



# CENTRAL INDIANA

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

CIRDA 2024

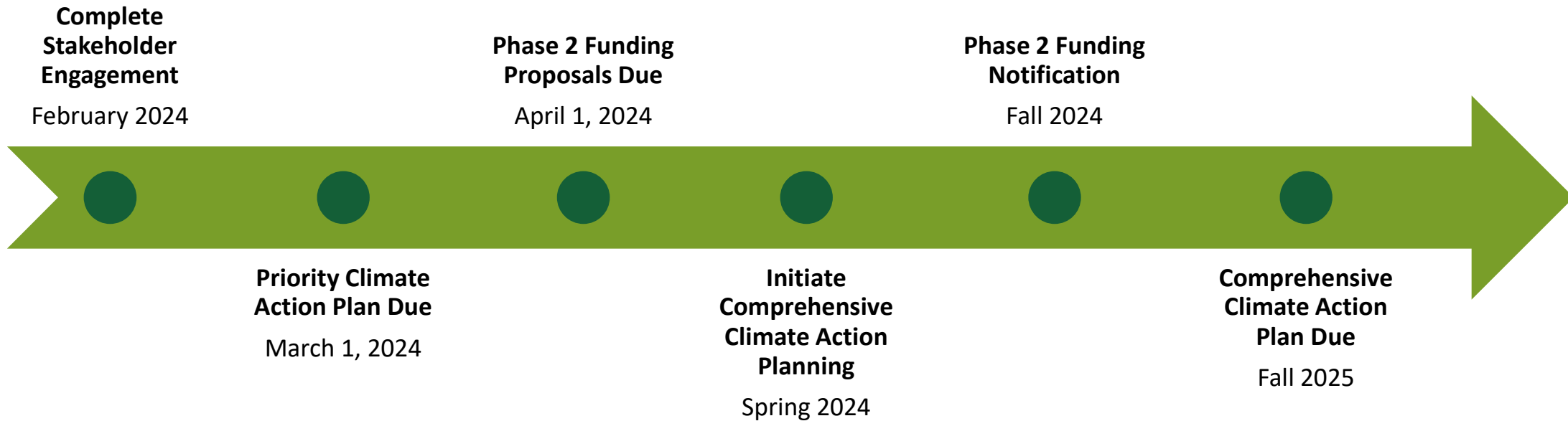


# Today's Agenda

- Overview of EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) timeline
- Share public survey #2 results and recent outreach efforts
- Overview of the draft PCAP content
- Process for Phase 2 submissions
- Q&A discussion



# CPRG Timeline



**CIRDA 2024**



# **Public Survey #2 Results & Outreach**

**CIRDA 2024**

# Public Survey #2

- Survey Structure: Introduction, Background, Draft Priorities, 4 questions
- 4 questions:
  1. **Which of these benefits would be most valuable to you?** *(2 added benefits not included in first survey)*
  2. **Why did you choose the answer you did?**
  3. **Are there benefits missing from this list?**
  4. **Zip Code**
- 169 total responses, including 40 LIDAC responses

CIRDA 2024

- January 1 - 14, 2024
- 2 virtual public meetings
  - January 8 & 9
- **Promotion of feedback window and public meetings**
- **Boosted Facebook advertising**
- **Public Notice (Star & Recorder)**
  - La Voz

