



# Best Practices for Strong RISE PA Applications: Cement & Concrete

January 9, 2025 | 11:00 AM EST



# Agenda

- **Overview**
- **RISE PA Application Details**
- **Cement & Concrete Projects and Best Practices**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Q&A**



**Moderator**

**Ben Skinner, RMI**

**Manager | Cement & Concrete**



RMI is an independent, non-partisan, nonprofit organization of experts accelerating the clean energy transition. We are transforming the global energy system to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all.

ACCELERATING  
THE ENERGY  
TRANSITION FOR

**40+**  
YEARS

**700+**  
PEOPLE  
STRONG—AND  
GROWING

PROJECT  
PORTFOLIO  
ACROSS  
**61**  
COUNTRIES

**100s**  
OF GLOBAL  
PARTNERS

## Cement and Concrete Initiative

RMI, with partners, works to activate **policy, regulation, demand signals, and innovation** needed to radically disrupt the pace of the transition of the cement and concrete sector.



**Lindsay Byron, P.G, DEP**

**Environmental Group Manager**



**Monet Kunz, RMI**

**Associate | Cement & Concrete**



**Hadia Sheerazi, RMI**

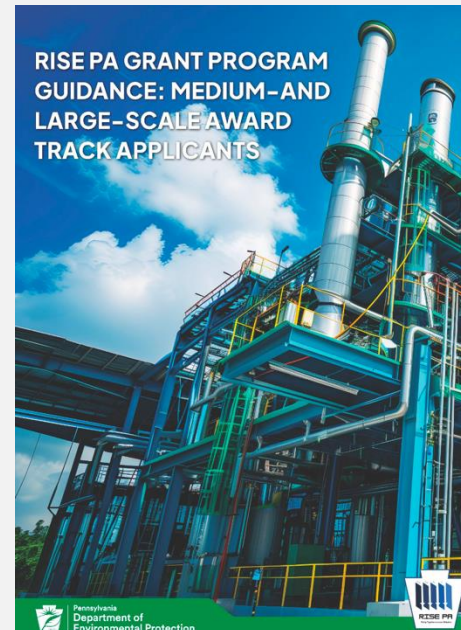
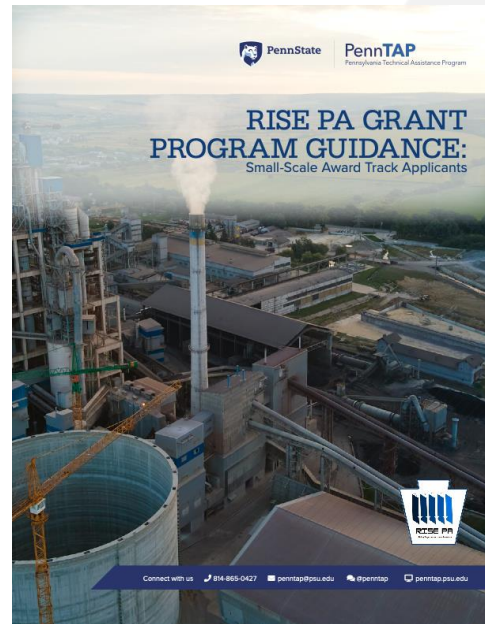
**Manager | Community Engagement**



# Disclaimer

The content presented in this webinar is for informational purposes only. For official and up-to-date information, please refer to the RISE PA Program Guidance and official websites.

Small Award Track  
Program Guidance



Medium & Large  
Award Track  
Program Guidance

## The time is now.



**Critical Funding Opportunity**



**Policy Momentum**

- Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Leadership Act (LECCLA-PA)



**Pro Bono RMI Support**

	Small	Medium	Large
<b>Base Award</b>	~\$25k - \$500k	~\$300k - \$20M	~\$20M - \$110M
<b>Application</b>	PennTAP	DEP	
<b>Requirements</b>	<500 employees at plant site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% minimum GHG emission reduction.</li> <li>• Submit MMV* protocol for approval.</li> </ul>	
<b>Applicant Cost Share</b>	30* - 50%	40* - 70%	
<b>Award Duration</b>	Mid 2025 – April 1, 2029		





# Lindsay Byron, P.G

*Environmental Group Manager*

PA Department of Environmental Protection



# Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania - RISE PA -

JOSH SHAPIRO, GOVERNOR | JESSICA SHIRLEY, ACTING SECRETARY

RMI – Energy. Transformed.



Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Environmental Protection





# Application Requirements



## Primary Application

- Selected Award Track
- Total project cost
- Estimated GHG emissions reduced
- Type of industrial facility
- Project activity location
- Emissions reduction technology description

## Primary Application

- Project timeline
- Community benefits
- Workforce and job quality
- Co-pollutant emissions reductions
- Staff expertise/qualifications
- Conflicts of interest



# Additional Elements



- Supplemental Application: Project scope, MMV, project team, permitting, project benefits/impacts, project innovation/transformational impact, stakeholder engagement
- Project-specific Questions: Eligible project types
- Technical Appendix: GHG emissions reductions calculations
- Budget Information: Detailed budget, budget narrative, financial commitment letters
- Property Owner Consent Form: Approval for proposed project implementation

Testing this



Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Environmental Protection

# Evaluation Criteria



Criteria	
<b>Project Factors</b>	Over-all project approach
	Commercial viability
	Financial viability
	Technical feasibility
	Impact of GHG reduction measures
	Project innovation/innovative impact
	Environmental and community outputs, outcomes, and performance measures
	Benefits to Low-income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs)
	Workforce and job quality
	Project capabilities
<b>Quality Factors</b>	Sufficiency of technical detail
	Level of understanding of the key anticipated risks (e.g. technical, financial, market, environmental, regulatory)
	Clarity and appropriateness of the roles and responsibilities of the project management
	The qualifications, relevant expertise, and time commitment of individuals on the team
	The level of clarity in the identification and definition of baseline metrics and project milestones
	Extent to which the project would contribute to meeting the objectives that 40% of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities



# Program Policy Factors



- Geographic diversity
- Industry/subsector diversity
- Technology type diversity
- Applicant type diversity
- Innovative technologies
- Amount of funding/number of awards
- Availability of alternative funding
- Enhances manufacturing competitiveness
- Optimizes funding
- Exhibits technical, financial, or organizational risk
- Exhibits financial/business viability
- Strong history of performance
- Job creation
- Number of CWTP Trainees
- Pursues Bonus Awards
- Replicability

# Key Considerations

- MAT/LAT applications submitted through [Electronic Single Application](#) system
- SAT applications submitted through PennTAP
- Trade Secret/Confidential Proprietary Information Notice
- Activities must occur in PA
- Activities subject to federal pass down requirements
- Eligible costs can be reimbursed after **October 1, 2024**
- Awards made through competitive selection
  - MAT/LAT – Two 6-month funding opportunities per year
  - SAT – Three 4-month funding opportunities per year

# Period of Performance

- SAT: 12 months from date of award
- MAT/LAT: 6-24 months from date of award
- May provide up to 3 years for complex projects
- All projects must be completed by **April 1, 2029**
- Project costs incurred before grant agreement is fully executed may not be reimbursed



# Funding Type

- **Reimbursement** grant program
  - Up to **90%** of base grant award available as project costs are incurred
  - Remaining 10% awarded upon completion of post project measurement and verification
- Bonus awards withheld until project completion

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# Eligible Projects



## Project Types

- Energy efficiency
- Electrification
- Process emissions reduction
- Low-carbon fuels
- On-site renewable energy
- Carbon capture utilization and storage
- Fugitive emissions reductions
- Other technology





# Ineligible Projects



- Projects that received Advanced Energy Project Credit allocation under 48C
- Projects required for compliance with local, state, or federal law
  - Includes projects to aid regulated entities in complying with EPA regulations
  - Applicant must demonstrate all benefits are in excess of requirements
- Projects to plug abandoned or orphaned wells



# Eligible Expenditures



- Labor and capital costs: Materials, equipment, delivery, software, construction, installation, retrofitting, tools, and contractual work
- Travel costs: If integral to project
- Measuring, monitoring, and verification: Up to 1% of total project cost or \$70,000



# Expenditure Restrictions



- 1) Land acquisition, permits, or landscaping;
- 2) Advertising or business start up costs;
- 3) Indirect costs (i.e., general administrative and overhead, contingency funds, etc.);
- 4) Construction costs unrelated to the project;
- 5) Plant or facility closure costs;
- 6) Travel not integral to the purpose of the proposed project, lodging, subsistence, or conference or meeting expenses including catering, conference equipment and room rental;
- 7) Legal fees or fees associated with securing financing;
- 8) Supplies or equipment under \$1,000;
- 9) Costs incurred prior to October 1, 2024.



