

## **Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** CRCOG Policy Board

**From:** Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

**CC:** Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

**Meeting Date:** March 27, 2024

**Subject:** Resolution In Support of CRCOG/Green Bank Application for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Funding

**Background:** As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG), \$4.3 billion in competitive funding is available for states and local governments to reduce climate pollution across multiple sectors. The program objectives are to:

- 1) Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2030 and beyond;
- 2) Achieve substantial community benefits, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
- 3) Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits;
- 4) Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and scalable across multiple jurisdictions.

CRCOG is the lead applicant for a coalition application partnering with several other councils of government (CT MetroCOG, Naugatuck Valley COG, Northwest Hills COG, RiverCOG, South Central Regional COG, and WestCOG) and the Connecticut Green Bank. The implementation proposal intends to accelerate the deployment of solar energy and battery storage on municipally owned affordable housing and housing authority properties in Connecticut. The proposal is intended to build on the Green Bank's existing programmatic framework, staff expertise and extensive experience in developing clean energy projects throughout the state.

Working with the Connecticut Green Bank as the primary proposed subrecipient, CRCOG and its coalition members would partner with public housing authorities and municipalities that own affordable housing to prioritize installation of solar panels on residential properties in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) throughout the state. The measure would facilitate the installation of solar infrastructure on these properties across the COG regions, with a goal of at least one project within each region and a total of an estimated 40 projects. The U.S. EPA funding would enable the installation of roof mounted or ground mounted (e.g., carport canopies) solar systems, as well as battery storage. Funding from this grant would be

used to finance solar installations and battery storage, as well as address any immediate barriers to solar installation (such as roof replacement). In addition, funding is requested for related energy assessments.

The application is requesting \$16.7 million in implementation funding, which based on their previous project scopes Green Bank believes could help deploy 40 solar installation projects, 2 battery installations and 10 energy audit reports over the five-year performance period. Each project has an estimated construction project cap of \$316,800, developed to maximize grant fund awards across multiple municipalities and regions.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** If awarded, the implementation funds will help deploy solar energy on housing authority properties and municipally owned affordable housing properties at no cost to member towns.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** CPRG-related activities are conducted at no cost to member towns. The proposed budget for the implementation grant includes CRCOG staff time for grant administration and reporting requirements.

**Project Schedule:** The Implementation application must be submitted to EPA by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. EPA expects to announce award notifications in July and award funds by October. The entire period of performance for implementation is five years.

**Recommendation:** CRCOG staff recommends the Policy Board approve the attached resolution endorsing the coalition application for CPRG Implementation funding.

**Attachments:**

- Resolution

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CRCOG/GREEN BANK APPLICATION FOR  
CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT IMPLEMENTATION  
FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 appropriated \$5 billion to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG), to be administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

**WHEREAS**, on September 20, 2023, EPA launched a \$4.3 billion competition for states, local governments, tribes, and territories to fund policies and programs to cut climate pollution, building on \$250 million in CPRG planning funds awarded in August 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in its capacity as the lead agency for CPRG planning within the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown MSA, is an eligible applicant to apply for CPRG implementation funding; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG in partnership with the Connecticut Green Bank, Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Northwest Hills Council of Governments, South Central Regional Council of Governments and Western Connecticut Council of Governments have developed a coalition application to apply for up to \$17 million in CPRG implementation funding; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, the CPRG funding would build on and supplement Connecticut Green Bank’s existing programmatic framework to further accelerate the deployment of solar energy and battery storage on municipally owned affordable housing and housing authority properties in Connecticut;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the application for CPRG Implementation funding.

**CERTIFICATE**

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the CRCOG Policy Board, at its meeting on March 27, 2024.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Bowsza, Secretary

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_