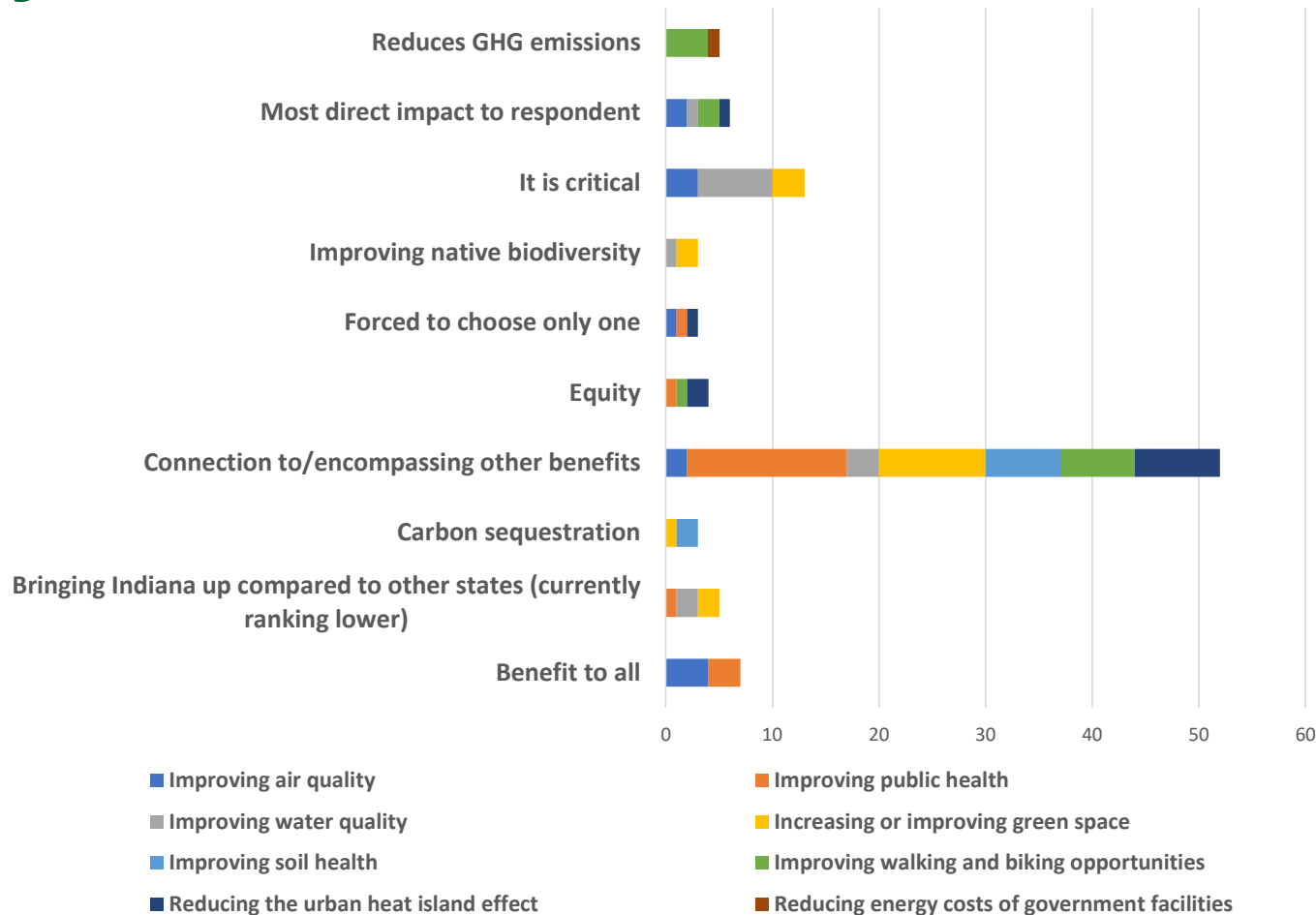


# Which of these benefits would be most valuable?

Which of these benefits would be most valuable to you?	All Results		LIDAC	
	Count	%	Count	%
Improving walking and biking opportunities	22	13.0%	11	27.5%
Improving public health	23	13.6%	7	17.5%
Reducing the urban heat island effect	16	9.5%	6	15.0%
Improving air quality	34	20.1%	4	10.0%
Improving water quality	29	17.2%	4	10.0%
Increasing or improving green space	22	13.0%	4	10.0%
Improving soil health	14	8.3%	2	5.0%
Reducing energy costs of government facilities	5	3.0%	1	2.5%
Improving economic development and job opportunity	4	2.4%	1	2.5%
Total	169		40	

**CIRDA 2024**

# Why did you choose the answer you did?



“I’m a farmer. Soil health is my top priority. We can’t be healthier than our environment.”

