

# SCRCOG Municipal Grant Training

## **Workshop #5:**

**What municipalities need to know about the regional Climate Pollution Reduction planning Grant (CPRG) and upcoming implementation grant opportunities**

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# USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)



- On September 20, 2023 **EPA launched a \$4.3 billion competition** for states, local governments, tribes, and territories to fund policies and programs to cut climate pollution
- These implementation grants build on **\$250 million in CPRG planning grants** US EPA awarded this year
- **EPA also launched \$300 million competition** for only tribes and territories to fund policies and programs to cut climate pollution

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# CPRG Implementation Grants Program Objectives



**Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2030 and beyond**



**Achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria and hazardous air pollutants), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities**



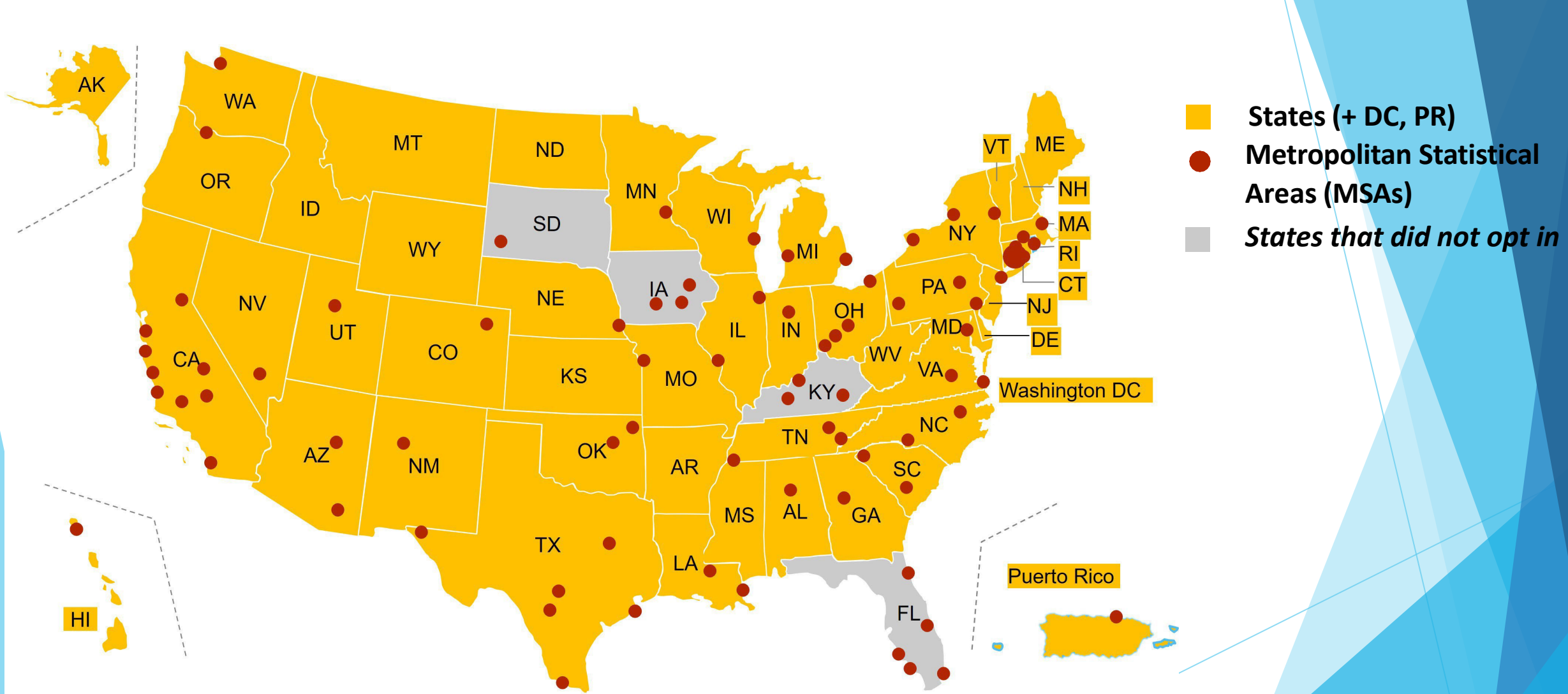
**Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits**



**Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions**

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

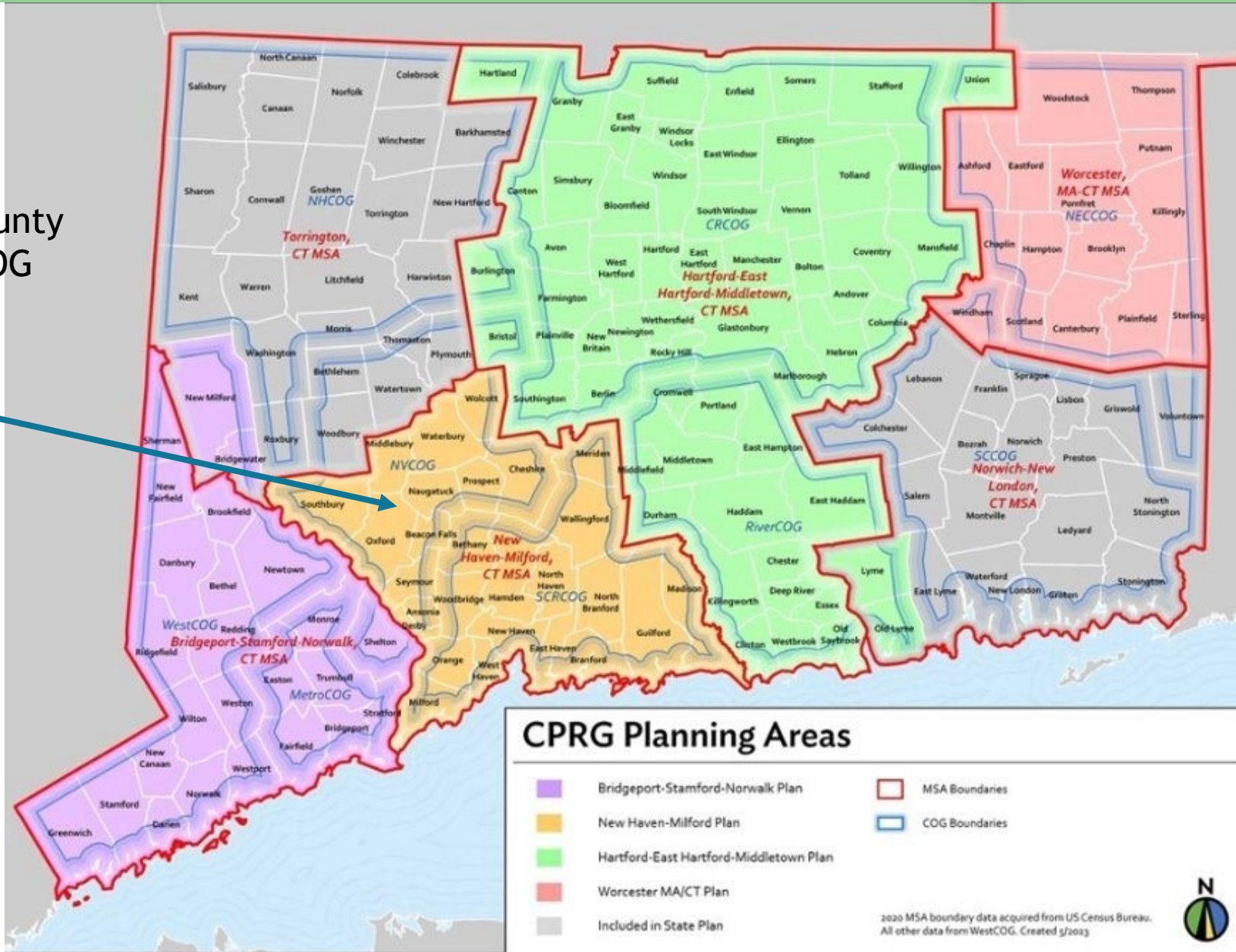
# CPRG Planning Grantees



Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Connecticut CPRG Planning Areas

