

RESPONSES TO CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

COG Regional Climate Action Champions Program Participant Priorities for Federal Support

| Priority Name/Brief Description | Please summarize the challenge, and how it is limiting the delivery of specific local climate action (i.e. are there specific goals or targets within your climate action plan that cannot be met without overcoming this challenge?). As possible, this should build upon the challenges you identified in your application. [Word Limit: 150 words or less] | Please summarize the kind of support you are seeking through the Climate Action Champions program to overcome this challenge. Your request may range from (1) federal funding to support this challenge in your community, (2) specific technical assistance (e.g., modeling, tools, data, feasibility and project development assistance), or (3) other requests that do not fall within categories 1 and 2, such as a request for support from a Champion peer or challenges with inter-Agency coordination. Please be as specific as possible, for example noting how much funding (a range is ok) and/or specific kinds of technical assistance you are ideally seeking. [Word Limit: 150 words or less] |
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| <p>Low-Emitting Motor Vehicles – Encouraging faster adoption of low-emitting motor vehicles – in both public and private fleets. Support for plug-in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, as well as natural gas and propane vehicle refueling infrastructure.</p> | <p>The on-road transportation sector represents a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in the region. Expediting the transition of a significant portion of the fleet to alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) can produce significant co-benefits for both greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants. While the region has convened a task force and prepared a readiness report for EVs, significant additional work and funding is required for investment in the infrastructure needed to facilitate charging and fueling of AFVs. There also are opportunities to facilitate transitions in the non-road sectors as well.</p> | <p>COG and its members seek additional funding support to facilitate installation of plug-in electric vehicle charging stations, as well as natural gas and propane refueling infrastructure. The region seeks significant grant funding, to incentivize actions by localities transportation authorities, and private sector fleet owners to install EV charging stations CNG and propane refueling infrastructure. \$2 to \$10 million requested. To the extent that the Administration could provide the leadership to help create a mid-Atlantic initiative (similar to the West Coast Electric Highway Initiative) for a Boston to Richmond Electric Highway Corridor, the COG region would be supportive. The region also seeks technical assistance in exploring potential public-private partnerships to expand alternative vehicle fueling infrastructure (electric and CNG).</p> |
| <p>Achieving Financing to Scale for Building Efficiency and Renewable Energy – Philanthropic and Financial Sector Support to Establish Regional Fund.</p> | <p>Facilitating extensive building retrofits to achieve greater levels of high performance/energy efficient buildings and to see greater deployment of renewable energy is a high priority for the COG region. Members are developing commercial PACE, Solarize, sustainable energy utilities, and other innovative approaches to support energy investments in the built environment at scale. Establishing financing mechanisms of adequate scale to enable greater market penetration of retrofits and other energy investments is a significant challenge for the region.</p> | <p>COG and its members seek support from federal leadership to help convene philanthropic and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to develop a regional innovation fund or other innovative approaches to encourage development of robust-markets for energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy deployments, and grid modernization initiatives to improve community and critical infrastructure resiliency. This would be a 1-2 year effort involving multiple stakeholders, funding agencies, philanthropic organizations.</p> |
| <p>Support for Development of Climate Action Plans – Technical Assistance for Development of Updates to Regional and Local Climate Action Plans.</p> | <p>COG and member governments are striving to achieve significant progress in development of government operations as well as community greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation action plans. The region is also now embarking on a new multi-sector workgroup to develop new strategies to go above and beyond existing programs and policies to help the region achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.</p> | <p>COG and its members seek technical support from federal leadership to assist in developing and analyzing strategies to assist the region meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Specifically the region requests direct technical support from national laboratories, EPA, HUD, DOE and other agencies to develop tools, modeling platforms, sensitivity analyses, and engineering and economic analysis of possible greenhouse gas mitigation strategies. This would be a 6 month to 1 year effort involving subject matter experts from various federal agencies.</p> |