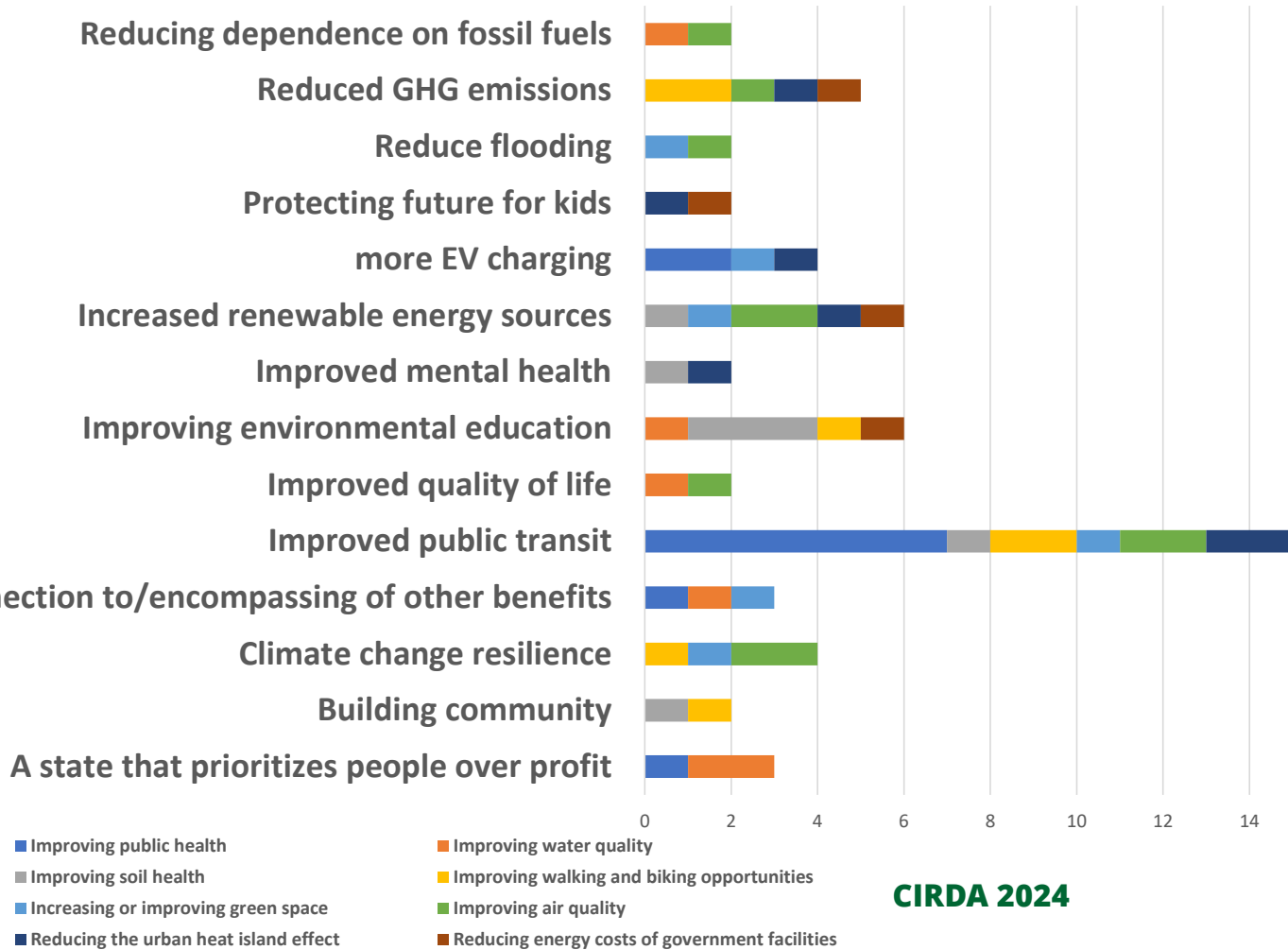
“How do you choose one? I tried to pick one that was the broadest and more policy focused than personal responsibility focused.”

“Urban heat islands are affecting the health of well being of our poorest citizens increasing air conditioning costs and overall utility costs and stress on our water supplies”

“Can’t safely and sustainably live with cars, even EVs”



# Are there missing benefits?



CIRDA 2024

“I believe we should also look into conversions of dilapidated/ underused parking lots into mixed used housing. “

“A reduction of stroades would also help to accomplish the benefits and also would be traffic calming to reduce wrecks.”

“Preserving wetlands and prairie lands in the state”

“Reducing CAFO farming operations”





# Verbal Feedback

- Survey respondents were focused on strategies and projects (not specifically benefits)
- Public meeting verbal feedback:
  - Decision making process
  - Document available for public review
  - **Exclusion of residential renewable energy**
  - **Exclusion of residential energy efficiency**
  - **Exclusion of public transit**
  - PCAP vs. CCAP
  - State vs regional plan
  - Climate change
  - Municipal eligibility for implementation
  - GHG inventory methodology
  - Availability of public meeting slides

CIRDA 2024

## Key Statistics:

- **92 non-repeated responses to “why”**
- **78 non-repeated responses to “missing benefits”**