New Haven County Includes SCRCOG and NVCOG communities



# CPRG Implementation Grants: How to Apply

## Notice of Intent to Apply:

### Submit Notices of Intent to Apply (NOI)

- Requested by EPA (optional and non-binding)
- NOIs assist EPA in managing the grant review process

Submit via email to [CPRG@epa.gov](mailto:CPRG@epa.gov) by February 1, 2024 and include:

- Applicant name
- Amount of funding requested
- 1-2 sentences about scope and sectors of GHG measures
- List of anticipated coalition members (if applicable)

**Find CPRG  
Implementation Grant on  
Grants.gov**

**Program Opportunity  
Notice (NOFO)  
EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07**

# CPRG Implementation Grants: How to Apply

All grant applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by April 1, 2024

The application must include:

- Mandatory federal forms (SF 424 & 424A, lobbying disclosure, contact info)
- Project Narrative
  - Cover page (does not count toward 25 pages for workplan)
  - Workplan (up to 25 pages-**do not exceed!**)
  - Budget narrative (up to 10 additional pages)
    - **No cost sharing/matching funds or leveraged resources are required**
    - **Davis Bacon Act, Buy America applies**
    - **Participant Support Costs (PSC) are allowed! Allows third parties to participate in the implementation of the project**
  - Technical appendix (up to 10 additional pages) documenting GHG reductions
- PDF copy of the applicable PCAP(s) serving as the basis for the application
- List of affected low income and disadvantaged communities
- Memorandum of agreement (coalition applications only)
- Optional documents (key resumes, GHG calculation worksheets, LOS, etc.)

Sample cover page, budget spreadsheet, and workplan outline are available on **USEPA CPRG Implementation Grants Webpage!**

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

**Follow the NOFO!**

# How to identify low income and disadvantaged communities

**Applications for CPRG implementation grants will be evaluated for benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities**

