

PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FACT SHEET



GREATER HARTFORD
Climate Action Plan

The Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is the first required deliverable of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The PCAP outlines near term carbon reduction measures (ready for implementation in 2025-2030), primarily focusing on measures and initiatives within the purview of local municipalities. PCAP measures must lessen greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution and benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs).

The PCAP is an initial step towards a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and the final planning document, an implementation status report.

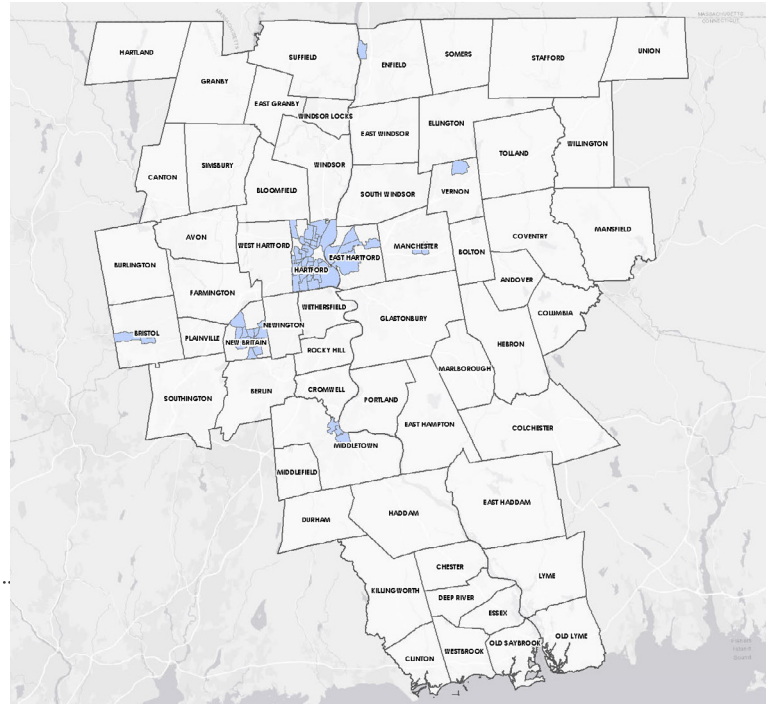


Figure 1: The CPRG study area for the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown MSA includes municipalities in the CRCOG and RiverCOG regions, as well as Bristol, Burlington, Colchester, Hartland and Union. The highlighted census tracts are Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs), as defined by EPA criteria using EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

LEGEND
 Justice40 Community (LIDAC)
 Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown MSA

ABOUT THE CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

The U.S. EPA has developed the CRPG program to provide a pathway for states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop plans to meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other air pollution. The CRPG program provides approximately \$5 billion in funding, as authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act. Of this, \$250 million is allocated towards noncompetitive planning grants and \$4.6 billion is allocated towards competitive implementation grants. In addition to the funds to create the planning documents to guide our region, the EPA plans on awarding up to 115 grants of between \$2 million and \$500 million.

PROJECT TIMELINE

AUGUST 1, 2023

EPA planning grant awarded to CRCOG and RiverCOG

APRIL 1, 2024

Implementation grant application submittal to EPA

2025-2030

Priority measure implementation

MARCH 1, 2024

PCAP submittal to EPA

2025

CCAP submittal to EPA

2027

Status report submittal to EPA



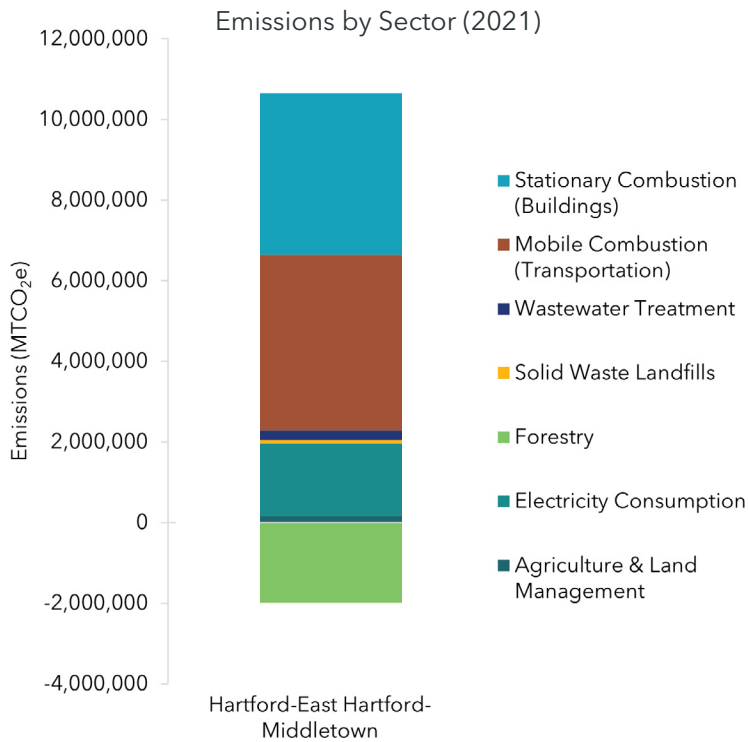


Figure 2: Estimated annual GHG emissions in metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) for the Greater Hartford Region. Data provided by the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

HOW PCAP MEASURES WERE IDENTIFIED

To merit inclusion in the PCAP, proposed measures generally had to meet most of the following criteria:

- Does the measure meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- Is the measure within the existing purview and authority of municipalities, councils of governments or third-party partners?
- Does the measure demonstrably benefit Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities?
- Is the measure supported by municipal leadership and staff?
- Is the measure implementation-ready in the short-term?

Many worthwhile projects and initiatives may not be the best fit for the PCAP and can be considered for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

Sector



ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Priority Measure

- E1** Install renewable energy (solar and battery) on residences owned by municipal housing authorities and municipality-owned affordable housing
- E2** Install solar panels, add battery storage and develop microgrids on buildings and properties owned by municipalities (e.g. schools, town halls, parking lots)



TRANSPORTATION

- T1** Convert light duty municipal fleets to electric vehicles (EV)/hybrids, install municipal charging infrastructure, and switch municipal gas-powered equipment, such as leaf blowers, to electric
- T2** Install public EV charging infrastructure and fund maintenance of EV charging infrastructure
- T3** Encourage municipality-owned and privately-owned school buses switch to 20 percent biodiesel (B20) as an interim measure with a long-term focus on converting light duty municipal fleets to electric vehicles (EV)/hybrids
- T4** Pursue recommended improvements for at least one of the six transit corridors highlighted in *Metro Hartford RapidRoutes Transit Priority Corridors Study*
- T5** Develop and implement roundabout projects across the region, with a focus on LIDACs
- T6** Encourage mode shift across the region with complete streets projects that make it safer and easier to bike and walk for all users



AGRICULTURAL/ NATURAL & WORKING LANDS

- N1** Increase urban tree canopy in municipalities across the region



WASTE & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- W1** Establish and expand residential and academic food waste diversion programs and examine ways to increase utilization of anaerobic digestion



COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- B1** Expand the region's commercial and residential energy audit programs and provide support for implementation
- B2** Undertake energy efficiency upgrades to municipal buildings

If you have questions about this PCAP or suggestions for the upcoming CCAP and status report, contact Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner at kshiel@crcog.org.