

Community Composters and Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) introduced a \$5 billion [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants \(CPRG\)](#) program to help states, local governments, tribes, and territories develop ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and air pollution. During Phase 1 of the program, \$250 million was awarded to any government that applied to create a priority climate action plan (PCAP) **due March 1, 2024**. In Phase 2, \$4.6 billion will be available through a competitive application process to implement PCAP projects **due April 1, 2024**. Community composters can benefit from this funding opportunity!

Composters Role in the CPRG

[States, local governments, tribes, and territories](#) will apply for and receive the grants, but as community-based organizations (CBOs) and non-profits, you can receive sub-awards or contracts to conduct your programs (pg. 16; question 18).

- Grant recipients can give [sub-awards to sub-recipients](#) to carry out a portion of the grant project (pg. 60). [Sub-awards establish financial assistance relationships](#) under which non-government entities—such as CBOs and non-profits—receive funding from grant recipients to implement grant programs and projects (pg. 17; question 18). In such cases, the governmental grant recipients are known as a “[pass-through entity](#)” (pg. 60).
- [A non-profit or CBO](#) may also participate in a project if the grant recipient chooses to contract work out to the non-profit or CBO (pg. 17; question 18). Contracts must comply with existing competitive RFP guidelines and provisions.

What the EPA is Looking For

- The EPA and agencies preparing PCAPs and funding proposals are interested in implementation-ready projects that can be launched or expanded ASAP to achieve GHG emissions reductions quickly. Existing programs and projects are eligible for funding and may even be preferred, given the urgency of the program. This presents an excellent opportunity for community composters!
- Project proposals that quickly reduce GHG emissions while providing additional benefits to the community—particularly addressing environmental injustices—will be scored highest. Community composting projects are uniquely set up to do so (see pg 3).
- Cost-effective projects that can be [replicated and “scaled up”](#) across jurisdictions are also preferred.

Composters should push your projects now. States and MSAs are actively soliciting cross-cutting project ideas right now to develop their PCAPs and grant applications. Inquiries must happen ASAP!

Only projects and programs—known as “measures”—included in a region’s PCAP will be eligible to apply for part of the \$4.6 billion available through competitive implementation grants in Phase 2.

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How to Become Eligible for Funding

- (1) [Find out here](#) if your state or metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is participating in CPRG.
 - Nearly every state, dozens of metro areas, and many tribes and territories are participating (both your state and MSA may be involved).
- (2) [Check here](#) to identify the organization leading the creation of your state/MSA PCAP and grant applications (referred to as the “lead organization”).
- (3) Find their [contact information here](#).
 - If not listed: [see columns H & I on this sheet](#) for state contact information.
- (4) If a phone number or email address cannot be found, go to the lead organization’s [website found here](#), which should have contact information. If it is not listed:
 - For state websites: search [this EPA site](#) or look in [columns L & M](#) on this sheet.
 - For MSAs: see if your MSA website is on the [“MSAs” tab of this sheet](#).
 - Google the state/region/city name or the lead organization, along with keywords like “climate action plans,” “climate pollution reduction grants,” or “CPRG.”
- (5) When contacting the lead organization, ask, “How can I propose my existing project/program to be a sub-award recipient as part of the EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program? Is community composting included in the PCAP?”
- (6) Additional questions and answers about the CPRG program can be [found here](#) and [here](#).
 - [See question 18, Section II](#) on pages 16 and 17 for information on how non-profits or CBOs can participate in the CPRG implementation grant.

CPRG Program Objectives

- [Tackle damaging climate pollution](#) while supporting the creation of good jobs and lowering the cost for families (pg. 4).
- Accelerate work to [address environmental injustice](#) and empower community-driven solutions in overburdened neighborhoods (pg. 4).
- [Deliver cleaner air](#) by reducing harmful air pollution in places where people live, work, play, and go to school (pg. 4).

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Cross-Cutting Benefits of Community Composting

- Reduces GHG emissions by [cutting landfill pollution](#), increasing carbon storage in soils, curtailing carbon-intensive fertilizers, and limiting transport distance for hauling.
- Breaks dependence on landfills and incinerators disproportionately affecting poor and BIPOC communities and addresses disinvestment and environmental injustices by employing and serving BIPOC, LGBTQ+ communities, and at-risk youth while filling hunger gaps in food deserts.
- Promotes public health and safety with improved air and water quality, more green space and natural environments, and physical and outdoor activity, especially in underserved neighborhoods.
- Local composting builds healthy soils and supports farmers, cultivating a more economical and resilient food system, encouraging community reliance, and enhancing food security.
- Stimulates the local economy by creating many more jobs than landfills or incinerators, promoting innovation, developing green markets, and supporting local farmers and small businesses.
- Improves climate resiliency for communities and crops against extreme weather and natural disasters like flooding and heat island effects that often hit frontline communities hardest.
- Spurs community and youth engagement, education, and hope; connects neighbors to earth, food, and each other; uplifts social fabric with inclusive gathering spaces, connection, social support, and local stewardship.
- Local, decentralized efforts keep profits and benefits nearby, creating a sustainable ecosystem responsive to community needs with greater personal investment and higher-quality products.
- Far less expensive than landfills or incinerators and can be launched and scaled up more quickly.