# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Regional Government Steering Committee Minutes, October 30, 2023, 11AM to Noon

Meeting Format: Virtual, Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Emily Barrett, Central Pines Regional Council

Carlton Thornton, Granville County

Gregory Sponseller, Holly Springs

Sara K. Caliendo, Cary

Terry Nolan, Wake County

Lisa "Karina" Nabors, Orange County

Jessica Reid, Raleigh

Amy Eckberg, Orange County

Stephanie Trueblood, Hillsborough

Elizabeth Houghton, Chapel Hill

Kimberly Conley, Morrisville

John Richardson, Chapel Hill

Brian Hart, Person County

Jason Hardin, Raleigh

Jeanette Johnson, Wake Forest

Tara Nattress, Central Pines Regional Council

Tobin L. Freid, Durham County

Neisha Reynolds, City of Durham

Amy Armbruster, City of Durham

Agenda:

--Welcome Everyone! Please introduce yourselves in the comment box—say your name, title, jurisdiction, and one climate/energy topic you would be interested in exploring together

--Introduction of Central Pines Regional Council staff working on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)-Planning effort

--Overview of Planning Effort Approach and Schedule

--Tie-in with CPRG Phase 2, Implementation Grant

--Questions and discussion (please introduce yourself when you speak—name and jurisdiction)

Interests listed in chat:

- EV Infrastructure
- Audits for municipal facilities
- Solar + Storage
- Solar
- Looking to see if there are BMPs for facilitating/regulating private wind energy in development regulations.
- EV infrastructure and alternative energy sources
- Electrification
- resilient facilities upgrades
- storage
- microgrid
- community solar
- microgrids
- Parking lot solar canopies
- Agrovoltaics
- Solar
- Electrification
- any projects with a strong environmental ROI
- reducing refrigerant leaks

Emily Barrett, Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC) Environment & Resilience Director, went over the attached slide deck.

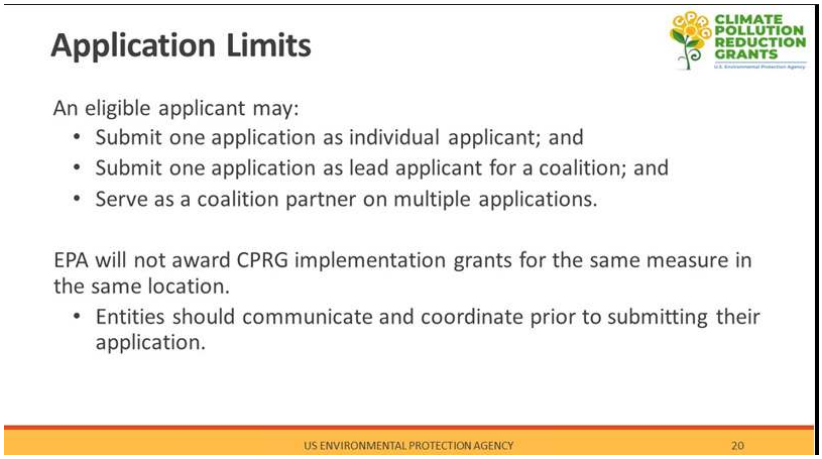
A book suggestion that John Richardson added in response to the Resources slide:
The Big Fix Seven Practical Steps to Save Our Planet By Hal Harvey and Justin Gillis

Tobin Freid adds that greenhouse gas emissions come not just from burning fossil fuels, but also from release (methane escaping from landfills, natural gas production releases, releases of gases from cooling units, etc.).

**Discussion and Q&A Portion of Meeting:**

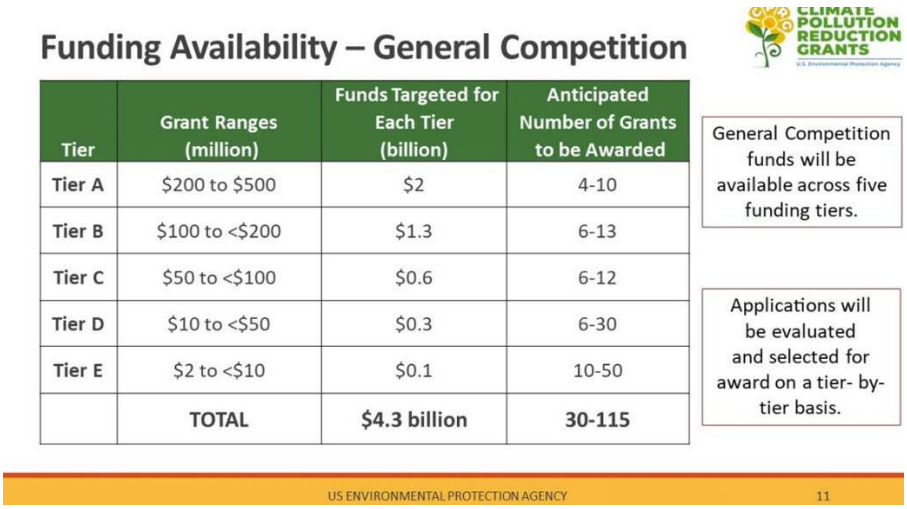
Q: What is the timing of the planning grant and the implementation grant?
A: The planning grant has its first deliverable, the Priority Climate Action Plan, due March 1, 2024. The implementation grant, which is competitive, is due April 1, 2024.