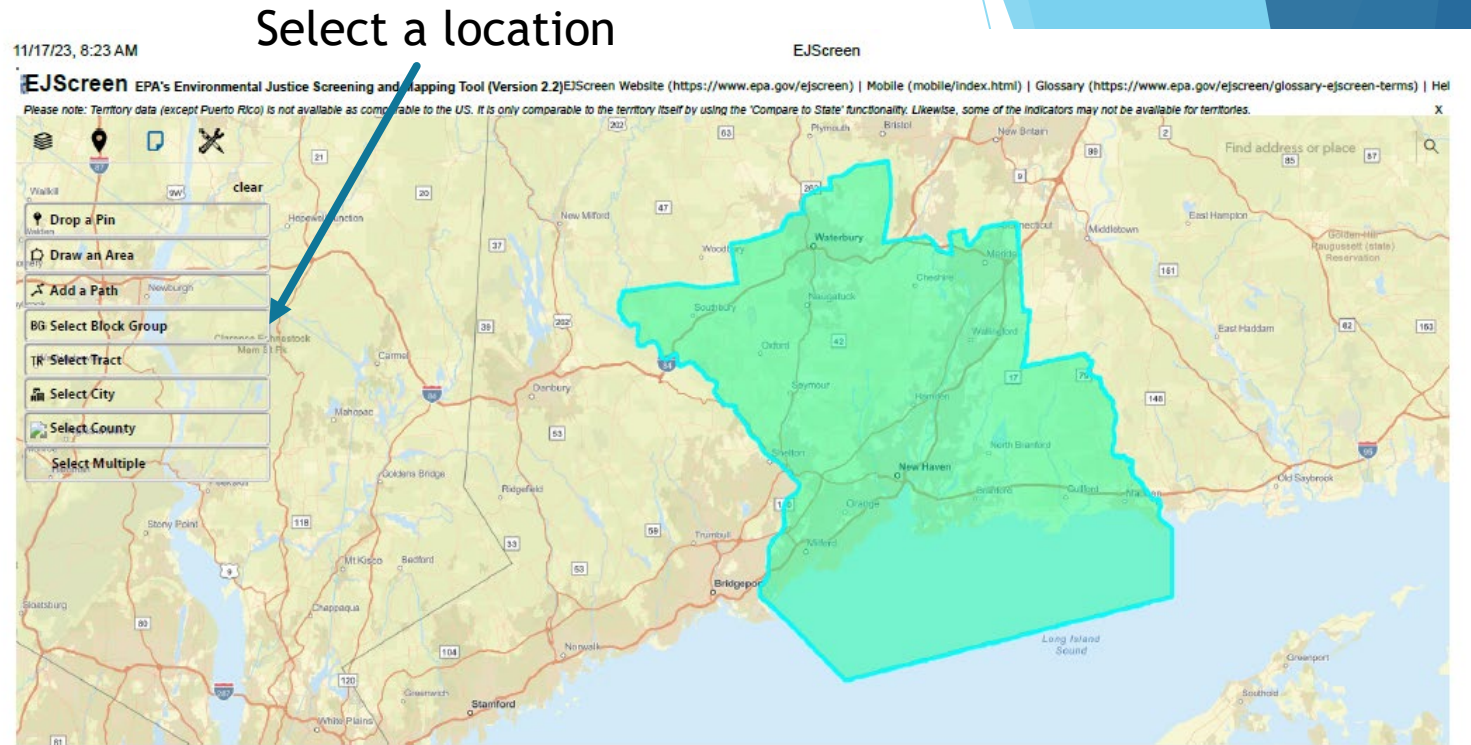
For the purposes of this NOFO, EPA defines low-income and disadvantaged communities as any community that meets at least one of the following characteristics:

- Any census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen's 12 Supplemental Indexes when compared to the nation or relevant state

<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

- Any census tract that is included as disadvantaged in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>



<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>



**Select a report**





# Funding Availability – General Competition

Tier	Grant Ranges (million)	Funds Targeted for Each Tier	Anticipated Number of Grants to be Awarded
Tier A	\$200 to \$500	\$2 billion	4-10
Tier B	\$100 to <\$200	\$1.3 billion	6-13
Tier C	\$50 to <\$100	\$600 million	6-12
Tier D	\$10 to <\$50	\$300 million	6-30
Tier E	\$2 to <\$10	\$100 million	10-50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4.3 billion</b>	<b>30-115</b>

General Competition funds will be available across five funding tiers.

Applications will be evaluated and selected for award on a tier-by-tier basis.

# Applications Must Implement GHG Measures included in a PCAP

Applications may be from:

- Lead organization for Planning Grant **OR**
- Other eligible applicant that did not receive a Planning Grant

GHG measures in an implementation grant application under the general competition must be included in an applicable PCAP submitted to EPA by **March 1, 2024**.

- An applicable PCAP is one that geographically includes the applicant and contains the GHG reduction measures that can be implemented by the applicant.

- **PCAP for New Haven County: SCRCOG and NVCOG will be incorporating YOUR changes in November and December!**
- **State of CT: Planning process is ongoing**

Coordination and communication between lead organization and other eligible applicants is encouraged

- Eligible applicants should participate in PCAP development process
- Lead organizations should make draft PCAPs available as early as possible

# Who is Eligible to Apply?

## Applicants Must Meet “Threshold Eligibility Criteria” (See NOFO Section 3)

### Municipalities

- Lead organizations for MSA CPRG planning grants;
- Other municipal agencies (including local air pollution control agencies), departments, or other municipal government offices;
- Councils of government, metropolitan planning commissions, or other regional organizations comprised of multiple municipalities

### Individual applicant

- Single entity leading design and implementation of the measures.