# **Draft Priority Climate Action Plan**

**CIRDA 2024**

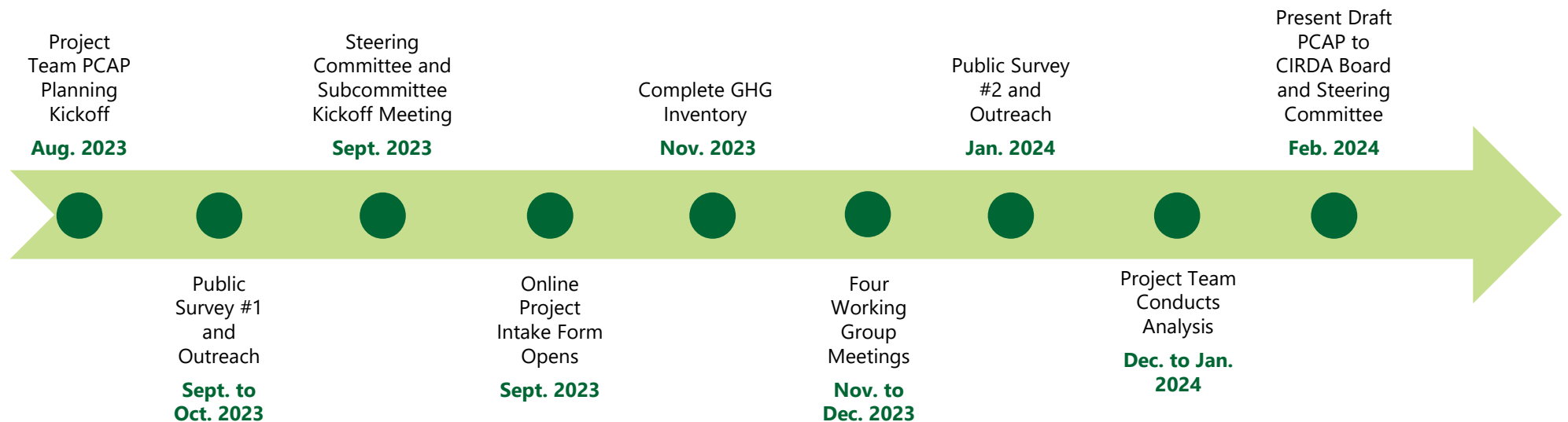
# Vision

- Central Indiana is developing a plan to create a more sustainable future by adopting strategies that limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Our region is a job center and an economic hub for the state. The regional plan aims to:
  - Reduce emissions;
  - Generate high-quality and high-wage job opportunities;
  - Increase the region's per capita income;
  - Improve the health of our communities; and
  - Create vibrant places that attract and retain high caliber talent to the region and state.