Question about who can apply for the implementation grant—




Q: Will there be a second round of the CPRG implementation funding?
A: No.

Q: How big can implementation grants be?
A:




Here's the link to the EPA CPRG Implementation PPT and video:

PPT: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/cprg-impl-webinar-2023-09-21.pdf

Video:
https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FOi9BZ_9Z4o8&data=05%7C01%7CSouth.Mia%40epa.gov%7C7fbe7c7e441c41cae74f08dbd0cefc5b%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C638333359631777099%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=M3KLYWLMLb6vZB24CWjxyBjkjisv7yKxIhGA8YPV1r0%3D&reserved=0

All presentations and videos are listed/linked at the bottom of this page:

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

A participant mentioned a resource for the CPRG planning and implementation work—the Wake County Tree Canopy Assessment: https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/planning-development-inspections/planning/wake-county-tree-canopy-assessment

One participant mentioned interest in solar farms, because of limited ability to put large scale solar on their own community's public buildings (due to small roofs, shading) and not a lot of open space for solar fields. They see it as a way of working regionally that would help to meet their carbon goal and to possibly benefit a community within the region. Another participant echoed this interest. One participant expressed concern that Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage does not provide additionality, so going with a project in a Co-op area might be better.

Another participant mentioned that unless CPRG-implementation had a very long implementation period, then it would be difficult to do transportation infrastructure projects because they take many years to complete. For that reason, another participant echoed interest in incentivizing e-bikes, EVs, fleet charging, etc.

Emily mentions that she's had inquiries from City of Durham Environmental Affairs Board and an elected official about if education projects are eligible.

> From Tara Nattress, "The NOFO doesn't specifically call out education initiatives as a tactic. But it also says that their list of examples is not exhaustive. It does mention incentive programs a lot in that list, so if that is a route we could incorporate education initiatives through then I'm sure it would count. We can also email the program and they may give us an answer if you have a more specific ask about education that you'd want me to inquire about."

Emily asks if there would be interest in projects like the heat pump group buying program (similar to the Solarize the Triangle Program) that is being developed by a private sector company. Two participants indicated strong interest in the "electrify everything" concept and regional projects that would support homeowners to change gas-powered appliances/equipment to electric-powered one's.

One participant reached out to Emily afterwards wanting to make sure that we considered replacing gasoline powered lawn equipment with electric equipment like lawn mowers and leaf blowers.

# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (Phase 1)

Environment and Resilience Focus Area

Central Pines Regional Council

October 30, 2023

# Agenda

- Welcome Everyone! Please introduce yourselves in the comment box—say your name, title, jurisdiction, and one climate/energy topic you would be interested in exploring together
- Introduction of Central Pines Regional Council staff working on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)-Planning effort
- Overview of Planning Effort Approach and Schedule
- Tie-in with CPRG Phase 2, Implementation Grant
- Questions and discussion (please introduce yourself when you speak—name and jurisdiction)

# Ground Rules




- **Clear & inclusive communication.** Facilitator may ask for additional explanation for the understanding of all.
- **We are a team**. We will approach all challenges together and with the attitude that we will win together.
- **Ask to be recognized.** Raise your had digitally and I promise you will be recognized.

