



Elected Officials to Protect America

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The Chairman's Newsletter

by John Polimeni

The IRA, Why You Should Care

As you hopefully know by now, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) makes a historic commitment to build a new clean energy economy of approximately \$370 billion, aimed at creating good-paying union jobs and cutting the pollution that is fueling the climate crisis and driving environmental injustice.

IRA incentives have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions significantly by 2035.

One area in particular, which I will highlight in this column, is in building GHG emissions. A report by the EPA estimates that IRA incentives can reduce building emissions 52% - 70% from 2005 levels by 2035. This reduction will be achieved largely through electrification, transitioning from fossil fuel equipment and using renewable energy sources, such as solar, and new energy storage equipment. Furthermore, energy efficiency tactics will also help cut GHG emissions.

So how can you and your community take advantage of the IRA for building emission reductions? One IRA program is the expansion of the existing 179D

tax deduction for energy efficient commercial buildings. (Click [here](#)). This deduction encourages commercial building owners to reduce the energy use intensity (EUI) and invest in green technology. Projects with an EUI 25% greater than the current ASHRAE 90.1 baseline can deduct \$2.50 per square foot (psf), increasing with additional EUI decreases but capped at \$5.00 psf for a 50% EUI improvement. Additionally, the IRA extends the existing Energy Investment Tax credit for up to 30% investment in qualifying renewable energy properties. The IRA now allows developers to claim \$2,500 per unit for homes meeting the ENERGY STAR New Home Requirements and \$5,000 per unit for meeting the US Dept. of Energy's specifications for Zero Energy Ready Homes.

Tax credits also extend to homeowners. The IRA expands current tax credit programs to provide homeowners up to \$1,200 annually with no lifetime limit. For example, homeowners

can receive up to \$2,000 in tax credits for installing a heat pump. An extra benefit for homeowners will be a reduction in utility costs.

Local governments and nonprofits are not left out. The IRA provides block grants to improve environmental conditions in disadvantaged communities. The IRA also offers apprenticeship programs to train people in green technology and related fields.

For more information, click [here](#)



Inside this issue:

The IRA, Why Your Should Care	1
EPA Community Change Grants	2
Bus Fleet Modernization	2
Resource Hub	2
Inside the Inflation Reduction Act	3
IRA Funds Spent	3
EPA New Grant Competitions	3
National Climate Emergency	4



EPA Community Change Grants

\$2 billion in funding is available to support community-driven projects that use clean energy, increase climate resiliency, and lead to communities addressing environmental and climate justice challenges.

The EPA's Community Change Grants are **NOW OPEN** (Click [here](#)) The **deadline** is November 21, 2024. Technical assistance is available and information on getting assistance is available at the link provided above.

The Community Change Grants are the biggest investment in environmental justice going directly to communities in history. 100% of the benefits of this program go to disadvantaged communities that are underinvested in and overburdened by pollution.

There are 5 target investment areas:

- **Tribes in Alaska:** \$150 million for projects benefitting Indian Tribes in Alaska including funds for cleanup of contaminated lands.
- **Tribes:** \$300 million for projects benefitting Tribal communities in the other states.
- **Territories:** \$50 million for projects benefitting disadvantaged communities in the United States' territories of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities:** \$50 million for projects benefitting small and rural areas that lack fixed, legally determined geographic boundaries, such as Colonias.
- **U.S.-Southern Border Communities:** Consistent with EPA's longstanding commitment to addressing transborder pollution challenges, \$100 million for projects benefitting non-Tribal disadvantaged communities within 100 kilometers north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

For more information click [here](#)



Bus Fleet Modernization

The Dept. of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced approximately \$1.5 billion for transit vehicle manufacturing, which includes zero emission buses, building bus facilities, and promoting workforce development. The Low or No-Emission Program helps transit agencies buy or lease zero-emission and low-emission buses, including charging equipment and supporting facilities. The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program supports agencies to purchase and rehab buses and vans and to build bus facilities.

To learn more, click [here](#)



Resource Hub

[Justice40 Covered Programs List](#)

[Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#)

[Inflation Reduction Act Tribal Guidebook](#)

[Direct Pay Through the IRA](#)

[Dept. of Transportation Navigator](#)



Inside the Inflation Reduction Act

Every issue we will highlight a different funding category of the I.R.A. This will enable you and your community to be able to learn more about the various opportunities that exist and prepare projects to apply for. This issue, we will highlight opportunities for funding and tax programs to boost domestic manufacturing or clean energy jobs.

Agency	IRA Section	Tax Code Section	Program Name	Amount
Department of the Treasury, Department of Energy	13501	48C	Advanced Energy Project Credit	\$10,000,000,000
Department of the Treasury	13502	45X	Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit	-
Department of Energy	50144	-	Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing	\$5,000,000,000
Department of Energy	30001	-	Enhanced Use of Defense Production Act	\$250,000,000
Department of Energy	50173	-	Availability of High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU)	\$700,000,000

Information on IRA Funds Spent

Want to know how IRA funds are being spent, go to this [blog](#)

EPA New Grant Competitions

The EPA announced on February 28 a \$3 billion Clean Ports Program to fund zero-emission port equipment and infrastructure.

There are two separate Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). Nearly \$2.8 billion will be for a [Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition](#) to fund zero-emission port equipment and infrastructure to reduce emissions at ports.

Approximately \$150 million is for the [Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition](#) to fund climate and air quality planning activities at ports.

The deadline to apply is May 28.

The EPA also announced \$81 million in funding for eligible air agencies to expand and upgrade air quality monitoring networks. The funding will support the work of eligible state, local, Tribal and territorial air agencies in addressing air pollution, including monitoring near fenceline communities, developing and refining air toxics monitoring methods, and ensuring cleaner air for all.

The EPA also announced \$2 million to support state, local, territorial, and Tribal agencies in the development and operation of air quality sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Find out more at the [EPAs Air Grants and Funding webpage](#)





We Empower Elected Official Leadership For Our Environment, Public Health, And To Fight Climate Change

Our Mission: to create a safe, prosperous healthy planet we empower bold leadership from elected officials and civic leaders to protect our environment, and fight the climate crisis.

Elected Officials to Protect America is a network of current and former bipartisan elected officials who care deeply about protecting our planet and democracy, by working together to transition to a clean energy economy.

EOPA educates and trains lawmakers through value-based storytelling and has national and state-based programs. We work to implement solutions that will help solve the climate crisis, while ensuring environmental justice happens.

National Climate Emergency & Energy Security Task Force

If you are not already a member of the National Climate Emergency & Energy Security Task Force, you can join by registering here:

<https://forms.clickup.com/2311511/f/26haq-30140/ZZ1B2X6A6SY0AGY0JH>

The goal of the taskforce is to guide the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and related funding (CHIPS, Infrastructure Bill, etc) and support communities in putting climate solutions into action.

The time commitment is about 1-2 hours a month and based on how much you wish to be engaged. Involvement in the taskforce will allow you to learn about funding opportunities directly from Federal government departments, be connected to local elected officials to form partnerships to apply for funding and provide your input to the government.



**A Climate
Emergency**

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