

CIRDA Proposal for EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Funding

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Overview:

Economic development, quality of place, and public health are closely intertwined with the state of our physical environment. As our environment evolves and poses both challenges and opportunities to industry and our community, Central Indiana must be prepared to mitigate and adapt appropriately. A strategy to prioritize and align the region's response to these challenges and opportunities will be important, as we continue to develop into an attractive destination for business, workforce, and residents.

Phase 1 of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) provides a \$1 million planning grant for the Indianapolis MSA to prioritize these actions in the form of a Climate Action Plan. The deliverables for Phase 1 include:

1. **A Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)** identifying actions that can be accomplished in the short-term, with recommendations on how Phase 2 implementation funds can be best utilized.
2. **A Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)** identifying actions that can be taken in the long-term.
3. **A Status Report** identifying how actions will be measured and tracked.
4. The PCAP, CCAP, and Status Report should include a timeline and budget for all action items.

Considering the comprehensive nature of the CPRG funding, the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA), will serve as the lead organization in the administration, planning and execution of the grant. CIRDA will leverage key stakeholders, including the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as a primary partner, to ensure meaningful collaboration and use of resources within the region.

Why CIRDA?

Comprised of the municipal executives from our Central Indiana communities, CIRDA was established as an integrative regional entity, aimed at aligning the public sector on key initiatives in Central Indiana, to drive economic development. CIRDA's efforts to attract investment in the region are focused on **talent, quality of place, societal risk factors, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure.**

The EPA's CPRG grant, and its deliverables related to a climate strategy reach across several disciplines and societal concerns. The breadth of the grant and its impact on each of the focus areas above, warrant leadership from an organization with a comprehensive and collaborative approach to enhancing the Central Indiana Region.

This grant presents an opportunity to pioneer a vision for the future of the Central Indiana region that brings together all sectors and positions us as a leader in public health and advanced industry.

As a cross-disciplinary grant opportunity, impacting multiple facets of our society and economy, the CPRG funding opportunity should be led by an organization with a capacity for collaboration and a vision for Central Indiana, focused on creating jobs, developing, and attracting a highly skilled workforce, and ensuring the long-term success of Central Indiana. CIRDA is the ideal lead organization to administer this planning grant.

The following vision and outline are a reduced version of the required workplan, which will be submitted to the EPA by May 31st, 2023.

Vision for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant:

While the planning portion of Phase 1 will help in identifying the priority actions for our region, the outline below provides a proposed vision for the CPRG opportunity, based on regional needs.

Ecology-Based Economic Development

The goal of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is to create and implement investment-ready policies, programs, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the near term. Creating a successful plan, that drives and supports economic development in our region, will need to include a variety of stakeholders from **cultural, environmental, and philanthropic institutions**. This includes:

- Education institutions
- Philanthropies
- Corporate partners
- Planning and economic development entities
- Elected officials and key decision makers

CIRDA was created partially in response to Indiana’s READI Grant with the goal of enhancing quality of place, quality of life and wellbeing, environmental health, and sustainability; boosting support for business, entrepreneurship, and innovation activity; training and education initiatives to prepare the workforce for future economic trends; and equitable development projects that ensure Central Indiana is an attractive place where all residents benefit from growing economic opportunity in the coming decades.

Central Indiana is a job center and an economic hub for the state. A regional plan should foster a stronger entrepreneurial ecosystem within the region, generate high-quality and high-wage job opportunities to increase the region’s per capita income, and create vibrant places that attract and retain high caliber talent to the region and to the state. There are growing industries in our region that can support and advance GHG reduction strategies beyond the efforts and strategies we’ve seen to date. This includes continued investment in:

Health Care

Ag-Tech

Life Sciences

Advanced Manufacturing

Logistics

Green Jobs

Regional Open Space Strategy

The White River ROI centered around one of the region’s greatest natural assets, the White River. This grant allows CIRDA to expand these efforts by creating a regional open space strategy that supports investments in protecting, enhancing, and increasing access to the natural environment. A plan should preserve and celebrate the spaces that provide recreation opportunities, tranquility, and connection to nature that make the region special for the people who call it home.



This silo-busting and multi-benefit approach informed the ROSS's Preliminary Comprehensive Strategy.