# Cost Share



- Includes cash or in-kind contributions
- Can include other secured federal or state funding
- Reasonable costs associated with planning, development, and design of project and bonus awards

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# Thank You



**Lindsay Byron**  
**DEP Energy Programs Office**

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**For questions or comments, email [RA-EP-CPRG@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EP-CPRG@pa.gov)**

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).



# Monet Kunz

*RMI Associate – Cement & Concrete*

Climate-Aligned Industries





# Cement & Concrete Overview

- **Project Ideas by Award Track**
- **Best Practices**
  - **Project Selection**
  - **Business Components**
  - **Technical Review**
- **Case Study: High Impact Projects**

# Small Award Track Project Ideas

## Raw Materials & Transportation



Partial or Full conversion to electric or CNG fleet

Better grading of aggregates

## Clinker & Cement Production



Conversion to low-carbon alternative fuels

Storage silos for low-carbon SCMs or aggregates

Energy efficiency / Electrification upgrades

## Ready-Mix Operations



Concrete mix design optimization

Total Project Cost:

**\$50k-\$1M**

Small Award Track applications are **not required** to meet the 20% GHG emission reduction threshold, but competitive applications are likely to significantly reduce GHG emissions.

SMALL

MEDIUM

LARGE

*Note: Applicants qualifying for the Small Award Track may also apply for the Medium or Large Award Tracks if they meet all requirements, including emission reduction thresholds, and may qualify for relevant bonuses.*





# Medium Award Track Project Ideas

## Raw Materials & Transportation



Partial or Full conversion to electric or CNG fleet

Better grading of aggregates

## Clinker & Cement Production



Conversion to low-carbon alternative fuels

Storage silos for low-carbon SCMs or aggregates

Energy efficiency / Electrification upgrades

Kiln efficiency upgrades

Waste heat recovery

## Ready-Mix Operations



Concrete mix design optimization

Total Project Cost:

**\$1M - \$67M**

Medium Award Track applications must reduce **all Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions** within the **applicant-defined boundary** by 20% or more.

**SMALL**

**MEDIUM**

**LARGE**

# Large Award Track Project Ideas

## Raw Materials & Transportation



Partial or Full conversion to electric or CNG fleet

Better grading of aggregates

## Clinker & Cement Production



Conversion to low-carbon alternative fuels

Storage silos for low-carbon SCMs or aggregates

Energy efficiency / Electrification upgrades

Kiln efficiency upgrades

Waste heat recovery

Kiln retrofit for clay calcination

Carbon capture, utilization, and storage

Onsite renewable energy generation

## Ready-Mix Operations



Concrete mix design optimization

Total Project Cost:

**\$67M - \$367M**

Large Award Track applications must reduce **all Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions** within the **applicant-defined boundary** by 20% or more.

**SMALL**

**MEDIUM**

**LARGE**

## Target Significant Impact

- Aim for at least a **40% GHG emissions reduction**, with 20% as the minimum threshold.
- **Stack projects** with strong GHG emission and co-pollutant reduction.

## Prioritize Commercial Feasibility

- Select projects with strong capital and operational feasibility, ensuring they are sustainable beyond 2029.
- Consider **FOAK solutions** with potential to transform the market.



Project Stacking



Innovation Impact



Timeline: April 2029

## Prove Financial Stability

- Align project goals with RISE PA's objectives to justify the funding by demonstrating the optimized **abatement cost**.
  - \$/ton CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Be **transparent** about **all** funding sources.
- Showcase **past successes** with similar funding.

## Ensure Project Compliance

- Define clear **metrics, milestones, and performance measures**.
- Address **key project risks** and mitigation strategies.
- Highlight **workforce development**.
  - Apprentices must perform **15%** of labor hours.



Signed Consent



Financial Commitment



Prevailing Wage

# Technical Component Best Practices

Project Type	Calculation Tools
Electrification	<a href="#">ORNL Electrification Impact Calculator</a>
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">ORNL MEASUR</a>
Process Emissions Fugitive Emissions Waste Reductions	<a href="#">EPA GHG Emissions Calculator</a>
Fuel Switching	<a href="#">ORNL Carbon Emissions Calculator</a>



Key Risks/Assumptions



3-years of data



Pre/Post Calculation  
Method Consistency

Applicant must **define the boundaries** of the Industrial facility and account for all Scope 1 and 2 emissions within the identified boundary.

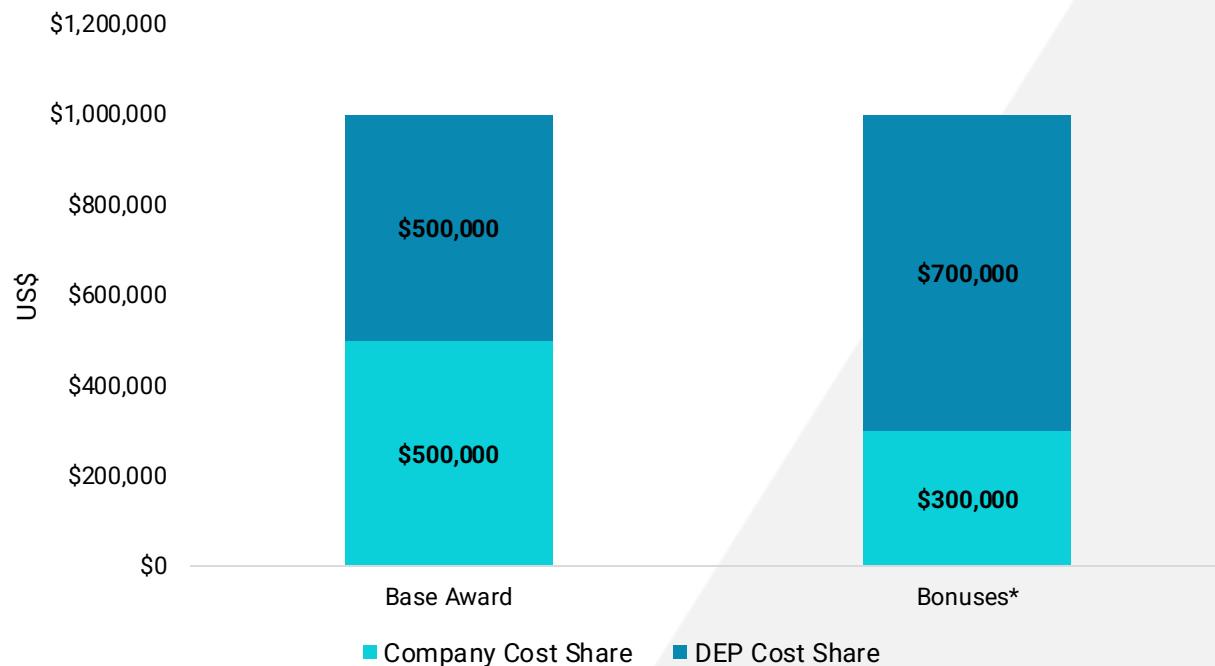


SMALL

MEDIUM

# Converting ready-mix heavy-duty vehicle (HDV) fleet to CNG is a strong candidate for small projects that can reduce costs and emissions