# CPRC Team



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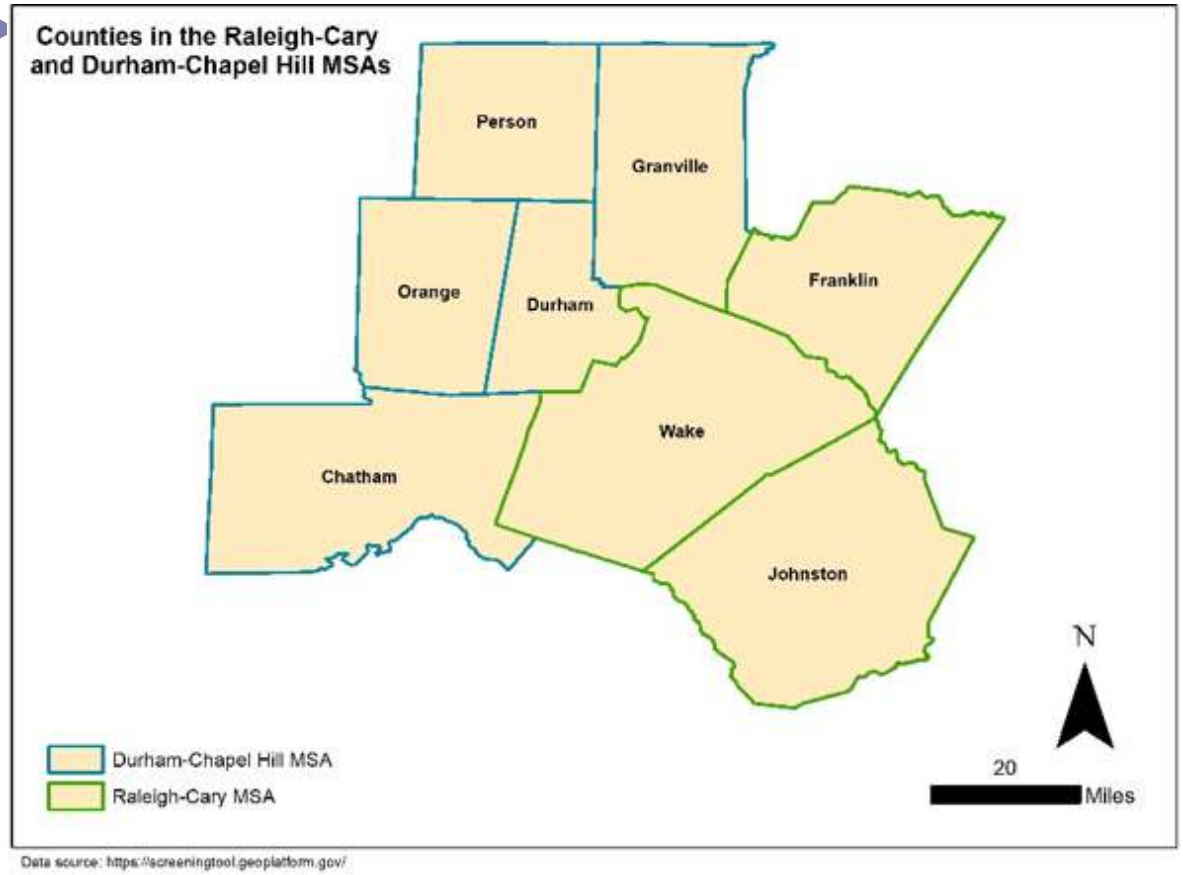


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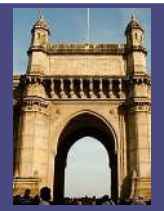
# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant--Planning



