



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION I**

5 Post Office Square Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Municipal Leader,

I am pleased to invite municipalities in the Boston–Cambridge–Newton, MA–NH metropolitan areas to collaborate and opt-in to up to \$1 million in non-competitive grant funds to develop or expand a metropolitan statistical area–wide climate pollution reduction plan. These funds can help metropolitan areas take advantage of billions of dollars in new federal funding to chart a course toward the competitive, low-carbon economy of the future.

The *Climate Pollution Reduction Grants* program, passed under the Inflation Reduction Act, provides EPA with \$5 billion to support the development of state, local, and tribal climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and implement investment-ready policies, programs, and projects. This is a two-stage program, with \$250 million for non-competitive planning grants, followed by \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

Today we are announcing program guidance for the planning grants that will provide the largest metropolitan areas with flexible funding to pursue climate planning activities tailored to your region’s unique needs and resources, delivery capacity, and key sectors responsible for emitting and absorbing greenhouse gas pollution (e.g., industry, electricity generation, transportation, commercial and residential buildings, agriculture, natural and working lands, and waste and materials management). The Climate Pollution Reduction planning grants program will also provide an opportunity for states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to each receive up to \$3 million in non-competitive grant funds for climate planning, and it makes additional millions in planning grant funds available to territorial and tribal governments.

In addition to addressing climate pollution, these grants can also support local efforts to: help businesses remain competitive in an increasingly decarbonized world and capitalize on new opportunities; spur economic growth and create jobs by supporting new industries and developing training programs to prepare workers; ensure communities, particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities with environmental justice concerns, have a seat at the table, help define solutions, and benefit from their implementation; and gain substantial public health benefits through the simultaneous reduction of criteria and toxic air pollutants.

EPA encourages municipalities to work with other government leaders in your metropolitan area, including city, county, and local air pollution control agency leaders, to design a metropolitan-area-based climate plan that broadly incorporates a variety of programs and projects that could be implemented by a range of eligible entities, and to conduct meaningful engagement with low-income and disadvantaged communities as part of the plan development process. Metropolitan areas with existing climate plans can use planning money to update or expand their plans; areas that are just starting to think about climate planning can use this as an opportunity to leapfrog ahead and learn best practices from peers with financial and technical assistance from the EPA.

At a later date, EPA will issue a separate notice of funding opportunity for the \$4.6 billion for Climate Pollution Reduction implementation grants. Implementation grants will be awarded through a competitive process to implement measures in plans developed with planning grants. Only entities and measures included in, or covered by, such plans will be eligible to compete for the implementation funding.

Because each metropolitan area planning grant will be awarded to a single eligible entity to manage the grant and oversee planning efforts for the entire metropolitan area, we encourage municipalities to start coordinating with the other leaders in your area today to identify an eligible lead organization to administer the grant. Applicants from multi-state metropolitan areas are expected to conduct planning activities across state lines, and to include the portion from each state that makes up the metropolitan area. The lead organization may sub-award funds to other jurisdictions, academic institutions, or nonprofit organizations to assist in the development of a regional plan in accordance with EPA grants policy.

To receive planning grant funding, the lead organization for each metropolitan area must submit a letter no later than April 28, 2023, notifying EPA of the metropolitan area's interest in participating. This information should be submitted via email to CPRG@epa.gov, Attention: CPRG Planning Grant Notice of Intent to Participate. Your area's lead organization will then have until May 31, 2023, to complete the grant application on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and submit a workplan.

We encourage municipalities to work with other government leaders in your metropolitan area to notify EPA of your interest as early as possible to help expedite EPA's administration of the awards process. A list of municipalities in your metropolitan area is attached. Details of how to submit the Notice of Intent to Participate (NOIP) and what to include in the workplan are included in the program guidance available at:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants#CPRGProgramGuidance>

Information and past webinar recordings are available at

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>.

If your staff has specific questions concerning the grant opportunity, please consult the following:

For general program questions, see the FAQ available at

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants#CPRG-UpdatesandQuestions> or send an email to CPRG@epa.gov. For metropolitan area specific questions, contact Beatrice Pickett, pickett.beatrice@epa.gov (primary), or Julianne Sammut, sammut.julianne@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



David W. Cash
Regional Administrator