Cost Share for Converting Fleet from Diesel to CNG

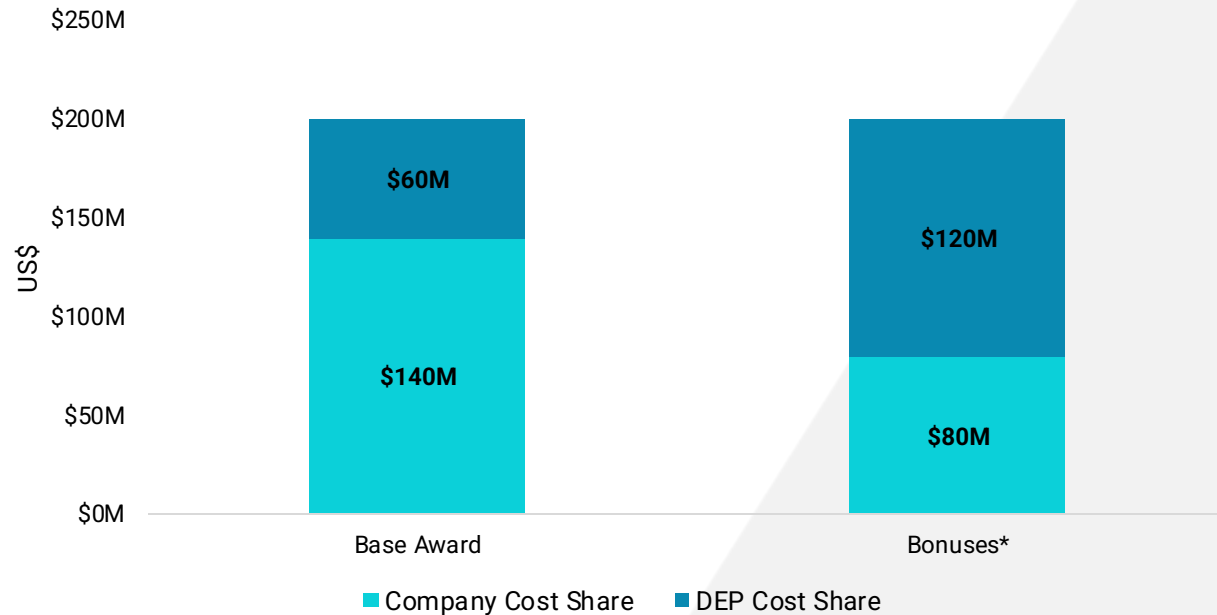


Total Project Costs (Est.): \$1M<sup>1</sup>

Converting a HDVs to CNG can reduce GHG emissions up to 20% and fuel costs up to 50% when compared with diesel HDVs. CNG engines also emit significantly less harmful air pollutants such as NOX.<sup>2</sup>

# LC3 is a strong project candidate for RISE PA due to the project costs, emissions reduction potential, and regional factors

Cost Share for Converting Clinker Kiln to Calcined Clay Production



Total Project Costs (Est.): \$200M<sup>1</sup>

LC3 enables achieving the maximum GHG emissions bonus while maintaining cement production levels.<sup>2</sup>

1: Assumes \$200M cost for calcined clay retrofit (DOE Liftoff Report)

2: See Appendix

\* Assumes Community Benefits Bonus, Fair Labor Bonus, and maximum GHG Emissions Bonus



# Hadia Sheerazi

*RMI Manager – Community Engagement*

Climate-Aligned Industries







**BONUS AWARDS**



# Community Benefits Bonus (CBB) Overview

- **Bonus awards + application requirements**
  - > *Low-income Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC)*
- **Section 1: Meaningful Community Involvement**
  - > *Evaluation Criteria*
- **Section 2: Increased Quality of Life, Community Health, and Environmental Benefits**
- **Section 3: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)**
  - > *Evaluation Criteria*
- **Section 4: Justice40 Initiative**
  - > *Evaluation Criteria*
- **Acronyms**
- **Additional resources and toolkits**

# Community Benefits Bonus

Applicants across **all Award Tracks** will be eligible to receive the Community Benefits Bonus (CBB)\* if they:

- (1) propose a **project located in or benefitting a LIDAC** (Low Income & Disadvantaged Communities); and
- (2) submit an **approved Community Benefits Plan (CBP)**

**10%**  
of the TPC  
(Total Project Cost)

*Table 2: Example BGA, CBB, FLB, and GERB Award Allocations*

Award Track	Example Total Project Cost (TPC)	Base Grant Award (BGA) Amount	Potential Bonus Award Size			
			Community Benefits Bonus (CBB) Award Size	Fair Labor Bonus (FLB) Award Size	Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Bonus (GERB) Award Size	Total Adjusted Award Size (CBB + FLB+GERB)
SAT	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	Ineligible	\$140,000
MAT	\$15,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
LAT	\$150,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$90,000,000

Source: pg. 3, RISE PA Grant Program Guidance: Medium- Large-Scale Award Track Applicants; pg. 2 RISE PA Grant Program Guidance: Small-Scale Award Track Applicants

# Community Benefits Bonus

A **Community Benefits Plan (CBP)** must be submitted and set forth the Applicant’s approach to ensuring that investments of the RISE PA program **advance four goals**:

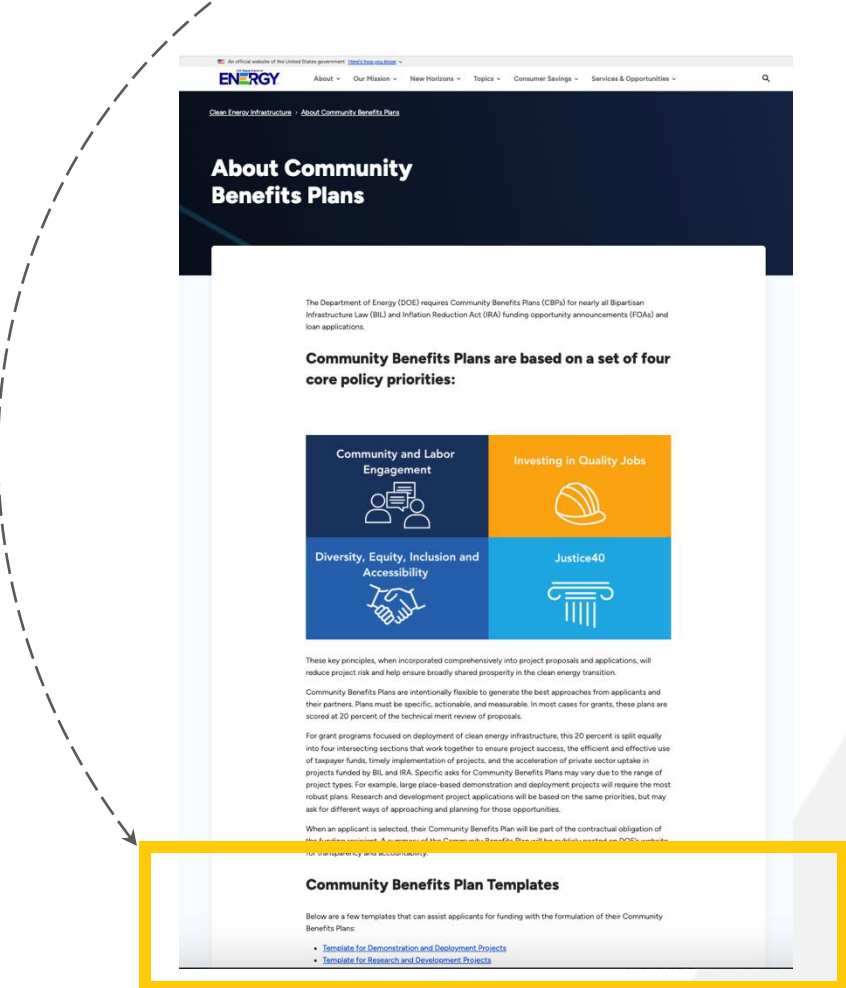
**10%**  
of the TPC  
(Total Project Cost)

- 1) *Meaningful community involvement*;
- 2) *Increased quality of life and environment*, including improved environmental, community health, and economic benefits for Pennsylvania residents and communities;
- 3) *Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility* in Pennsylvania (PA) communities and with PA-based stakeholder groups;
- 4) *Contributing to the Justice40 Initiative*.

