-pollutants;
- A low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis;
- A review of authority to implement;
- A plan to leverage other federal funding; and,
- A workforce planning analysis.

PCAP Deliverable

- Narrative report with focused list of near-term, high-priority, implementation-ready measures.
- Not equivalent to a full, multi-sector plan (CCAP) and initial plans can focus on specific sector or selected sectors.
- Comprehensive list sources of GHG emissions and sinks not required.
- Meant to help prepare for implementation grant applications by identifying regional priorities, developing information for the GHG reduction measures that may inform implementation grant applications, and creating stakeholder relationships to support future implementation efforts.
- Required and optional PCAP elements that overlap with implementation application requirements.
- Understanding of NOFO evaluation criteria will help guide PCAP measure selection.

PCAP, CCAP and Implementation Grant Elements

Element	PCAP	CCAP	Implementation Grant Application
GHG Inventory	Required - simplified	Required - comprehensive	
GHG Emissions projections		Required – 2030, 2035 and 2050	Required
GHG Reduction Targets		Required – 2030/2035 and 2050 targets	
Quantified GHG Measures	GHGs required; Cost encouraged	Required (GHGs and cost)	Required
GHG Measure Description	Required (location, key agencies, schedule and milestones)		Required
Need for funding/Intersection with other funding available	Encouraged	Required	Required
Transformative Impact			Required
Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions			Required
Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions	Required in QAPP/Appendix		Required
Benefits analysis	Encouraged	Required	Required
Expected Outputs and Outcomes and Metrics	Required (metrics)	Required	Required
Review of authority to implement	Required	Required	Required
LIDAC Analysis – identification, assessment, engagement	Required	Required	Required
Workforce planning analysis	Encouraged	Required	Required

PART II

PCAP Measure Development and Prioritization

PCAP Measure Development

Measure Framework

- Priority measures need to be determined for inclusion in the PCAP
- Measures can be broader than a specific project or program but will incorporate project or program ideas
- Must reduce GHG emissions between 2025 and 2030 and beyond 2030
- Integrate GHG reduction strategies already identified as priorities
- Cost-effectiveness (short term reductions/program or project budgets)
- Demonstrate gaps in federal funding for implementation
- Conduct LIDAC benefits analysis (qualitative)
- Focus on measures with authority to implement*

**Process can include initial necessary planning, studies, assessments, software, etc.*

Building on Existing Plans and Work

Start with existing plans and work

- COG 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan
- Transportation Planning Board Visualize 2045
- DC, Maryland and Virginia State Plans
- COG Member plans
- Existing, successful programs with known funding gaps
- Projects and programs with formerly unsuccessful or partial grant funding

Call for Projects for the Competitive Solicitation

- Projects and programs with formerly unsuccessful or partial grant funding

Strategies Identified

Mitigation Strategy Actions (COG CEAP)

- Planning
- Equity*
- Clean Electricity
- Zero Energy Buildings
- Zero Emission Vehicles
- Zero Waste
- Mode Shift and Travel
- Sequestration

**All measures require low-income and disadvantaged communities benefit analysis for PCAP and CCAP*

Table ES-1: Metropolitan Washington Priority Collaborative Mitigation Actions

Climate Action Area	Action ID	Priority Collaborative Action
Planning	PL - 1	Advance Climate Planning and Track Progress
Equity	EQ - 1	Enable Equitable Planning Practices
	EQ - 2	Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All
Clean Electricity	CE - 1	Advocate for Aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards
	CE - 2	Accelerate Development of On-Site Renewables
	CE - 3	Accelerate Deployment of Battery Storage
	CE - 4	Accelerate Development of Microgrids for Critical Infrastructure
	CE - 5	Accelerate Development of Large-Scale Off-Site Renewables
	CE - 6	Advocate for and Implement Community Choice Aggregation
Zero Energy Buildings	ZEB - 1	Expand Building Benchmarking Requirements
	ZEB - 2	Accelerate Deep Building Retrofits
	ZEB - 3	Enhance Green Building Codes and Policies to Facilitate Net Zero Energy Building Development
	ZEB - 4	Expand Proper Disposal and Leak Detection of Refrigerants
Zero Emission Vehicles	ZEV - 1	Expand Light-Duty Electric Vehicle Deployment
	ZEV - 2	Accelerate Electrification of Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles
	ZEV - 3	Build Out Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network
Mode Shift and Travel Behavior	MSTB - 1	Invest in Infrastructure that Increases Transit, Carpooling, and Non-Motorized Travel
	MSTB - 2	Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together
	MSTB - 3	Enhance Options for Commuters
Zero Waste	ZW - 1	Implement Curbside Organics Recycling Programs
	ZW - 2	Reduce Solid Waste Generation
	ZW - 3	Build Markets for Circularity
Sequestration	SQ - 1	Strategically Plant New Trees on Publicly Owned Land
	SQ - 2	Enhance Regulatory Capacity to Manage Tree Canopy and Forest Protection
	SQ - 3	Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Tree Planting and Preservation on Privately Owned Lands

Source: Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Plan

GHG Reduction Measure Examples

Transportation Sector

- Promotion of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure
- Updating building and zoning codes for sustainable development

Electric Power Sector

- Installation of renewable energy on municipal facilities
- Streamlining permitting for renewable energy projects

Buildings Sector

- Programs to promote building electrification
- Adoption of up-to-date energy codes

Other eligible sectors include **Industrial Sector; Waste, Water, and Sustainable Materials Management Sector; Agricultural Sector; Carbon Removal Measures.**