Image from: Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space

Infrastructure for Economies of the Future

In addition to the prioritization of green infrastructure, the CPRG funding provides an opportunity to contemplate our region's-built infrastructure needs, in response to the increasing investments being made by industry, in both clean energy and EV technology.

Particularly as the auto industry doubles down on EV technology, there must be a regional strategy considering how to start bridging the gap between EV demand and the infrastructure to support it.

As the Crossroads of America and as a major U.S. logistics hub, Central Indiana communities must continue to build on the State of Indiana's strategy for EV infrastructure to serve both consumer and commercial EV technologies to support investment in the region.

The CPRG offers an opportunity for CIRDA and other regional stakeholders to plan for and implement these efforts, within the region's communities, and prepare for the economy of the future.



Strategic EV Charging
Infrastructure Plan (INDOT)



EV Alternative Fuel Corridor Designations, Rounds 1-6 (Source: FHWA) - top

Grant Committee Structure, Interagency Collaboration:

Comprised of the municipal executives from 13 Central Indiana communities, including the City of Indianapolis, CIRDA’s membership base is well equipped to administer meaningful collaboration among local & regional public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders.

In facilitating collaboration, CIRDA will leverage **the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** as a key partner to access relevant data, spearhead community engagement, and lead the way in the transportation related efforts in the PCAP.

The City of Fishers will serve as the fiscal agent, on behalf of CIRDA, to manage grant funds.

The three main components of the proposed grant planning structure include 1) a steering committee, 2) four working groups, and 3) a consultant to supplement both the steering committee and working group efforts. **See supplemental attachment for potential representation on Steering Committee & Working Groups.**

Steering Committee

CIRDA will engage a diverse set of regional public, private and nonprofit stakeholders through an appointed steering committee, which will oversee the execution of the grant and drive intergovernmental and interagency coordination. The Steering committee will be responsible for overseeing the PCAP and CCAP and tracking overall progress of actions through the Status Report.

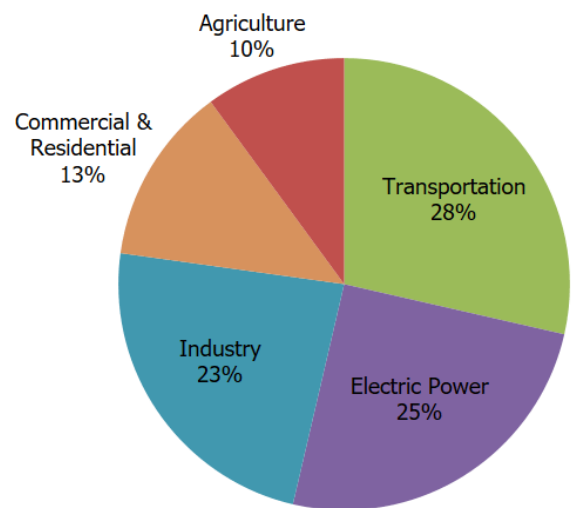
Chaired by representatives from CIRDA and the Indianapolis MPO, the Steering Committee will also consist of academic representatives from Indiana University and Purdue University, representatives from the region’s utility leaders, the Indianapolis International Airport, and relevant State of Indiana agencies.

Working Groups

According to the EPA, the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions by economic **sector are transportation, electric power, industry, commercial & residential, and agriculture.** As an extension of the Steering Committee, four working groups will be established, to address these priority areas.

The working groups will consist of subject matter experts within the region from academic and private sector leaders, in addition to municipal public works, transportation, policy, and planning leaders. Each working group will have one representative identified to track progress, drive meeting deliverables, and coordinate with the selected consultant.

Working groups will be responsible for understanding how the existing ecosystem for their sector functions and identifying strategies to reduce GHG emissions, reduce waste, increase carbon capture through urban forestry and technology advancement, generate high-quality and high-wage job opportunities, and improve overall public and environmental health. Existing climate action plans underway within the region and any applicable regulations that impact the functions and outcomes of these sectors should be analyzed and incorporated into the overall strategic plan.



Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2021¹

Working Group Overview:

WORKING GROUP #1: AGRICULTURE & OPEN SPACE – Protection of natural ecosystems, improvements in food production, and decarbonization of food supply chains.

WORKING GROUP #2: TRANSPORTATION & RECREATION – Development and deployment of zero-emission technology, efficient design of distribution and supply chain networks, and establishment of a regional trail and recreation network for central Indiana.