*The bonus awards will be withheld until DEP verifies that the applicant has satisfied the requirements. DEP reserves the right to award a lower amount for all bonus awards if an applicant does not pursue the full Base Grant Award (BGA) amount.*

# TEMPLATE | Community Benefits Plan (CBP)

A CBP template from U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) is available at: [About Community Benefits Plans](#):



**Key factors** contributing to strong community benefits, include the following:

- 1) Community interests are **well-represented by diverse coalition members**.
- 2) Community Benefits Plans (CBPs) and Agreements (CBAs) are **transparent, inclusive, and accessible**.
- 3) Coalition members have a structure that allows for **meaningful involvement and engagement**, as relevant, throughout the life of the project.
- 4) Concrete and **measurable benefits that are meaningful and impactful and deliver** what the community or impacted groups need and want for themselves.

Source: U.S. Dept of Energy, About Community Benefit Plans. <https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans>

All applications will require the following basic information:

## Primary Grant Application

(9) A **description** of community outputs and the benefit to LIDACs:

- **any measurable** community benefits expected;
- expected **economic benefits and avoided disbenefits**;
- extent of **meaningful** community engagement;
- specific, **high-quality actions** to support LIDACs;
- an estimate of the **proportion of total benefits occurring in each** identified community.

(11) A description of the **expected impact on co-pollutant emissions**, including **general changes and changes in LIDACs**.

### EXAMPLE PRIORITY BENEFITS

- **reductions** in co-pollutants
- creation of **high-quality jobs** + workforce dev. opps
- increased **public awareness**
- increased community **capacity building**
- improved **access to services** + amenities
- decreased **energy costs**
- improved **energy security**
- reduced **noise pollution**

*All applications will require the following basic information:*

# Metrics for EPA Reporting

- (1) Project **description**;
- (2) Description of how the project will **enhance job quality**;
- (3) Expected **impact on co-pollutant emissions**;
- (4) Description of **community engagement**;
- (5) Quantify **benefits to LIDACs**; and
- (6) Estimate the **proportion of total benefits** in identified LIDACs.

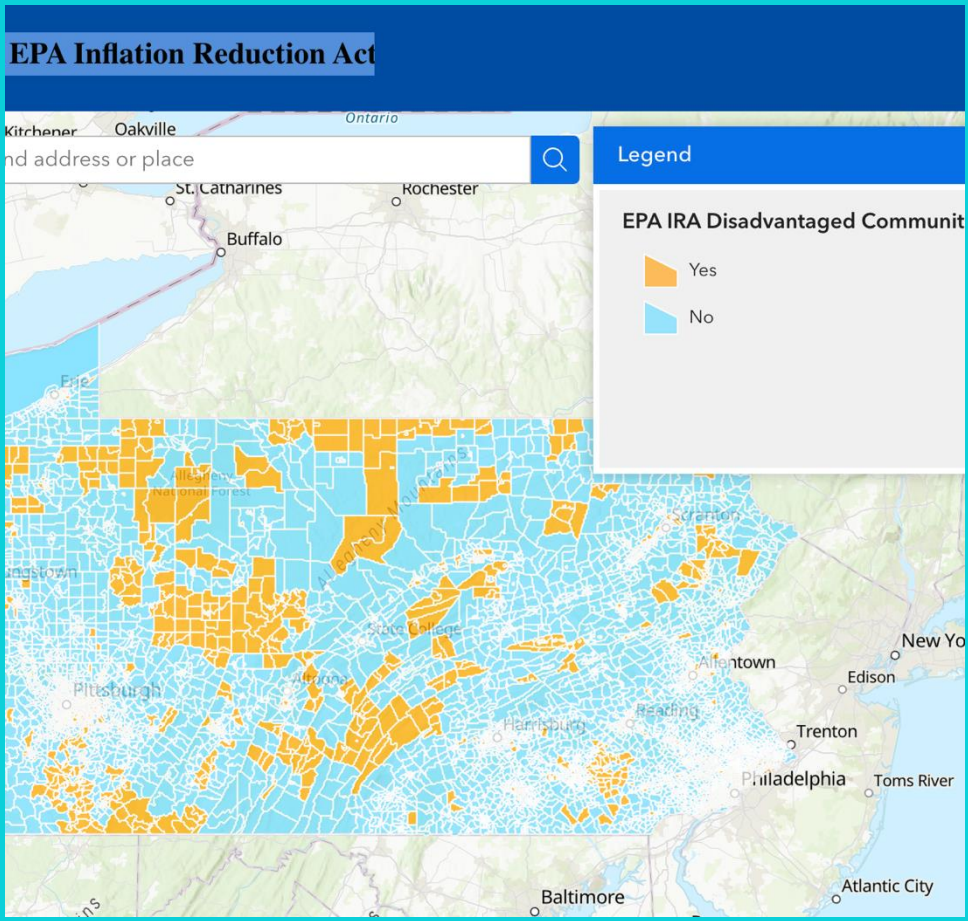
**Benefits to LIDACS should be reported by census tract**

### SECTION 1: MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- ❑ **describe the Applicant's actions to date**, and future plans to engage with, and directly involve, community partners and impacted groups in decisions, and both the positive and potentially burdensome outcomes of the project.
- ❑ **define a Community Beneficiary** for the purposes of the RISE PA Program: at least 40% of the benefits of the project should accrue to low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC)
- ❑ **ensure that intended Community Beneficiaries from LIDACs inform the development** of the CBP through meaningful engagement opportunities, both deliberative and participatory methods, at each scale.
- ❑ **letters of support:** All CBPs must, at a minimum, provide letters of support from intended Community Beneficiaries. The number of letters of support should align with the scope, complexity, cost, and sensitivities of the applicant's project.
- ❑ **at least one legally binding CBA:** Large-scale Award Track projects must additionally include a commitment to develop **at least 1** legally binding Comm. Benefit Agreement (CBA), signed by a non-profit entity or CBO, or municipality (and subdivisions) which can document community support for the project through transparent, equitable, and democratic public processes.

# Low Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC)

## Defining and identifying LIDACs in Pennsylvania via geospatial tools:



**EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map** combines multiple datasets that individually can be used to determine whether a community is disadvantaged. [LINK](#)

A **LIDAC** includes the following:

- ✓ **any census tract** that is included as disadvantaged in EPA’s **Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)**;
- ✓ **any census block group** at or above the 90th percentile for any of the **EPA’s EJScreen** tool Supplemental Indexes when compared to the nation or state; and/or
- ✓ **any geographic area within Tribal lands**, as included in EJScreen tool:
  - Alaska Native Allotments
  - Alaska Native Villages
  - American Indian Reservations
  - American Indian Off-reservation Trust Lands
  - Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas

Source; p. 24; EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities map



# Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

27,200+ census tracts in the United States are “disadvantaged” per data from the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Tool (CJEST)

As set forth in **Executive Order (EO) 14008** on **Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad** (Sec 219):

Disadvantaged communities (DACs) are those that are **historically marginalized, and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment** in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.