### Coalition

- Two or more eligible applicants with strong and substantial commitment such that withdrawal by one member would fundamentally alter project outcomes.
- Coalition applications must include a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by all coalition partners demonstrating mutual commitment to project.

# Types of GHG Reduction Measures

Applications may include multiple measures across one or more sectors.

EPA anticipates applications may seek funding for the following types of measures:

- **A new, stand-alone GHG reduction measure** that will be implemented solely through CPRG funding;
- **An expansion of a GHG reduction measure** that is already being implemented, where the expansion of the measure will be funded through CPRG funding; and,
- **A new GHG reduction measure for which the applicant has already secured partial funding and needs additional funding** from the CPRG program to secure the total funding needed to fully implement the measure.

# Eligible Project Examples

## 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)**

# Eligible Project Examples

## 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

# Eligible Project Examples

## 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**

# CPRG Implementation Grants: Key Dates

## Timeline for General Competition

Sept 20, 2023	Feb 1, 2024	March 1, 2024	April 1, 2024	July 2024*	October 2024*
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released	Optional Notice of Intent to Apply deadline	Priority Climate Action Plans due	Application deadline	Notification of Awards	Funds Awarded

\*Anticipated Dates

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

\*Implementation grantees are expected to have a five year period to implement the project





▶ **Electric Power**



▶ **Transportation**



▶ **Industry**



▶ **Residential & Commercial Buildings**



▶ **Waste and Materials Management**



▶ **Agriculture/ Natural & Working Lands**

Applications  
can include  
GHG reduction  
activities from  
these sectors

# So What Should You Do Now?



**Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2030 and beyond**



**Achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria and hazardous air pollutants), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities**



**Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits**



**Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions**

# What Should You Do Now?

- **If you identify a project that meets CPRG Implementation Grants Program Objectives:**
  - Talk to SCRCOG/NVCOG or the CT DEEP Office of Climate Planning – make sure your project gets into one of the PCAPs
  - Consider the scope, cost of the project, location and impact
  - Explore working with other organizations
    - Do you need to form a coalition?
      - If so, start working on your MOA

MOA  
Guidelines are  
available  
See NOFO  
“Attachment E”

# Evaluating Your Project's Competitiveness

## Applications must address expected Total Cumulative GHG Emission Reductions

- Estimated cumulative GHG reductions for 2025-2030 (in metric tons)
- Estimated cumulative GHG reductions from 2025-2050 (in metric tons)



# Evaluating Your Project's Competitiveness

## Tools to help measure Total Cumulative GHG Emission Reductions

- New Haven County PCAP model
- US EPA CPRG Tools and Technical Assistance - GHG Reduction Measures - Resources and Tools
  - Tools and Technical Resources are available online:
    - <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/about-cprg-training-tools-and-technical-assistance>



# Evaluation Criteria: Section 1

Overall Project Summary and Approach	POINTS
<b>1.a. Description of GHG Reduction Measures</b> Provide description of each proposed GHG reduction measure; major features, milestones, and risks; and relationship of each measure to PCAP.	20
<b>1.b. Demonstration of Funding Need</b> Explain how other funding streams have been explored, applied for, and/or secured; why not sufficient; and why CPRG funds are needed.	10
<b>1.c. Transformative Impact</b> Demonstrate that proposed GHG reduction measures can create transformative opportunities or impacts leading to GHG reductions.	15
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>

Sample cover page, budget spreadsheet, and workplan outline are available on USEPA CPRG Implementation Grants Webpage!

