

EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Implementation Grants Competition

The EPA has announced a two-phased approach to combat climate change that includes a first phase of planning grants to identify and recommend projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and a second phase to implement these proposals. The 8-Parish RPC region as well as St. James Parish are all eligible to submit implementation grants as the RPC was awarded a planning grant and is submitting a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) by March 1, 2024. The implementation phase is currently open and grant applications for implementation measures are due on **April 1, 2024**.

Implementation measures should reduce GHGs and mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions by 2030 and beyond. **Any proposed climate action measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will need to be identified in a PCAP to be eligible for implementation funding.**

Application Deadline	April 1, 2024
Funding Amount	\$4.3 billion total, individual awards will range between \$2-500 million
Eligible Entities	States, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, tribes, territories and groups thereof

The full NOFO explains the rest of the eligibility and application criteria, but this list provided by EPA should help entities start identifying projects that should go into the RPC PCAP and start building grant applications.

Full EPA NOFO: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-implementation-grants>

The EPA has identified the following potential projects, identified as “neither exhaustive nor definitive,” but should give eligible entities an idea of what current projects may be eligible and will need to be identified in the RPC’s PCAP.

Transportation Sector

- Programs to increase the share of electric light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, and to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Electrification requirements for state, municipal, territorial, and tribal vehicle, transit, or equipment fleets
- Transportation pricing programs that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), such as parking pricing and congestion and road pricing
- Policies to support transportation management incentive programs to reduce vehicle trips or travel and expand transit use, such as van-pool programs, ridesharing, transit fare subsidies, and bicycle facilities
- New or expanded transportation infrastructure projects to facilitate public transit, micro-mobility, car sharing, bicycle, and pedestrian modes
- Incentive programs to purchase zero-emission vehicles and equipment to replace older heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment
- Programs to increase efficiency and reduce GHG emissions at ports and freight terminals, such as vehicle or equipment idle reduction, vessel-speed reduction, equipment electrification, and shore power
- Update building and zoning codes to encourage walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented development
- Encourage mode shift from private vehicles to walking, biking, and public transportation (e.g., complete streets, bike share programs, bike storage facilities, low-speed electric bicycle subsidies, public transit subsidies)

Electric Power Sector

- Renewable portfolio standards and/or clean electricity standards
- Energy efficiency portfolio standards
- Emission trading systems (e.g., cap-and-trade programs) and carbon pricing measures
- GHG performance standards for electric generating units
- Installation of renewable energy and energy storage systems on municipal facilities
- Programs to support smart-grid and/or behind-the-meter technologies to reduce power losses, reduce peak demand, and enable consumer participation in distributed generation
- Targeted incentives for installation of renewable energy and energy storage systems on commercial and residential buildings, such as net metering, tax credits, rebates, and streamlined interconnection standards
- Policies and measures to streamline permitting for renewable energy projects

- Development of distributed or community-scale renewable energy generation, microgrids, or vehicle-to-grid infrastructure in disadvantaged communities, including remote and rural regions

Buildings Sector

- Adoption and implementation of the most up-to-date building energy codes or stretch codes for new commercial and residential buildings
- Implementation of a clean heat standard
- Incentive programs for implementation of end-use energy efficiency measures in existing government-owned, commercial, and residential buildings
- Incentive programs for the purchase of certified energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling equipment, lighting, and building products to replace inefficient products
- Programs and policies to promote electrification of government-owned, commercial, and residential buildings
- Programs and policies to accelerate the incorporation of efficient electric technologies and electric vehicle charging at new single-family, multi-unit, or affordable residential buildings and commercial buildings, including building codes related to electric vehicle charging
- Implementation of a building energy performance management program for government-owned buildings
- Implementation of a new benchmarking and building performance standards
- Programs to promote recovery and destruction of high-global warming potential (GWP) hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in existing appliances, air conditioning systems, and commercial chillers Industrial Sector
- Standards addressing GHG emissions from industrial facilities and from energy production sectors, including emissions from industrial process heat and industrial processes
- Programs to support or incentivize implementation of energy efficiency measures in industry, including energy audits, strategic energy management, equipment upgrades, and waste heat utilization
- Programs to support or incentivize GHG reductions in industrial energy use and industrial processes, including use of low/no carbon fuels, electrification, renewable energy, and process improvements
- Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low-embodied carbon materials and products, such as cement and steel

Waste, Water, and Sustainable Materials Management Sector

- Standards and incentives to reduce methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, including through collection for use or destruction
- Programs and incentives to reduce or divert waste (including food and/or yard waste) through improved production practices, improved collection services, and increased reuse or recycling rates
- Programs and incentives to reduce GHG emissions associated with plastics production, use, and waste management
- Programs to expand composting and bio-digestion infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions and increase beneficial use of organic waste
- Policies and programs to reduce construction and demolition waste through building reuse, deconstruction, and material diversion and reuse
- Installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures at wastewater treatment facilities

Agricultural Sector

- Incentive programs to fund electric agricultural equipment technologies
- Incentives for technologies and techniques that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application
- Incentives to promote anaerobic digesters to capture methane and generate renewable energy or produce renewable fuel

Carbon Removal Measures

- Policies to promote improved forest management to enhance carbon stocks on forested land
- Urban afforestation and green infrastructure programs and projects
- Restoration of degraded lands (e.g., brownfields, mine reclamation) and forested lands to enhance carbon sequestration
- Policies to enhance carbon stocks in coastal estuaries, such as wetlands and mangroves.

For additional information on the PCAP or submitting projects to the Regional Planning Commission, email Tom Haysley at thaysley@norpc.org.