# SNAPSHOT: DACs in Pennsylvania

Data from the White House CEQ's (Council on Environmental Quality) Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Explore the map Methodology & data About Contact

**Explore the map** Share data sources with CEQ

Census tracts that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are considered disadvantaged communities, whether or not they have land.

Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

**Get the data**  
Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.

**How to use the map:**  
Zoom in +, search 🔍, or locate yourself 📍 and select to see information about any census tract.

**Things to know:**  
The tool uses census tracts 🗺️. Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations 🧑 of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.  
Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted 🟡 on the map.  
The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles 📊. Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.  
Thresholds 📏, or cutoffs, are used to determine if

# 932

census tracts in Pennsylvania are disadvantaged

# 98.5%

counties in Pennsylvania have disadvantaged tracts

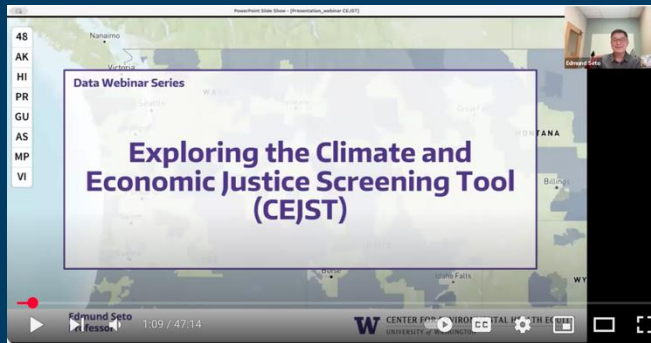
# 3,226,668

individuals live in disadvantaged tracts in Pennsylvania


# ➤ PRO TIP | Using digital geospatial tools

Training webinars on the CJEST, EJScreen Tool, and Community Benefit Plans (CBP):

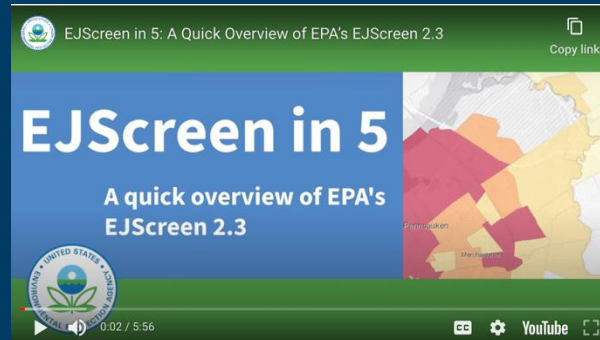
## 1 Exploring the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)



A training webinar by the University of Washington Center for Environmental Health Equity on the [White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#).


 **YouTube** LINK

## 2 EJScreen in 5: A Quick Overview



The EJScreen User Guide provides an introduction to the tool and walks users through how to start using EJScreen.


Detailed guidance can be found here: [User Guide for EJScreen \(pdf\)](#)

 **YouTube** LINK

## 3 DOE Community Benefits Plans: From Concept to Implementation



Webinar on the keys to successful implementation of Community Benefits Plans (CBP) for all BIL and IRA FOAs and loan applications to help reduce risks of opposition and delays, while maximizing benefits and long-term success.

 **YouTube** LINK

# ➤ PRO TIP | Examples of stakeholders + engagements

## STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

<b>local residents</b> (low-income, underserved, overburdened, DACs, surrounding frontline/fence-line communities <u>directly or indirectly impacted</u> )
<b>Tribal entities*</b> (fed. recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska native village or regional or village corporations)
<b>local businesses + industry</b>
<b>emergency responders</b>
<b>economic and workforce dev. organizations</b>
<b>federal, state and local govts</b>
<b>CBOs + faith-based organizations</b>
<b>higher ed institutions</b>
<b>environmental groups &amp; NGOs</b>

<b>conservation districts</b>
<b>unions</b> (construction, manufacturing, production, transportation)
<b>unions</b> (construction, manufacturing, production, transportation)
<b>State and Local Workforce Development Boards</b>
<b>American Job Centers (AJCs)</b>
<b>Pre-Apprenticeship Programs</b>
<b>Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs)</b>

## TWO-WAY ENGAGEMENTS

- citizen panels**
- town hall meetings**
- open houses**
- informal (targeted) chats**
- focus groups**
- one-on-one meetings**
- facilitated discussions**
- virtual workshops**

# ➤ PRO TIP | Letters of Support

❑ All CBPs **must, at a minimum, provide letters of support from intended Community Beneficiaries.**

❑ The number of letters of support should **align with the scope, complexity, cost, and sensitivities of the applicant’s project.**

**BEST PRACTICES FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

While Letters of Support (LOS) are not a required component or upload in NFWF’s Easygrants system for the pre or full proposal, they are a great opportunity to demonstrate commitment from significant partners, full project impact beyond NFWF funding, and communicate project importance to reviewers. This document is intended to be a resource for building a strong and organized set of letters of support. If submitting multiple proposals, please indicate priorities if any. To ensure timely inclusion with a proposal package, *letters of support should not be mailed directly to NFWF.*

**WHO SHOULD PROVIDE LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

- Any organization providing in-kind or cash match contributions towards the match amount listed in the proposal
- Significant project partners
- Landowners or site managers if project location has been decided and implementation will occur on a site that the applicant does not own
- Community-level partners (municipalities, NGOs, community organizations, community leaders)
- Local, state or federal government agencies if involved in project design review or other participation

**WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A LETTER OF SUPPORT**

All letters of support should include the Easygrants five-digit proposal number, the project title, and the name of the applicant organization. Letters should be written on the letterhead of the organization providing the LOS.

For LOS indicating matching contributions, the following should be included:

- Amount to be contributed
- Type of contribution (in-kind/cash)
  - If in-kind, an indication of how the in-kind amount was decided or calculated
  - If based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will the contribution amount still be provided?
- When the contribution will be made
- Confirmation that the contribution has not been used to meet any other federal program match or cost share requirements

For LOS indicating significant partnership, commitment of location for implementation, agency involvement, etc. a variety of the following can be included:

- Integral connection between organization writing letter and the project goals and objectives
- Interest or commitment to implementation on land
- Additional benefits that the project will provide to organization’s mission
- Commitment to maintenance after project end date if applicable

**HOW TO BEST ORGANIZE AND UPLOAD LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**SEND PARTNERS A TEMPLATE.** One sure-fire way to ensure that all the information you need is included in a letter of support is to send a template with your request for the letter. Make sure to give partners a deadline, with some time built in for you to organize and upload the letters, of when you’ll need the final copy.

**COVER PAGE.** Once all letters of support have been collected, a cover page listing all letters of support being submitted should be compiled. The cover page can be organized how you please, but the list should be in order of the letters of support to follow. Groupings/categorizing by partner role (match contribution letter, monitoring partners, partners who are part of formal collaborative, etc.) are encouraged. A sample of a cover page for letters of support be found in the examples section.

**ONE DOCUMENT.** Using Adobe Acrobat or another PDF-merging tool, combine the cover page and all letters of support into one, single PDF document. This way, you will only need to upload one document as “Letters of Support” into Easygrants under the Uploads page.