**CIRDA 2024**



# PCAP Development Timeline



**CIRDA 2024**

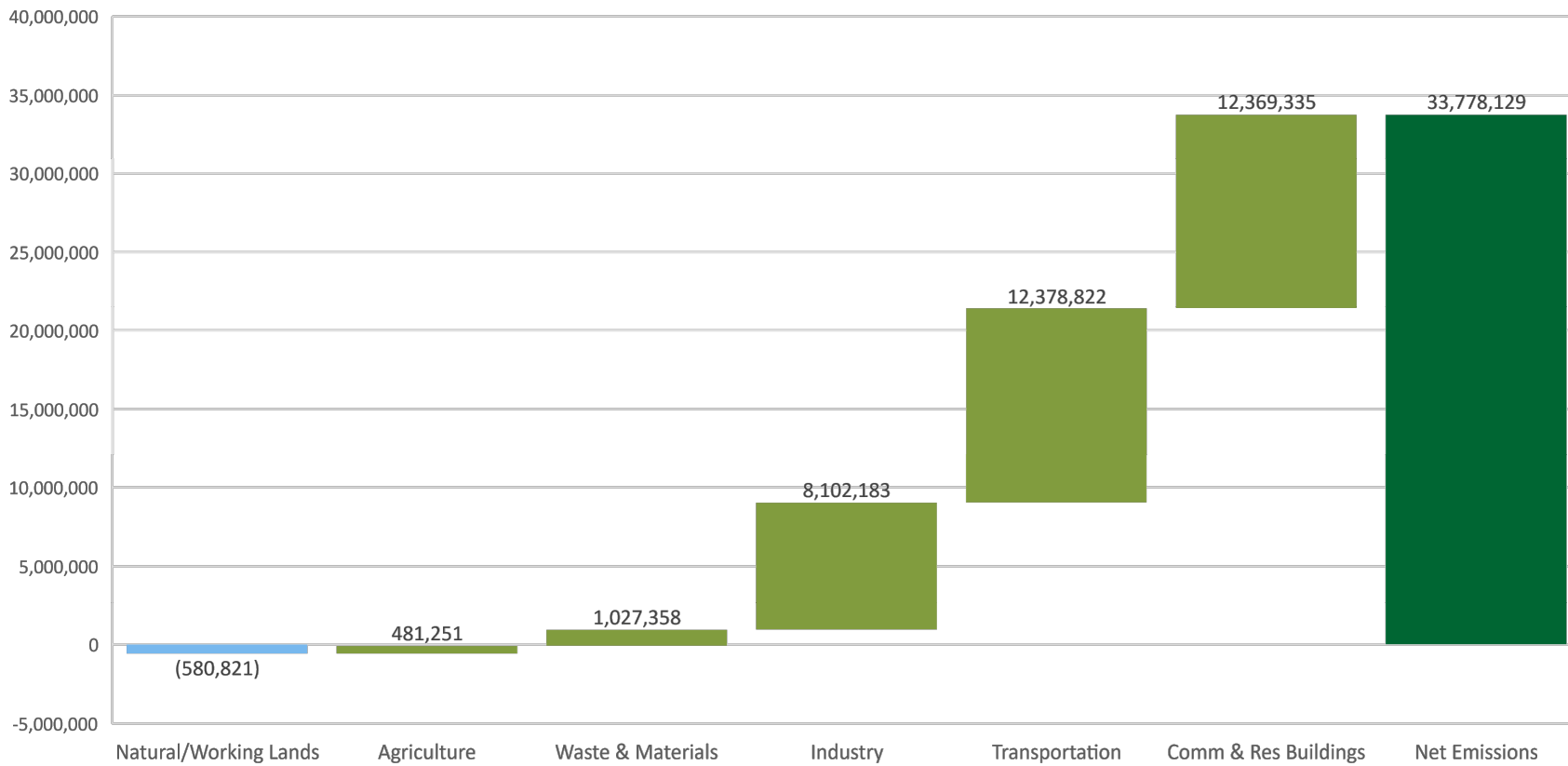
# Regional Inventory Results

Baseline Year:

