

**ITEM 11 – Information**  
**April 17, 2024**

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)  
Final Priority Climate Action Plan

**Background:** The board will receive a briefing on the final CPRG Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Priority Climate Action Plan and CPRG implementation grant applications submitted by COG.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Transportation Planning Board  
**FROM:** Jeff King, COG Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs  
Maia Davis, COG Senior Environmental Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Update  
**DATE:** April 11, 2024

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In 2023, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, under the Inflation Reduction Act Section 60114. CPRG is a two-phase program providing \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Climate planning formula grants were provided to Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and states to develop both a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due by March 1, 2024, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) by the summer 2025. To support implementation of the climate action plans, implementation grant proposals were due by April 1, 2024. EPA anticipates awarding individual grants between \$2 million and \$500 million, with funding tiers allowing comparably sized projects to compete against one another.

### WASHINGTON-ARLINGTON-ALEXANDRIA, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA CPRG CLIMATE PLANS

COG was selected to manage the development of both climate action plans for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA. The PCAP was developed to meet the requirements of the CPRG program and provides a set of priorities for the MSA that enabled governments and other stakeholders in the region to seek competitive implementation funding through the CPRG program.

COG completed the PCAP on March 1, 2024. This PCAP presents practical and achievable strategies spanning buildings and clean energy, transportation, waste, and land use sectors. Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) benefits and impacts are a primary consideration for selection of priority regional climate pollution reduction projects, programs, and measures. The strategies were developed through a collaborative and iterative process with the many government offices and committees within the MSA and the states it crosses, as well as other stakeholders such as community-based organizations, private sector actors, utilities, planning boards and committees, and more.

Building on the PCAP, COG will develop a comprehensive CAP (CCAP) by 2025. COG will continue to meaningfully engage with stakeholders. The CCAP will expand upon the PCAP through enhanced LIDAC community engagement, long-term measures across a broader range of sectors, and a workforce planning analysis.

## **CPRG IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSALS**

COG worked with partners from across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to develop two proposals that were submitted to EPA on April 1, 2024. COG's proposals included (1) Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All); and (2) Virginia Initiative for Building Efficiency (VIBE) Program. Combined, the proposals requested more than \$196 million in programs to implement local climate strategies.

The RACE to Clean Energy for All proposal focuses on metropolitan Washington communities. The three components of the proposal are (1) scale existing programs that provide energy efficiency and electrification upgrades, and solar panels to residential buildings; (2) electrify municipal light-duty fleets and provide supporting charging infrastructure; and (3) expand existing workforce development programs and initiatives to support a larger workforce to upgrade residential homes and maintain EVs and charging infrastructure. Local energy efficiency and renewable energy programs will prioritize LIDAC communities and workforce development initiatives will expand opportunities for quality jobs for LIDAC residents and workers in the region.

The VIBE program, a proposed new commercial buildings-focused program will provide outreach and marketing, technical assistance, incentives, and financing options for commercial and larger multifamily residential buildings in the three defined MSAs in the Commonwealth of Virginia – northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Richmond metro areas. The program targets 3 primary markets to advance Virginia's clean energy economy, including (1) low-income, disadvantaged community commercial and multifamily buildings; (2) market-rate commercial and multifamily buildings; and (3) municipal and institutional buildings. The program acts as an 'accelerator' for clean energy investment, by engaging such networks and partners, and providing a range of technical and administrative services in 'concierge' fashion to take participants from initial interest to completed projects.