# ➤ PRO TIP | Community Benefit Agreement Milestones

Examples of activities, inclusive, two-way engagement and implementation strategies that could lead to a CBA over time



2 summary of the CBP



**publish** on your company's website:

1 findings from comm. engagement & research



3 intent to pursue a



5 consult community + labor partners on outreach to traditionally excluded stakeholders

**gather** more feedback on project and proposed CBP



4



conduct ≥ 200 digital, phone & in-person surveys in local languages



**identify** priorities & **address** concerns

6



analyze + summarize feedback for all audiences

brainstorm project design (or changes) based on concerns + community feedback



7



**identify** groups + individuals to represent community + labor for CBA negotiations

9



weekly calls w/ CBOs, comm. Leaders, workforce orgs & local officials;

identify ≥ 2 individuals or groups specializing in health, housing, jobs, or workforce development



10 e.g. hire a 3rd party expert in facilitating community and labor agreements

**obtain** necessary **resources** to support CBA negotiation + implementation



**publicize** plans to **negotiate the CBA w/ comm. & labor groups**

11

engage all stakeholders in the process -(additional public comment, education + training on CBAs, discuss timelines, intros to relevant staff and 3rd parties)



## ➤ PRO TIP | Tribal and Indigenous Nations

*Some best practices for requesting consultations from Tribal and Indigenous nations' leadership*

- ✓ Tribes must be **engaged early and often** in the development of all activities that *may* affect them;
- ✓ primary method of engagement = **consultation** (with tribal chairpersons and/or councils);
- ✓ be mindful to not burden tribes with **multiple requests for engagements** (by several project developers); and
- ✓ utilize a **range of outreach methods** to ensure that **accessible engagement opportunities** are widely distributed within tribal communities; be mindful of **existing energy and broadband inequities.**

### FEDERAL RESOURCES

- U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs  
<https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-policy-and-programs>
- U.S. Dept. of Energy, Office of Legacy Management  
<https://www.energy.gov/lm/tribal-collaboration>
- Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization  
<https://energycommunities.gov/>

**PRO TIP:** (i.e. requests for consultations and formal letters to Tribal leadership could be supplemented with working groups, emails, phone calls, social media, phone calls or videoconferences etc.)

## ➤ PRO TIP | Community and labor engagement sections

BONUS AWARDS

### *Who to include*

*re: traditionally marginalized individuals and/or excluded community groups?*

#### ❑ Inclusion

- ✓ disabled individuals (visible + invisible)
- ✓ veterans
- ✓ non-English speaking + immigrant populations
- ✓ justice-involved / formerly incarcerated persons
- ✓ the elderly

#### ❑ Accessibility

- ✓ disability-accessibility
- ✓ translation services for local languages
- ✓ transportation to/from venue
- ✓ bridging broadband gaps
- ✓ childcare, eldercare, refreshments etc.

### Additional Guidance

- Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council  
<https://www.paddc.org/>
- Tools for Energy Justice Mapping  
<https://www.energy.gov/diversity/tools>
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs  
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dmva.html>
- Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
<https://www.paimmigrant.org/membership-county-directory>
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Aging  
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/aging.html>

**PRO TIP:** Identify faith-based, charitable or community orgs that work with and/or provide services to traditionally marginalized, excluded and underserved groups (or contact the local civil rights office for guidance).



# EVALUATION CRITERIA | Section 1: Meaningful Community Involvement

<p>Applications will be <b>evaluated</b> for completion of this requirement based on the <b>extent to which:</b></p>	<p>1. <b>documents community engagement</b> to date that results in support for the proposed project;</p>
	<p>2. has a <b>clear and appropriately robust plan to engage the public</b>, including non-profits and CBOs that support or work with under-resourced and minoritized communities and other affected groups;</p>
	<p>3. has <b>considered accountability to affected communities and impacted groups</b>, including those most vulnerable to project activities; and</p>
	<p>4. demonstrates that community involvement will lead to the <b>delivery of high-quality RISE PA projects with minimal burdens</b> with associated mitigation strategies, maximized benefits, and allocation of CBP project benefits to efforts that align with needs identified by community members through direct engagement.</p>
	<p>5. [has the] ability to <b>track, monitor, and communicate commitments and progress</b> toward engagement commitments over time</p>

**SECTION 2: INCREASED QUALITY OF LIFE, COMMUNITY HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

	TRACK I : IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES	TRACK II : ECONOMIC SECURITY MEASURES
<p><b>EXAMPLE CBP PROJECTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> clean air (<i>distributing air purifiers</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> clean water (<i>testing and monitoring</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> healthy soil (<i>testing, not shipping contaminated soil</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> equitable and accessible green spaces</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> stormwater management (<i>natural approach to stormwater management</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> climate resiliency and healthy buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> food security (<i>land for community garden</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> public healthcare and services (<i>funding an asthma prevention program</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> affordable and safe housing (<i>seed funding for affordable housing, weatherization</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> renewable energy (<i>residential solar</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> road and sidewalk safety (<i>sidewalk repair</i>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> alternative transportation (<i>fund program to encourage public transportation</i>)</li> </ul>

## SECTION 3: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY (DEIA)

POTENTIAL DEIA CONCEPTS

- MBWEs** partner with Minority Business Enterprises, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, and veteran-owned businesses for contractor support needs for subcontracting purposes.
- CBOs and non-profits** partner organizations serving marginalized and minoritized groups and those facing economic or social hardships including systemic barriers to quality employment, such as those with disabilities, women, citizens from returning from incarceration, opportunity youth, and veterans with the aim of hiring from population groups with barriers to employment.
- B Corps** partner with credentialed social benefit or social enterprise businesses

# ➤ PRO TIP | Community Engagement Best Practices

Recommended best practices for meaningful, inclusive, two-way engagement and outreach with stakeholders



1. Applicants should listen to and engage with ALL relevant stakeholder groups, esp. traditionally excluded groups  
*(e.g. engage with w/ both frontline communities AND labor, instead of just labor)*



3. Using informal processes and two-way engagement (w/ feedback mechanisms) to build trust, secure buy-in, enable collaboration on issues or challenges early on for better outcomes and project success:  
*(e.g. citizen panels, town halls, open houses)*



2. Well-rounded assessments consider project's entire affected areas and full lifecycle:

- necessary inputs (e.g., water);
- infrastructure (transportation routes);
- local + regional workforces;
- supply chains.



4. Practice transparency and respond to stakeholders' questions + follow up on unanswered questions in a timely manner



5. Involve credible 3rd-parties who can weigh in on the robustness and validity of the information provided  
*(e.g. experts from national labs)*

# ➤ PRO TIP | Accessibility

*Recommended best practices for meaningful, inclusive, two-way engagement and outreach with stakeholders*



equitable and fair compensation

# 350+

languages\* are spoken in U.S. households



1 in 4 U.S. adults live with a disability

- ❑ DEP encourages (but does not require) Applicants to **consider compensated partnerships** between their companies and non-profit or community-based organizations (CBOs) to facilitate engagement through partners trusted by the communities, particularly when ongoing engagement is intended.
- ❑ well-rounded, inclusive engagements account for **linguistic diversity and accessibility** (ADA-compliance) needs;
- ❑ provision of **wrap-around services** (care giving costs/services, transportation and/or stipends) and convening at **convenient times and hybrid formats** (virtual and/or in-person) ensures that individuals across the spectrum of the local community are represented in engagements.

## ➤ PRO TIP | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

### "What does underrepresented mean?"

- "Underrepresented" is **context-dependent** and should be considered relative to the relevant communities, workforces, and locations:
  - ✓ *For example, in the U.S., Hispanics, African Americans, and American Indians or Alaska Natives make up 24 percent of the overall workforce, yet only account for 9 percent of the country's science and engineering workforce.*
- Underrepresented groups could **also include those facing systemic barriers to quality employment**, such as individuals with disabilities, returning citizens, opportunity youth, and veterans.

