



Sacramento Metro Area Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program Fact Sheet

The U.S. EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants \(CPRG\) program](#) funds climate plans that reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and associated criteria and toxic air pollution, create green jobs to support a low carbon economy, and provide tangible benefits to communities impacted by environmental injustice. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District) is the lead agency in the Sacramento Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) responsible for submitting CPRG deliverables for the Phase 1 planning grants in preparation for the Phase 2 competitive implementation grants. The Sacramento MSA includes seven counties and the cities within the Sacramento Region – El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. Phase 1 planning grant deliverables include a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due in March 2024, a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in 2025, and a Status Report due in 2027. The following questions and responses are based on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program [webinar](#) that Sac Metro Air District hosted on July 26, 2023.

Q1: Does this grant focus on greenhouse gases but not criteria pollutants like particulate matter and lead?

A1: Although the focus of the CPRG program is to reduce greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change, EPA is also encouraging climate plans that can deliver cleaner air by reducing criteria air pollutants and toxic air pollutants such as particulate matter, lead, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide.

Q2: How does this program compliment local climate action plans?

A2: The CPRG program expects each planning grant recipient to either develop a new climate action plan or update an existing climate action plan. Sac Metro Air District and a CPRG steering committee consisting of key contacts from each of the participating jurisdictions in the Sacramento MSA is creating a new regional climate action plan that draws from the policies, greenhouse gas reduction measures, and quantification methodologies from the existing climate action plans, sustainability plans, greenhouse gas reduction plans, and energy plans in the Sacramento region.

Q3: What commitments have been made by jurisdictions beyond steering committee participation?

A3: The CPRG steering committee helps make decisions related to each element of the program including the GHG inventory, GHG reduction measures, the community-wide benefits analysis, and the authority to implement the selected GHG reduction measures. Partnering jurisdictions are influencing which GHG reduction measures will be incorporated in the PCAP and CCAP. The measures that are included in the PCAP would be eligible for CPRG Phase 2 implementation funding under a competitive grant process. Phase 2 implementation grants fund the implementation of PCAP GHG reduction measures and related projects.

Q4: Would the receipt of a planning grant trigger California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review?

A4: The Phase 1 planning grants would not trigger CEQA review. The implementation of GHG reduction measures and related development projects could trigger CEQA review unless the project is considered exempt under CEQA.

Q5: How will Sac Metro Air District reach out to community groups and the community?

A5: Sacramento's PCAP and CCAP will build on previous community outreach that was conducted during the development of the existing climate action plans in the MSA. Partnering jurisdictions are inviting trusted community partners to participate on an Outreach Advisory Committee that will develop a community engagement strategy, identify priority neighborhoods, and identify community priorities and desired community benefits. Community outreach would commence in the fall, and staff and partners anticipate attending community events such as festivals, community meetings, and other social gatherings throughout the Sacramento MSA to get input on community priorities, which will inform final CPRG deliverables.

Q6: How was the steering committee formed?

A6: Sac Metro Air District staff reached out to city managers, county administrators and sustainability and climate staff in the MSA to gauge interest in partnering on the CPRG Phase 1 planning grants. Staff from local jurisdictions joined the steering committee and expressed interest in participating in the planning grant process. Local jurisdictional partners are excited by the opportunity to apply for the competitive Phase 2 implementation grants to fund sustainable development projects in the Sacramento region.

Q7: What type of eligible projects are anticipated to be funded under the Phase 2 implementation grants?

A7: The EPA anticipates releasing guidance for the Phase 2 implementation grants in September 2023. Any interested parties should continue to check EPA's CPRG program [website](#) for updates.

Q8: Is there room for reciprocal relationships between local nonprofits and planning grant recipients?

A8: Staff welcomes participation by local nonprofits, community-based organizations, neighborhood associations, advocacy groups and other community groups in this planning process. Interested parties can stay up to date on upcoming community engagement opportunities via Sac Metro Air District's CPRG [website](#).

Q9: What steps are needed in terms of getting authority to implement the measures?

A9: The steps needed to get authority to implement each GHG reduction measure will vary based on the specific GHG reduction measure. Some measures may require the implementation of a new local ordinance and others may require legal authority.

Q10: For the contracted work, who is working on research and development?

A10: Through competitively bid processes, Sac Metro Air District contracted with Ramboll and the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association to develop a GHG inventory, quantify GHG reduction measures, and conduct a benefits analysis of the GHG reduction measures for CPRG deliverables.