



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board
From: CMAP Staff
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Subject: Regional Climate Action Planning Efforts

CMAP is launching two major climate planning efforts – the development of a regional climate action plan for the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area and a partnership with two National Laboratories to better understand the scale and extent of action needed to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and other co-pollutants from the regional transportation network. Both projects are described below.

Regional Climate Action Plan

The U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

Planning phase. CMAP and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) partnered and received a noncompetitive planning grant and committed to updating and expanding existing regional climate mitigation plans to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and establish GHG reduction measures throughout the entire metropolitan statistical area (MSA), including parts of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. The CPRG requires participating regions to complete three phases of planning.

- A **priority climate action plan (PCAP)** consisting of a focused list of near-term, high-priority, implementation ready measures to reduce GHG pollution. MMC will be updating its 2021 Climate Action Plan to serve as the Chicago MSA's PCAP. The PCAP must be completed by March 2024.
- A **comprehensive climate action plan (CCAP)** that addresses all significant GHG sources and sinks and sectors, establishes near-term and long-term GHG emission reduction goals, and identifies strategies to achieve those goals. CMAP will lead this process, including emissions modeling and co-benefit analysis, policy development, and engagement with stakeholder and subject matter experts. The sectors the CCAP will address include industry, electricity generation, passenger transportation, freight

transportation, commercial and residential buildings, agriculture, natural and working lands, water and wastewater, and waste and materials management. The CCAP must be completed by July 2025.

- A **status report** on implementation of the GHG reduction strategies included in the CCAP. CMAP will lead development of the status report, due summer of 2027.

Implementation phase. The U.S. EPA released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for \$4.3 billion in implementation funding to states and local governments, with an additional \$300 million available to tribes and territories. To be eligible for funding, measures must be included in the PCAP. CMAP and MMC will be working together to ensure the PCAP meets EPA requirements and identifies high priority strategies that would be competitive for implementation funding.

Additional information on the program includes the following:

- **Eligible activities:** investment-ready policies, programs, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term
- **Eligible applicants:** state agencies, municipalities, counties, CPRG lead organizations, MPOs, councils of governments, and coalitions of eligible applicants
- **Evaluation criteria:** overall GHG reduction and benefits of GHG reduction measures to low-income and disadvantaged communities
- **Individual grants:** between \$2 million and \$500 million, with funding tiers allowing comparably sized projects to compete against one another
- **Application deadline:** April 1, 2024

Clean Energy to Communities In-Depth Technical Partnership

CMAP, in partnership with ComEd and the Respiratory Health Association, is the recipient of a Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) In-Depth Technical Assistance contract funded by the Department of Energy and administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Earlier this year, CMAP and partners submitted a research problem to this competitive program, which pairs collaborative teams with the National Laboratories to foster local clean energy transitions across multiple sectors (grid, buildings, and mobility) and help communities equitably access the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy.

CMAP and partners will receive \$500,000 over three years and gain access to the expertise at Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories to better understand the types and scale of action needed to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and other co-pollutants from the regional transportation network. This project is designed to inform our work on regional climate action planning, including establishing transportation emission reduction targets and leveraging existing transportation investment processes to advance climate action.

Action Requested: Information