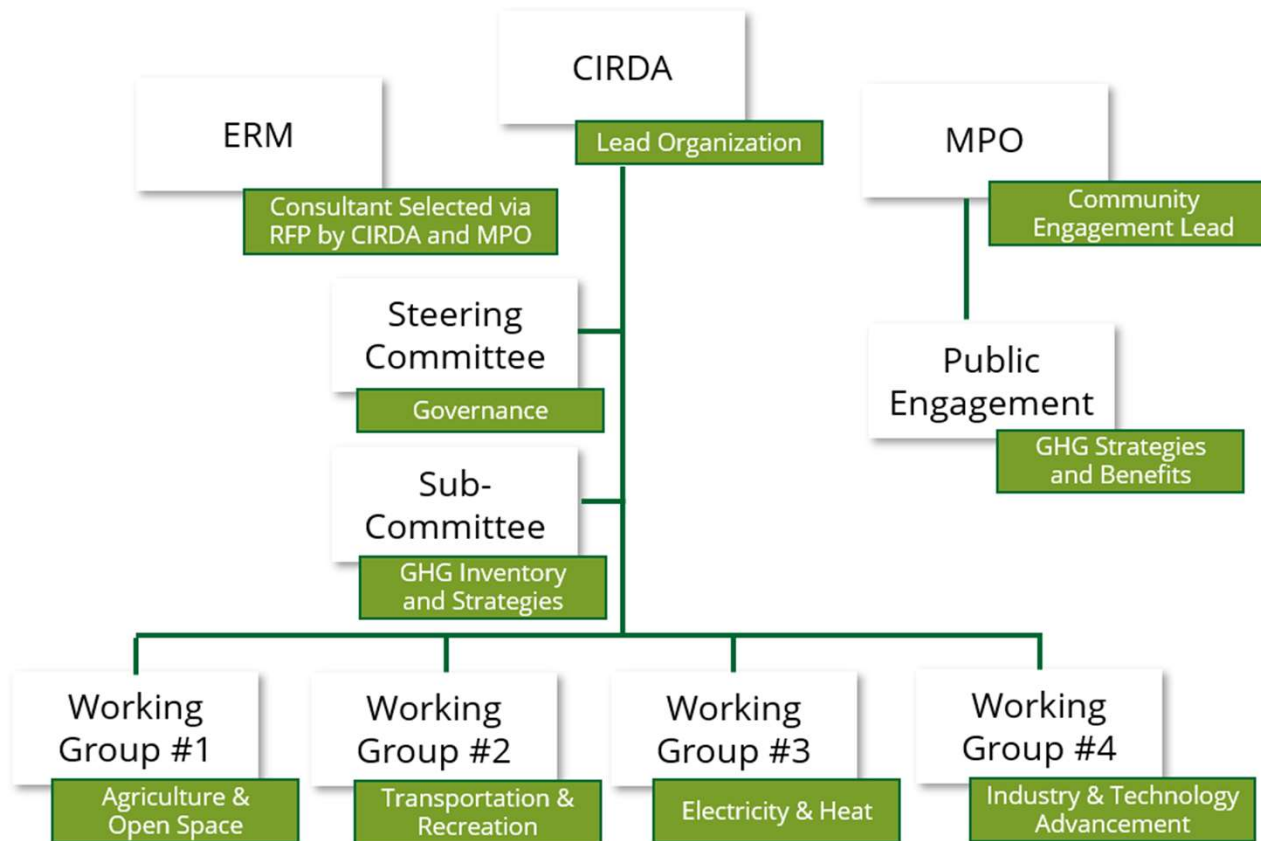
2022

Total Regional Emissions:

**33,778,130 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**



# Stakeholder Engagement

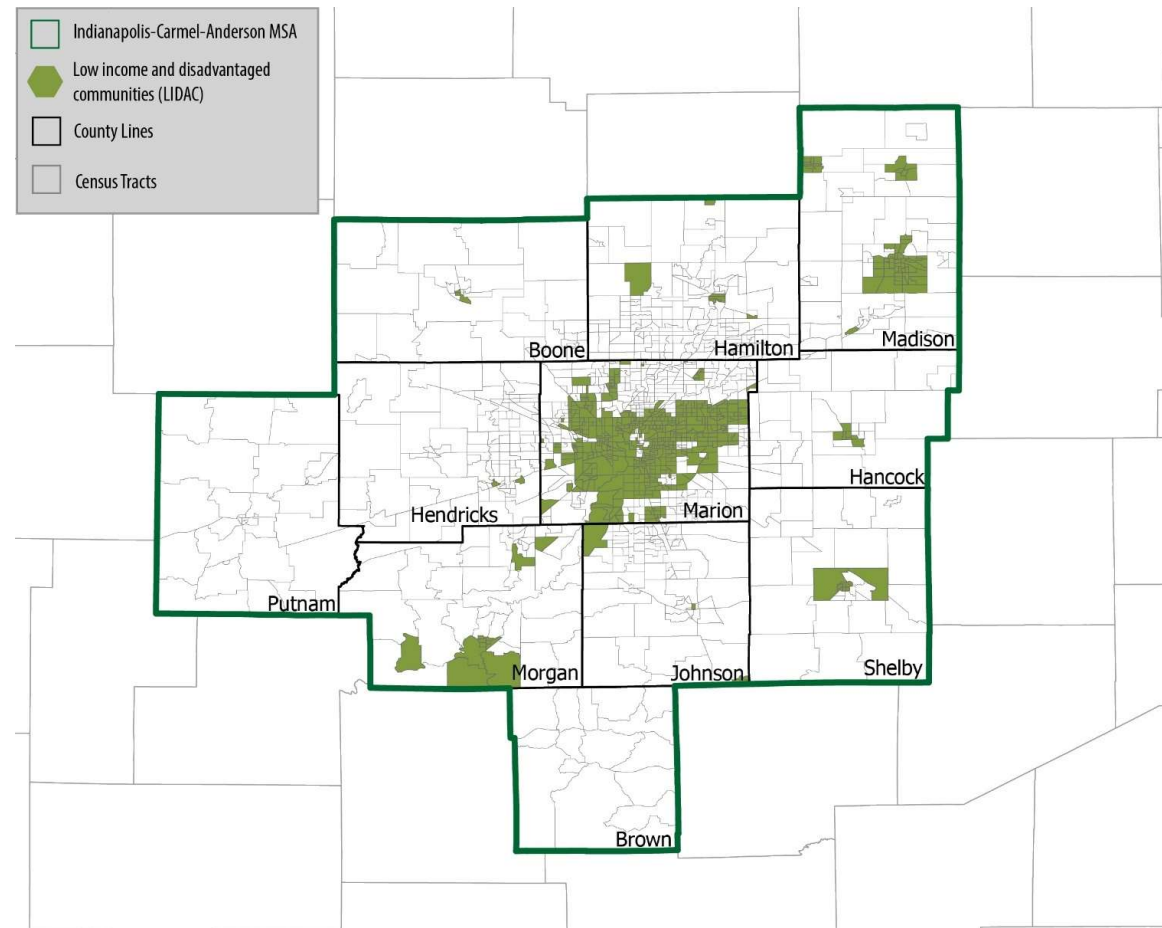


**CIRDA 2024**



# Meaningful Engagement

- A significant focus of the CPRG opportunity is community input, specifically centered on engaging low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC).
- Public engagement activities:
  - Attended **community events** across region
  - Developed a **CIRDA homepage** to share progress
  - Sent **newsletter updates** on plan developments
  - Disseminated **2 public surveys** to gather input on GHG strategies and benefits