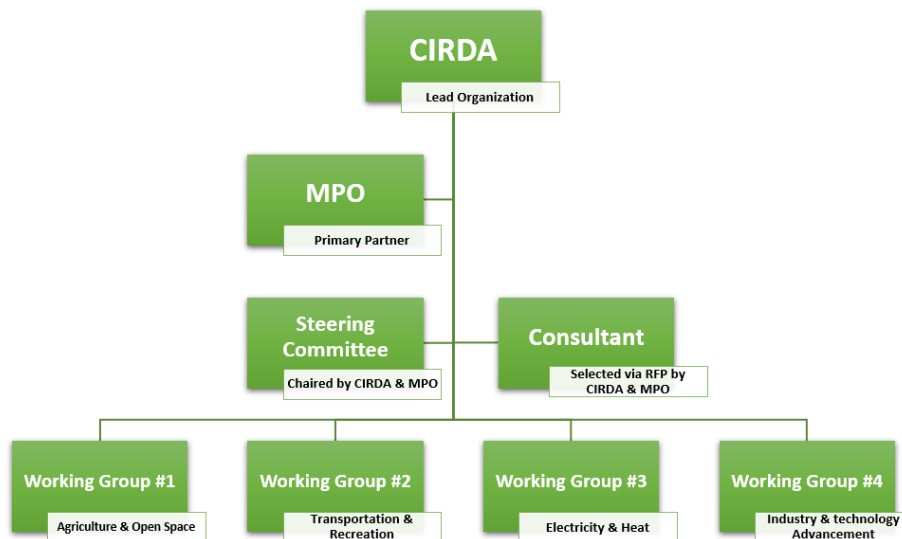
WORKING GROUP #3: ELECTRICITY & HEAT- Diversification of energy grid, investment in renewable energy technologies, and just transition and universal energy access.

WORKING GROUP #4: INDUSTRY & TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT - Advancing zero-carbon technologies, market structures and planning for a just transformation, bridging gap between advancement and applying zero-emission technology and behavioral changes to sustain reductions to reach zero emissions.

Consultant Procurement

CIRDA & the MPO will select a consultant through an RFP process to drive and manage Phase 1 deliverables and the development of the PCAP & the CCAP. The consultant will supplement the work of the Steering Committee and the four working groups.

Committee Structure for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning



In addition to the steering committee and working groups, additional stakeholder and public engagement will be facilitated by CIRDA and the MPO. This will include both virtual and in-person engagement opportunities for community members and focus groups for identified stakeholder groups. Specific engagement strategies will be identified by the consultant.

Timeline and Deliverables:

Considering the depth of the deliverables in Phase One, the life of the grant spans over 4 years and prepares region for Phase 2 opportunities related to implementation. The following section outlines the three deliverables for Phase One, key dates, and tentative timelines for each deliverable. The required workplan will provide additional insight into the strategy surrounding each deliverable.

Key Dates

APRIL 28, 2023: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE & SUPPORT LETTERS

MAY 31, 2023: APPLICATION SUBMISSION & WORKPLAN:

AUGUST 2023: STEERING COMMITTEE KICKOFF

MARCH 2024: KEY DELIVERABLE #1: PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

FALL 2025: KEY DELIVERABLE #2: COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

FALL 2027: KEY DELIVERABLE #3: STATUS REPORT

Key Deliverable #1: Priority Climate Action Plan

The first deliverable will span months 1-8 and is due March 2024. Deliverable #1 sets the groundwork for the additional deliverables and Phase 2 of the CPRG. Deliverable #1 will be where most time and effort are spent in the coming months.

Deliverable #1 (PCAP) Components:

| | |
|--|---|
| Preliminary GHG Inventory + Methods for Quantifying GHG Reduction | In tracking the progress and impact of the PCAP, the region must establish benchmarks related to GHG emissions and select appropriate methods to quantify GHG reduction. The MPO and our region’s academic partners will be leveraged for existing data to quantify such targets. |
| Short Term Multi-Sector Actions | A key component of the first deliverable is the identification of short term (1-5 year) actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), reduce waste, and improve public and environmental health. Guidance and information elicited within the working groups will establish these goals. |
| Benefits Analysis for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities | The PCAP also requires a benefits analysis for Low Income & Disadvantaged Communities as outlined by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These populations will also be a priority area of community engagement for CIRDA & the MPO. |
| Regional Governance & Funding for Implementation of Plan | In successfully implementing the plan and preparing for Phase 2 implementation funding, the Steering Committee will establish regional governance and funding, including an organization strategy to fund and implement actions of the plan, working in all sectors and across jurisdictional boundaries. |
| Public & Stakeholder Engagement Strategy & Execution | The MPO has a robust background and history in public and stakeholder engagement in the Indianapolis MSA, positioning the MPO to lead the public engagement strategy. |

