

BUDGETING FOR CLIMATE ACTION COHORT

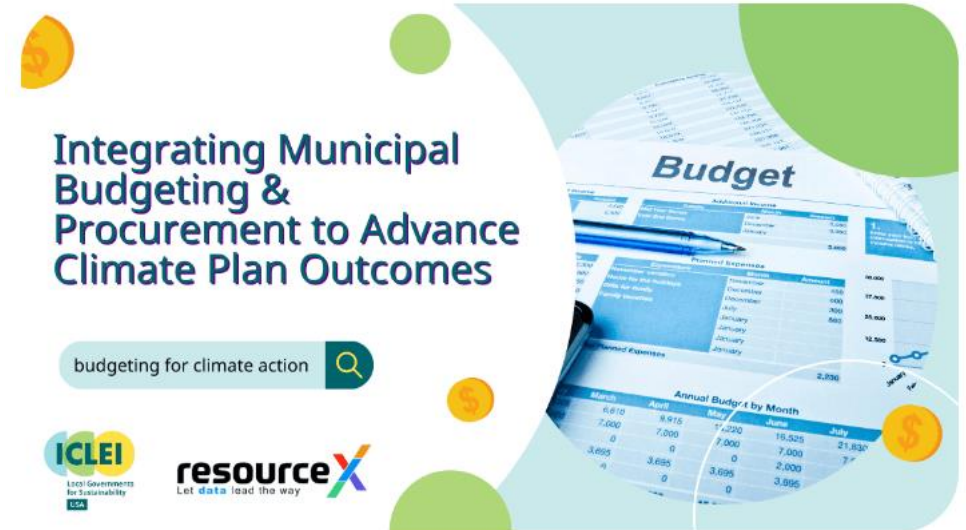
For Metropolitan Washington COG Members

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Integrating Municipal Budgeting and Procurement to Advance Climate Plan Outcomes

- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) and ResourceX are teaming up to help local governments increase their climate change and sustainability impact through better coordination between climate action, budget and purchasing processes.
- In spite of decades of efforts in local climate action, deep cost reductions in renewable energy, and historic levels of federal investment in infrastructure and climate programs, many local governments feel stymied in an “analysis and planning cycle” that occupies time and resources that could be applied to program implementation.



Cohort Content

Instructors will provide:

- Climate budgetary evaluation, execution and risk analysis;
- Introduction to priority-based budgeting systems and tools;
- Identification of municipal tools for mitigation and adaptation such as fleet, facilities, energy and materials procurement; and land use, infrastructure and development decisions is in great need;
- Awareness of national and international frameworks for climate action that impact municipal finance (such as Sustainable Development Goals); Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (SASB);
- Identification of opportunities to intersect climate action planning alongside budget cycles and more sustainable forms of procurement; and
- Capabilities to foster enhanced climate focused communication and consideration across the organization (and specifically across procurement , budget and sustainability offices).

Desired Outcomes

Participant Teams will:

- Identify annual budget components that have climate action implications;
- Co-develop a project that will advance an activity from a municipal climate action plan and include it as a component of the municipal budget;
- Develop a corresponding procurement execution plan or RFP solicitation designed to execute budget appropriations;
- Develop policies or procedures for enduring communication and collaboration between sustainability and climate efforts and budget and procurement exercises.
- Commit to including sustainability staff lead in the city / county budget process

Cohort Session Overview

Session	Brief Description
1	Overview of framework and trends (SDGs, CDP, Bond Ratings). Provide a macro overview of local government capabilities and the need to create purpose driven budget and finance strategies.
2	Identify and document high impact actions (minimum of 3) within local control from a program and project perspective (operating and capital budget activity).
3	Create a common understanding of climate priorities and how the current budget is/is not addressing the needs. Communities outline their high priority projects and current budget cycles approaches.
4	Introduce participants to Priority Based Budget (PBB) Blueprint and the larger insights process.
5	ICLEI and communities share current climate and budget wins. Identify what works and ways to improve collaboration and communication between budget and climate teams.
6	Aligning high impact actions and budget needs - Cities match their critical climate projects with budget and finance tools needed for delivery.
7	Going beyond budget – Cross agency/sector partnerships + creating delivery strategies and procurement models.
8	Developing the budget and project/program delivery plan, budget request and procurement design strategy.

Additional Information and Resources

- Ideal 8 - 10 city or county governments as the optimal number of participants
 - Local government teams should include climate and budget staff
 - Offered at a discount to COG (\$2000 per community)
 - ICLEI's [Ambition Gap Report](#), interviewed communities across the country and identified the need for this cohort
 - Cohort will provide foundational information. Montgomery County Climate Smart CIP modeling tool is an example tool to support implementation of concepts learned in the cohort.
- Montgomery County is piloting a Climate Smart CIP modeling tool developed by the University of Washington.
 - The tool helps decision-makers propose, screen, prioritize, and allocate funding to capital projects through the lens of climate mitigation, resilience, and equity.
 - Mitigation benefits are evaluated through the lens of life cycle costs, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon sequestration.
 - Resilience is evaluated through the lens of potential loss and damage to projects from exposure to climate events (flooding, urban heat island, etc.).

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