# Community Outreach Events

1. Garfield Park Farmers Market, Sept. 16
2. Partners for Pollution Prevention and Trade Show, Sept. 20
3. Car Free Day Indy, Sept. 22
4. Indiana Latino Expo, Sept. 23
5. Anderson Farmers Market, Sept. 30
6. Street Team – Greenfield Public Library, Oct. 5
7. Shelbyville First Friday - Friday, Oct 6
8. Street Team – Downtown Franklin, Oct 7
9. Street Team Carmel – Clay Terrace, Oct. 8
10. Street Team Plainfield – Guilford Township Library, Oct. 10
11. Street Team – Speedway Main Street, Oct. 12
12. Far East Side Community Council Meeting, Nov. 28 (virtual)
13. Indiana Environmental Conference, Dec. 7
14. United Northeast Community Development Corporation, Dec. 13
15. Central IN Drinking Water Collaborative, Dec. 14
16. MPO Virtual Meeting #1, Jan. 8
17. MPO Virtual Meeting #2, Jan. 9

**CIRDA 2024**

## MPO Attended:

**13 in-person events**

**4 virtual meetings**

**(Sept. 2023 – Jan. 2024)**

## Upcoming Events:

**Indiana Sustainability and Resilience Conference, Feb. 9**

**Far Eastside Community Council, Feb.**





# Gathering Ideas

- **Two public surveys** totaling 645 responses, including 208 LIDAC responses
- **Electronic project intake form** available on CIRDA's website to submit ideas
- **One-on-one conversations** with steering Committee and submitting entities to discuss project details
- **Steering Committee and Subcommittee** meetings providing guidance and input
- **Four Working Groups** convened to share sector-specific experiences
- **CIRDA Board meetings** to receive monthly feedback

**CIRDA 2024**

*Project Team engaged a diverse set of public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders across the region to inform and shape GHG reduction measures in the regional plan, from start to finish.*



# Process for Creating Priority List

## Extensive Research

Reviewed 45 local govt plans, 19 utility and business plans across region, best practices and EPA examples.

## Public Feedback

Received public survey input on a consolidated version of initial list to assess priorities.

## Stakeholder Groups

Received project intake form submissions, and Working Groups shared sector-specific challenges and priorities.



## Initial List

Created initial list with a range of potential GHG reduction measures across all sectors to consider for the region.

## Updated List

Created updated list based on public feedback and review of policy barriers to implementation-ready EPA criteria.

## Analysis

Aligned priorities with intake submissions, and assessed measures based on EPA's criteria (GHG reductions, LIDAC, authority, funding).

# Analysis

- Project Team assessed submitted projects based on EPA's criteria and the priorities identified across the region.
- EPA's criteria:
  1. **Ability to produce GHG emission reductions**
  2. **Benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities**
  3. **Existing authority to implement the strategy**
  4. **Need for funding clearly identified**



# PCAP Requirements

- *“Grantees should include the following information for each GHG reduction measure:*
  - *Estimate of the quantifiable GHG emissions reductions (e.g., through 2030 and 2050)*
  - *Implementing agency or agencies*
  - *Milestones for obtaining implementing authority, as appropriate*
  - *Implementation schedule and milestones*
  - *Geographic location (if applicable)*
  - *Funding sources (if relevant)*
  - *Metrics for tracking progress*
  - *Applicable sector (e.g., solid waste management, electricity generation and consumption, agriculture and land management) (optional)*
  - *Quantitative cost estimates (optional)”*

**CIRDA 2024**



# Priority List: Approach

- PCAP priority list includes three implementation-ready GHG reduction measures and accompanying pilot projects:
  1. **CIRDA Regional Building and Asset Modernization Program**
  2. **CIRDA Regional Open Space Revitalization and Connectivity Program**
  3. **Indianapolis Area Renewable Energy and Waste Reduction Operation**
- The two CIRDA programs comprise a variety of actions to reduce GHG emissions. They are designed to capture both implementation-ready and forthcoming projects across the region, while positively impacting quality of place, public health, and economic development.

# Priority List: *CIRDA Regional Building & Asset Modernization Program*



Program seeks to fund clean energy and energy efficiency upgrades to buildings and infrastructure throughout the region. The program will support upgrades to modernize and reduce GHG emissions from a variety of projects, including:

- Public building clean energy retrofits
- Public electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Public transit, car sharing, micro mobility efforts
- Industrial energy efficiency
- Wastewater treatment improvements

Eligible applicants: public, non-profit, and private entities. The program will provide low- to no-matching grants and establish a revolving loan fund to support long term financial sustainability.