CPRG Implementation Grants Elements

- Implementation competition is the **second phase** of the CPRG program.
- Eligible applicants: **Lead organizations with CPRG planning grants and other state, municipal, tribal, and territorial entities.**
- Purpose: Implementation of GHG reduction measures from **relevant PCAP's** developed under CPRG planning grants.
- Grants **must implement GHG reduction programs, projects, and measures identified in a PCAP developed under CPRG planning grant.**
- GHG reduction measures may **reduce GHG emissions or enhance carbon removal.**
- Applications will be evaluated for benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Key Dates

February 1, 2024, Optional Notice of Intent to Apply Due

March 15, 2024, Deadline for Submitting Questions

April 1, 2024, NOFO Closes and Applications Due by 11:59 PM (EDT)

July 2024, Anticipated Notification of Awards

October 2024, Anticipated Award

CPRG Competitive Solicitation

NOFO released September 20, 2023

- <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350252>
- Proposals Due April 1, 2024

Implementation Grant Evaluation Criteria

- **Heavy emphasis on GHG reductions and clear description and implementation path for projects or programs**
 - Impact of GHG Reduction Measures (**60 points**)
 - Overall Project Summary and Approach (**45 points**)
 - Budget (**45 points**)
 - LIDAC (**35 points**)
 - Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures (**30 points**)
 - Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (**30 points**)
 - Job Quality (**5 points**)



Funding & Expected Awards

For General Competition

- EPA anticipates awarding approximately 30 to 115 grants ranging between \$2 million and \$500 million.
- Grants expected to be awarded within 5 tiers, with funds targeted for each tier.
- Total amount requested will determine tier the application will be evaluated.

Tier	Grant Ranges	Funds Targeted for Each Tier	Anticipated Number of Grants to be Awarded
Tier A	\$200,000,000 – \$500,000,000	\$2 billion	4-10
Tier B	\$100,000,000 – \$199,999,999	\$1.3 billion	6-13
Tier C	\$50,000,000 – \$99,999,999	\$0.6 billion	6-12
Tier D	\$10,000,000 – \$49,999,999	\$0.3 billion	6-30
Tier E	\$2,000,000 – \$9,999,999	\$0.1 billion	10-50

Implementation Grant Eligibility and Award

Limitation on application participation

- Submit **one application as individual applicant.**
- Submit **one application as lead applicant for a coalition.**
- Serve as a coalition **partner on multiple applications.**

Awards

- EPA anticipates awarding **no more than two grants to applicants at the same level of government within a single jurisdiction** (e.g., a single state, municipality, tribal area, or territory).
- EPA will make selections to ensure **diverse geographic coverage of CPRG implementation funding across the different funding tiers.**
- EPA will not award multiple grants to implement the same measure in the same location.

COG Position

- COG issued a Call for Projects to help inform PCAP Measures Development

Project/Program Survey Preview

To confirm/prioritize PCAP measures, project and program ideas should include:

- Project concept title, description, and sector(s)
- Strategy title (from identified strategies)
- Direct project/program or supportive of other?
- Policy requirements, is project currently feasible?
- Approach to implementation
- Lead agency and legal authority (include collaborating agencies)
- Budget/Cost and how funding to be leveraged
- Details on GHG, LIDAC, equity, and workforce impacts (plan to assess)
- Expected outputs and outcomes (results and effects of program/project)

Project/Program Example: Required Information

Project Title: *Expand Solarize Programs*

Project Description: Expand Solarize Programs to more households across the region.

Strategy Linkages: Expand deployment of on-site renewables. Prioritize Sustainable Energy Access for All. Accelerate Deep Building Retrofits.

Sectors: Residential Built Environment, Renewable Energy/Solar

New or Expand Existing: Expansion of existing program. Could also launch new programs.

Lead Agency & Partners, Subrecipients, other program beneficiaries: TBD

Policy Requirements: No new policies are required.

Implementation Approach: Lead applicant will directly fund the existing program through an Agreement with Project Partners. Procurement to on-board a Contractor(s). Home-owners and businesses would be eligible for direct payment for hardware and installation of solar systems and efficiency upgrades. Include funding for marketing, education, and training.

LIDAC Analysis: The program will directly impact designated LIDAC communities for project implementation. See attachment for details of specific LIDAC locations identified.

Example Continued: Encouraged Information

EXAMPLE Project Title: *Expand Solarize Programs*

Budget/Cost: Goal of 300 system installed in 3 years, workforce program, outreach \$4.5 million

Leverage Funding Sources: The CPRG funding would leverage existing utility program funding to rapidly expand the program offering. Other funding sources could include the Solar For All Program under the EPA GGRF. EECBG funds may be eligible to fund program as well.

GHG Projections/Targets: Use PJM emission factor to estimate GHG reduction for every KWH of on-site solar generated. Energy efficiency component of this program also results in emission reductions. Programmatic outputs and outcomes to be determined.

Equity Impact: The program will positively contribute toward equity in the area by making renewable, solar energy more affordable for all, consequently lowering energy costs for households who spent a disproportionate amount of their income on energy costs.

Workforce Impact: Program will create high-quality jobs with an emphasis on workers from underserved populations through new training opportunities such as workforce development to install and provide solar technology. Analysis TBD.

Outputs & Outcomes: Tons of pollution (GHGs and co-pollutants) reduced with respect to low-income and disadvantaged communities. Analysis TBD.

PART III

Next Steps

Next Steps

COG Team and Steering/Technical Committee Actions

- Provide guidance on Strategies and Project Ideas, Prioritization Criteria
- Mid-course check-in via Email, Review Master List of Projects, Provide Guidance on Priorities
- Finalize PCAP for submittal on March 1, 2024
- Support Project Proposal Teams to meet April 1, 2024 proposal deadline.

To Provide Input
Email: Alissa Boggs at
aboggs@mwkog.org

Jeff King

Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs

(202) 962-3238

jking@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002