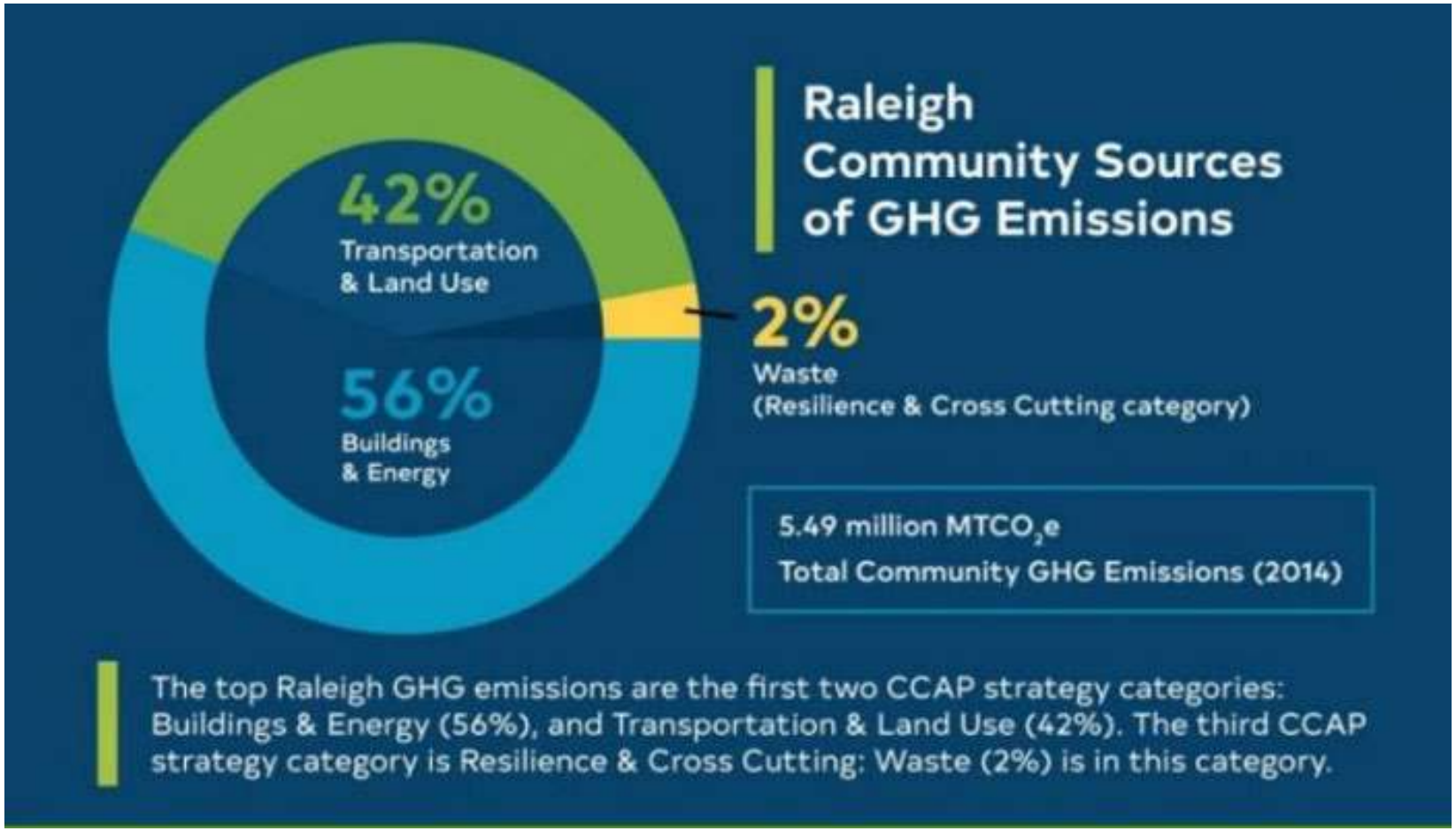

- Federal/EPA funded
- July (2023-2027)
- 4 Year **Planning** Grant
- Raleigh-Cary MSA and the Durham-Chapel Hill MSA
- Climate Pollution Reduction tactics

# Climate Pollution Reduction Grants—Phase 1 and 2

key deliverables

| **1--Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)** |  | **Due February 2024** |
|---|---|---|
| 2—CPRG Implementation Grant ($4.6 Billion Competitive Opportunity) | | Optional NOI: 2/1/2024 Application: 4/1/2024 |
| 1--Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) | | Fall 2025 |
| 1--Status Report | | Fall 2027 |

# Climate Pollution Sources—ICLEI Clear Path




Winning the Implementation Grant will depend on:

- **Scale of emission reductions** [MATH!]
- **Positive outcomes for traditionally marginalized groups** [JUSTICE!]

# What is the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)?

- **“Big Bucket Plan”**
- ***Inventory**
- ***Tactics**
- ***We will summarize existing plans and tactics and indicate which tactics are part of existing plans already.**

- **Anticipated Tactic Categories**:
  - Transportation
  - Buildings
  - Waste
  - Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands
    - Soil Development
    - Land Preservation
    - Tree Planting – Emphasis must be on planting and caring for trees, so they reach full maturity
    - Nature-based Solutions
  - Industry & Electric Power are two other sectors or “buckets”

- **Key Considerations**
  - Local authority to implement is limited by Dillon’s Rule
  - Local governments frequently have more ability to implement and more citizen excitement around stormwater/land use/ nature-based solutions and waste tactics
  - Rural/urban partnerships
  - Job creation is a key objective/cobenefit
  - Who pays? Who benefits?

# Implementation Grant Competition

- Tactics must be in a PCAP
- Applications can include multiple measures across one or more sectors
- Anticipate that a metro-area grant would be a “package” of measures
  - A Coalition-approach to an application would require MOA’s passed by each partner



# Recommended Resources

- Project Drawdown Solutions
- Regeneration, Cascade of Solutions—scroll down to “cities” that starts with “electrify everything”, other sections relevant to our region as well
- Squeaky Clean Energy Podcast



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