### Additional Guidance

- Introducing the Minorities in Energy Initiative  
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/introducing-minorities-energy-initiative>
- Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/25/executive-order-on-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-accessibility-in-the-federal-workforce/>
- National Science Foundation, "Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering," (2019)  
<https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf19304/digest/about-this-report>

**PRO TIP:** Analyze who (in your organization) is being asked to carry the workload of implementing DEIA activities (e.g. compensation, consideration during reviews/promotions); avoid overburdening underrepresented groups who are often asked to take on this work as volunteers and/or are informally consulted on DEIA topics without compensation.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA | Section 3: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)

<p>Applications will be <b>evaluated</b> for completion of this requirement based on:</p>	<p>✓ the CBP includes <b>specific, measurable and high-quality actions</b> to meet DEIA goals and metrics, which may include DEIA recruitment procedures, diversity plans, and other DEIA initiatives; and;</p>
	<p>✓ the <b>quality of any partnerships and agreements</b> with CBOs and non-profits serving marginalized and minoritized communities and those facing economic or social hardships including systematic barriers to employment to facilitate meaningful and equitable benefit distribution</p>
	<p>✓ [the applicant has the] <b>ability to track, monitor, and communicate commitments and progress</b> toward DEIA commitments over time.</p>

## SECTION 4: JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE

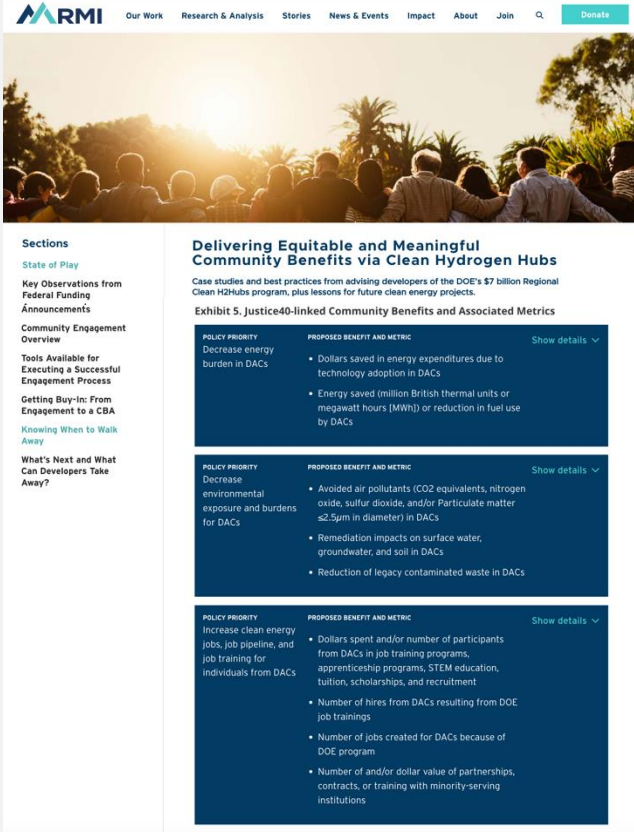
- 1 IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICABLE LIDACS**
  - ❑ identification of **relevant LIDAC communities** via the US EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities Map.
- 2 IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICABLE BENEFITS**
  - ❑ beneficiary-selected **quantifiable, measurable, and trackable benefits**, including investments or positive project outcomes that achieve or contribute to the following in defined disadvantaged communities.
- 3 FLOW OF BENEFITS TO COMMUNITY BENEFICIARIES**
  - ❑ clarify if benefits will be provided directly identified communities or in another way; flow during project development or after completion; and how the applicant will **track benefits** delivered and **progress** over time.
- 4 DISCLOSURE + MITIGATION OF NEGATIVE & CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**
  - ❑ discussion of all **anticipated negative and cumulative environmental impacts** on communities, and how they will **mitigate any** negative impacts.



# DOUBLE-CLICKING ON Justice40 Initiative's Policy Priorities for Benefits



1. decrease in energy burden;
2. decrease in environmental exposure and burdens;
3. increase access to low-cost capital;
4. increase job creation and job training;
5. increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting;  
(e.g., minority-owned or disadv. business enterprises)
6. increases in energy democracy;
7. increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption
8. increase in energy resilience
9. additional goals relevant to the US EPA, e.g. access to greenspace, remediation of brownfields, abandoned mine lands, or superfund sites etc.



Source: RMI (2024). Sheerazi et al. "Delivering Delivering Equitable and Meaningful Community Benefits via Clean Hydrogen Hubs: Lessons for future clean energy projects," [LINK](#).

Source: DOE. (2023). "Community Benefit Plans Overview," Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), U.S. Dept. of Energy, Washington, D.C. <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/OCED%20CBP%20101%20Factsheet.pdf>

# ➤ PRO TIPS | Examples of benefits by policy priority

POLICY PRIORITY	PROPOSED BENEFIT AND METRIC
Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for DACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoided air pollutants (CO2 equivalents, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and/or Particulate matter <math>\leq 2.5\mu\text{m}</math> in diameter) in DACs</li><li>• Remediation impacts on surface water, groundwater, and soil in DACs</li><li>• Reduction of legacy contaminated waste in DACs</li></ul>

- Establish an equity and environment initiative to lead the effort of developing the project's approach so that those most affected by the combined impacts of hazardous pollutants, climate change, and socioeconomic conditions will participate in decision-making concerning solutions and directly benefit from project investments.
- Set up an EJ (or climate justice) board or accountability board comprised of frontline communities that can establish processes and structures for the accounting of investments and disinvestments in energy programs that impact EJ and frontline communities.
- Consult with communities to inquire whether there are sufficient monitoring and accountability systems in place and establish procedures for course corrections in case of unintended consequences.
- Create formal community agreements for project site remediation that also include plans for monitoring and enforcing environmental standards.
- Define and set targeted public health goals, such as improved air quality through the elimination of GHG emissions and co-pollutants, improved water quality related to the impacts of energy infrastructure, and elimination of legacy environmental hazards.

# ➤ PRO TIP | Metrics for EPA reporting

Template provided by the U.S. Dept of Energy has a matrixed format for S.M.A.R.T.I.E.S. metrics

- Smart
- Measurable
- Attainable
- Realistic
- Timely
- Impactful
- Equitable
- Supportive

## 2. A decrease in environmental exposure and burdens

### Benefit E2.1: *[Description of benefit]*

- LIDAC that will benefit:
- How benefit will be delivered: *[ e.g., direct or indirect, who will deliver ]*
- When benefit will be delivered:
- Milestones toward benefit delivery:
- Metrics to track and report on benefits:
- Community-based organization(s) involved in identifying or negotiating benefit or developing plan for benefit delivery:

# ➤ PRO TIP | Justice40 Initiative section

***What if there are no people living near the project, and what if there are also no disadvantaged communities around the site?***

The Justice40 Initiative section is **required** regardless of whether or not the work site or project is within or near a disadvantaged community:

- consider providing benefits to **other LIDACs** in the city/state of the project;
- identify **upstream and downstream communities** that could be impacted over the full project life-cycle (*inputs, waste-streams, decommissioning*);
- **partner with local organizations or universities** to provide training and/or funding to support other community benefit initiatives.

## Additional Guidance

- Justice40 Initiative FAQs  
<https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/Justice40%20FAQS%20Deck.pdf>
- U.S. Dept. Of Energy, Justice40 Initiative  
<https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative>

**PRO TIP:** Remember to include **ALL** anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative project benefits and negative impacts to help identify potentially impacted low-income and disadvantaged communities over the full life-cycle of the project.