Deliverable #1 Timeline:

| | Interim Deliverables | Months | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | Ongoing Processes and Meetings | | | | | | | | |
| | Develop Quality Assurance Plan | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| | Steering Committee Meetings | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | |
| | Working Groups Meetings | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | |
| | Public & Stakeholder Engagement | | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | | |
| | Quarterly Reports | | | | * | | | * | |
| | Priority Climate Action Plan | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | GHG Inventory/Analysis | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| | GHG Measure Selection | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| | Quantification of GHG and LI-DC Benefits | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Review of Authority | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |
| | Leveraging Funding Opportunities and Workforce Analysis | | | | | | ■ | ■ | |
| | Publish PCAP | | | | | | | | * |

Key Deliverable #2: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

The second deliverable expands upon the PCAP to outline long-term goals for reducing GHG emission. This will be completed months 9-24 and is due Fall 2025. Many of the components in the CCAP reflect that of the PCAP, and therefore are not elaborated upon in this document.

Deliverable #2 (CCAP) Components:

- GHG Inventory
- GHG Emissions Projections
- GHG Reduction Targets
- Quantified GHG Reduction Measures
- Benefits Analysis for the full geographic scope and population covered by the plan
- Low Income/ Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
- Review of Authority to Implement
- Intersection with Other Funding Availability, and
- Workforce Planning Analysis

Deliverable #2 Timeline:

| Interim Deliverables | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Ongoing Processes and Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop Quality Assurance Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steering Committee Meetings | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | |
| Working Group Meetings | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | | | |
| Public & Stakeholder Engagement | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | | | | | |
| Quarterly Reports | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | |
| Comprehensive Climate Action Plan | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| GHG Inventory and Projections | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GHG Target Setting | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GHG Measure Selection and Quantification | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |
| Benefits and LI-DC Benefits Analyses | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |
| Review of Authority and Funding Opportunities | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | |
| Workforce Analysis and Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| Publish CCAP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |

Key Deliverable #3: Status Report

The third deliverable will be completed months 25-48 and is due Fall 2027. CIRDA intends to engage academic leaders through the IU environmental Resilience Institute, the Purdue University Institute for a Sustainable Future, and the IU Public Policy Institute to develop the Status Report with relevant updates to the involved stakeholders. CIRDA, with support from the MPO will manage dissemination of the Status Report to relevant stakeholders.

Deliverable #3 (Status Report) Components:

- Implementation Status of GHG Reduction Measures
- Updated Benefits Analysis for the full geographic scope and population covered by the plan
- Updated Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities Benefits Analysis
- Updated Review of Authority to Implement
- Review of Intersection with Other Funding Availability
- Updated Workforce Planning Analysis, and
- Next Steps/Future Budget/Staffing Needs

Deliverable #3 Timeline:

| Interim Deliverables | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| Ongoing Processes and Meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop Quality Assurance Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steering Committee Meetings | | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | ■ | | |
| Subcommittee Meetings | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | |
| Public & Stakeholder Engagement | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ | |
| Quarterly Reports | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | | * | | |
| Status Report and Ongoing Activities | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Update Emissions Analyses | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Update Workforce Analysis | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Assess Implementation Status | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Develop Next Steps and Status Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Publish Status Report | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * |

Next Steps:

This grant presents an opportunity to pioneer a vision for the future of the Central Indiana region that brings together all sectors and positions us as a leader in public health and advanced industry. As next steps, we will circulate a letter of support with MSA jurisdictions to submit with the NOIP, due April 28th. The application & workplan submission will be built upon the content in this document.

Imperative Next Deliverables:

April 28th, 2023: Notice of Intent to Participate + Letters of Support from CIRDA Members

May 31st, 2023: Application Submission & Workplan Due