## **Direct LIDAC Benefits:**

- Improved air quality
- Improved public health
- Improved convenient public transportation
- Improved building comfort
- Improved economic development and job availability

## **Indirect LIDAC Benefits:**

- Improved air quality
- Improved public health
- Improved economic development and job availability

# Priority List: *CIRDA Regional Building & Asset Modernization Program*



## Accompanying Pilot Projects:

1. City of Indianapolis Solar Upgrades
2. McCordsville Town Hall Energy Efficiency Updates
3. Energy Insights Program
4. Rolls Royce HVAC Optimization and Submetering
5. Rolls Royce PV Solar
6. Crispus Attucks High School Energy Efficiency Renovations
7. Indianapolis Arts Center Building Upgrades

# Priority List: *CIRDA Regional Open Space Revitalization and Connectivity Program*



This program will target the reclamation and revitalization of degraded lands throughout Central Indiana, while simultaneously improving the quality of place, recreation, and public health in our region's disadvantaged communities. The program will support a variety of projects, including:

- Environmental and wetlands remediation
- Land enhancement
- Trail development
- Urban afforestation to reduce GHG emission

Eligible applicants: public, non-profit, and private entities. The program will provide low- to no-matching grants and establish a revolving loan fund to support long term financial sustainability.

**CIRDA 2024**

## **Direct LIDAC Benefits:**

- Improving green space
- Improved walking and biking opportunities
- Reducing urban heat island
- Improved water quality
- Improving soil health

## **Indirect LIDAC Benefits:**

- Improved air quality
- Improved public health
- Improved economic development and job availability



# ***Priority List: CIRDA Regional Open Space Revitalization and Connectivity Program***



## Accompanying Pilot Projects:

1. City of Indianapolis Brownfield Julietta Landfill Brightfield
2. Nickel Plate Pedestrian Bridge
3. Grassy Creek Trail
4. Connor Prairie Reforestation
5. Connor Prairie Wetland Enhancement & Fertilizer Education Program

# Priority List: *Indianapolis Area Renewable Energy and Waste Reduction Operation*



- Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in partnership with the American Dairy Association Indiana and Newtrient, will partner to create a food waste collection program across the City of Indianapolis.
- Leftover food waste collected from events, restaurants, and grocery stores will be transported to an anaerobic digester on a local dairy farm, where it will create renewable natural gas, which will then power local businesses and fleets in the region. Animal waste from the selected farm will also be put in the digester, reducing nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application.
- This project will reduce a significant amount of food waste disposed in landfills resulting from events and tourism throughout the city.

## **Direct LIDAC Benefits:**

- Reducing food and animal waste
- Improved economic development and job availability

## **Indirect LIDAC Benefits:**

- Improved air quality
- Improved public health

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. A road with several cars is visible in the lower right corner. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

# Phase 2 Submission

CIRDA 2024

## Phase 2: Submission Approach

- Priority measures are competing across different EPA funding tiers
- Project Team performed analysis on pilot projects to include in PCAP so that individual projects would still have a shot at getting selected if programs are not chosen.
- CIRDA plans to submit one application for all the priority GHG reduction projects and programs included in the PCAP.
- EPA only allowing one submission for a given GHG reduction measure.



# Phase 2: Evaluation Criteria

- Overall Project Summary and Approach **45 pts**
- Impact of GHG Reduction Measures **60 pts**
- Environmental Results **30 pts**
- Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities **35 pts**
- Job quality **5 pts**
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance **30 pts**
- Budget and Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds **45 pts**

**Total: 250 pts**

**CIRDA 2024**



# Next Steps

- **Feb 14** – Present draft PCAP to CIRDA Board
- **March 1** – Submit final PCAP to EPA
- **April 1** – Submit Phase 2 grant application
- **Spring 2024** – Initiate comprehensive climate action planning process
- **Fall 2024** – EPA announces Phase 2 funding





# THANK YOU



**CENTRAL INDIANA REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Jordin Alexander  
[alexanderj@fishers.in.us](mailto:alexanderj@fishers.in.us)

Jennifer Messer (Executive Director)  
[jmesser@centralindianarda.org](mailto:jmesser@centralindianarda.org)



**INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

Annie Dixon  
[annie.dixon@indympo.org](mailto:annie.dixon@indympo.org)



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Cassandra Kubes  
[cassandra.kubes@erm.com](mailto:cassandra.kubes@erm.com)

**CIRDA 2024**