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

# Evaluation Criteria: Section 2

Impact of GHG Reduction Measures	POINTS
<p><b>2.a. Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030</b> Provide cumulative reductions from 2025 to 2030 that directly result from CPRG grant funding. Also describe durability of reductions.</p>	20
<p><b>2.b. Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050</b> Provide cumulative reductions from 2025 to 2050 that directly result from CPRG grant funding. Also describe durability of reductions.</p>	10
<p><b>2.c. Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions</b> Calculate: CPRG grant dollars divided by cumulative 2025-2030 reductions. Include qualitative narrative describing factors affecting cost-effectiveness.</p>	15
<p><b>2.d. Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions</b> Provide methodologies, assumptions, and calculations used for 2a thru 2c.</p>	15
SUBTOTAL	60

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Evaluation Criteria: Section 3

Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures	POINTS
<b>3.a. Expected Outputs and Outcomes</b> Identify expected outputs and outcomes, including GHG reductions and emissions changes for criteria and hazardous air pollution.	10
<b>3.b. Performance Measures and Plan</b> Provide clear description of performance measures to track and report progress towards outputs and outcomes for each GHG measure.	10
<b>3.c. Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones</b> Identify roles/responsibilities for implementing each measure; describe legal/statutory authority; provide detailed implementation timeline.	10
SUBTOTAL	30



# Evaluation Criteria: Section 4

Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities	POINTS
<p><b>4.a. Community benefits</b></p> <p>Provide assessment of benefits and avoided disbenefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities. List affected census tracts/block groups. Describe plan to report a more thorough analysis of benefits, including co-pollutant reductions.</p>	25
<p><b>4.b. Community engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain how input by low-income and disadvantaged communities has been incorporated into application.</li><li>• Describe how meaningful engagement will be included in implementation.</li></ul>	10
SUBTOTAL	35

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Help available online: [CPRG Tools and Technical Assistance - Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities Resources | US EPA](#)

# Evaluation Criteria: Section 5

Job Quality	POINTS
<p><b>5. Job Quality</b></p> <p>The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it describes concrete strategies and commitments to ensure job quality, strong labor standards, and a diverse, highly skilled workforce for the implementation of the GHG reduction measures.</p>	5
SUBTOTAL	5

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Evaluation Criteria: Section 6

Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	POINTS
<b>6.a. Past performance</b> Demonstrate successful management and completion of past grants.	10
<b>6.b. Reporting requirements</b> Demonstrate history of timely meeting reporting requirements; addressing insufficient progress; and submitting acceptable final reports.	10
<b>6.c. Staff Expertise</b> Demonstrate requisite organizational experience, staff expertise, and resources to obtain additional staffing to successfully achieve goals of the project.	10
SUBTOTAL	30

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Evaluation Criteria: Section 7

Budget and Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds	POINTS
<b>7.a. Budget detail</b> Provides detailed breakout by funding type in the proper budget category for each activity.	20
<b>7.b. Expenditure of awarded funds</b> Demonstrates approach, procedures, and controls will ensure that funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.	15
<b>7.c. Reasonableness of cost</b> Demonstrate proposed grant expenditures are reasonable for accomplishing goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes.	10
SUBTOTAL	45

Source: US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## SCRCOG Members: Technical Assistance--how we can help your community

- ▶ **Match your needs** to a CPRG implementation grant category
- ▶ **Identify and Prioritize projects** that may be eligible (PCAP)
- ▶ **Peer review** or give a “second look” to grant applications in progress
- ▶ **Review your Workplan, Budget or other documents**
- ▶ **Conduct a “points review”** of a grant application according to the funding agency’s points scoring system

## SCRCOG Members: Technical Assistance and how we can help your community:

### ▶ **Grants Administration/Best Practices for Grant Management**

- Review/recommend policies and procedures related to grant administration, grant tracking, grant application calendars or other grant administration needs
- Review staffing plans related to administration of grant awarded to cities/towns
- Assist in developing a grant application schedule or calendar
- Coalitions – we can pre-review your memoranda of agreements

### ▶ **Other**

- **Please let us know how we can assist you and your staff**

The image features a decorative header at the top with a light blue band above a green band. The background is white with abstract blue geometric shapes on the right side. The text 'Q & A' is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Q & A