# EVALUATION CRITERIA | Section 4: Justice40 Initiative

<p>Applications will be <b>evaluated for</b> completion of this requirement based on:</p>	<p>✓ extent to which the Community Benefits Plan identifies <b>specific, measurable benefits for marginalized communities</b>, how the benefits will flow to Community Beneficiaries, and how <b>negative environmental impacts</b> affecting disadvantaged communities <b>would be mitigated</b>; and</p>
	<p>✓ extent to which the project would contribute to meeting the objective that <b>40% of the benefits</b> of federal investments <b>accrue to low-income and disadvantaged communities</b>.</p>
	<p>✓ extent to which the project would contribute to meeting the objective that <b>40% of the benefits</b> of climate and clean energy investments <b>will flow to communities</b>.</p>
	<p>✓ ability to <b>track, monitor, and communicate Justice40 commitments</b> and progress toward commitments over time.</p>

# Community Benefits Bonus

## ACRONYMS

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BAQ – Bureau of Air Quality
BGA – Base Grant Award
CBA – Community Benefits Agreement
CBB – Community Benefits Bonus
CBI – Confidential Business Information
CBO – Community-based Organization
CBP – Community Benefits Plan
CCUS – Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
CEJST – Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool
CEMS – Continuous Emissions Monitoring System
CPRG – Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
CWTP – Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program
DEIA – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
DEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ERISA – Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
ESA – Electronic Single Application
FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions
FLB – Fair Labor Bonus

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GERB – Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Bonus
GHG – Greenhouse Gas
GNA – Good Neighbor Agreement
IIJA – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IRA – Inflation Reduction Act
LAT – Large-scale Award Track
LIDAC – Low Income and Disadvantaged Community
MAT – Medium-scale Award Track
MMV – Monitoring, Measurement, and Verification
NAICS – North American Industry Classification System
PennTAP – Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program
RAP – Registered Apprenticeship Program
RISE PA – Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania
SAM – System for Award Management
SAT – Small-scale Award Track
SMARTIES – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely, Impactful, Equitable, and Supportive
SMM – Small- or Medium-sized Manufacturer
TPC – Total Project Cost
UEI – Unique Entity Identifier
WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

# Resources and toolkits

Additional guidance on community benefit plans and agreements can be found here:

## CAEJC Program Development Toolkit for Equitable Climate Action



Photo by [Bill Mead](#) on [Unsplash](#)



**Program Development Toolkit for Equitable Climate Action**  
January 24th, 2024  
[www.fourtheconomy.com](http://www.fourtheconomy.com)

## Project Labor, Community Workforce, and Community Benefits Agreement Guide

GOOD JOBS INITIATIVE

**PROJECT LABOR, COMMUNITY WORKFORCE, AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS RESOURCE GUIDE**

**What is a Project Labor Agreement?**  
A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is a type of collective bargaining agreement unique to the construction industry. PLAs are hire collective bargaining agreements negotiated between one or more construction unions and one or more construction employers (contractors/project owners) that establish the terms and conditions of employment for a specific construction project. Essential elements of PLAs include: provisions that bind all contractors and subcontractors to the agreement; no-strike, no-lockout clauses; and grievance/arbitration procedures. Usually, PLAs also specify the wages and fringe benefits for all workers on a project and generally require contractors to hire workers for the project through a union hiring hall that is responsible for supplying skilled labor. PLAs may also include clauses outlining goals for hiring local community members on projects, incorporating equity plans, detailing strategic recruitment policies for workers from underserved communities, and requiring participation of small businesses. PLAs can include any number of unique terms to help parties achieve their desired results.

**What are the benefits of using PLAs?**  
PLAs organize complex construction projects and ensure their efficient and timely completion. Because PLAs (almost universally) contain no-strike, no-lockout clauses they eliminate delays associated with labor unrest. PLAs are known for streamlining the administration of large projects by requiring all parties to enter into one agreement, that contains universal terms that govern the work. On a complex project contractors may end up working with multiple trades unions (carpenters, electricians, operating engineers, painters, and plumbers, etc.) with varying work rules and individual collective bargaining agreements without one universal agreement contractors might end up negotiating individual collective bargaining agreements with each trade union. These individual agreements might stipulate different start times, methods for determining overtime, break times, holidays, and dispute resolution processes that make project administration costly, complex, and inefficient. PLAs eliminate these issues through harmonization and coordination. In fact, the use of a PLA by the New York City School Construction Authority from 2005-2009 to facilitate the rehabilitation and renovation of schools led to a savings of \$27 million dollars over their five-year plan period because of the standardization of shifts across all trades of construction workers.

PLAs provide skilled workers for projects and support programs that maintain and grow a diverse skilled workforce. Most PLAs will include provisions requiring contractors to hire workers through union hiring halls, ensuring that all referred workers are qualified (like journey-workers who have graduated from Registered Apprenticeship Programs certified by the Department of Labor). PLAs can also contain clauses stating that apprentices must accompany journey-workers on projects. Sometimes there are specific slots listed—providing critical opportunities for entrants into the trades to gain necessary skills. PLAs might also contain provisions related to pre-apprenticeship (developing workers, often from underserved communities), who are preparing to enter Registered Apprenticeship Programs, guaranteeing their exposure to construction work. PLAs may also fund Registered Apprenticeship Programs via joint labor-management partnerships where both unions and employers invest in the development of skilled workers.

Lastly, PLAs lead to improved worker safety and health. PLAs often contain specific provisions laying out required safety training and improve workers' awareness and exercise of their right to accompany an OSHA inspector who is conducting an OSHA inspection.

**Do you have to become a union member to be covered by a PLA?**  
No. Workers covered under PLAs do not have to join unions to work on construction sites or to get referred to construction jobs via hiring halls. It is illegal for unions to discriminate against non-union workers when making hiring hall referrals. However, non-union workers covered under PLAs may have to pay agency fees to cover costs associated with the duty of unions to fairly represent all workers (union and non-union) in the administration of collective bargaining agreements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
GoodJobs.gov

## U.S. DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) CBP template

Community Benefits Plan  
FOA Number, FOA Title  
[Organization Name]  
[Project Title]

**Purpose**  
The purpose of this document is to summarize the specific objectives the Applicant is committing to in its Community Benefits Plan (CBP), in quantifiable terms with SMART milestones – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely – and timelines wherever possible.

[The instructional red and blue text should be removed]

All of the information included in this CBP must be consistent with the Application. The CBP should accurately define what work is to be done and the expected progress to be achieved.

Intellectual property information and other aspects of the project that could be considered proprietary or business confidential should be clearly marked. The CBP must be marked as follows and identify the specific pages containing confidential, proprietary, or privileged information:

**Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data:**  
Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes or in accordance with a financial assistance agreement between the submitter and the Government. The Government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source.

The header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as follows: "Contains Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure."


In addition, every line and paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with double brackets or highlighting.

**A. General Project Information**  
1. Construction Information





Note: DOE will evaluate each project to determine whether a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is required. In addition, participation in DOE's Mega Projects program, which provides technical

1

## Guide to Advancing Opportunities for Community Benefits through Energy Project Development



Guide to Advancing Opportunities for Community Benefits through Energy Project Development

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Minority Business & Economic Development  
August 1, 2017

1

# Reach out to learn more about RISE PA and support from RMI



**Targeted Technical Assistance**



**Decarbonization Expertise**



**Proven Track Record**



**Ben Skinner, RMI**

*Manager – Cement & Concrete*  
[bskinner@rmi.org](mailto:bskinner@rmi.org)

## Connect with our panelists!



**Lindsay Byron, P.G, DEP**

*Environmental Group Manager*  
[ra-ep-cprg@pa.gov](mailto:ra-ep-cprg@pa.gov)



**Monet Kunz, RMI**

*Associate – Cement & Concrete*  
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**Hadia Sheerazi, RMI**

*Manager – Community Engagement*  
[hadia.sheerazi@rmi.org](mailto:hadia.sheerazi@rmi.org)







# Appendix

# Emissions Calculations

Parameter	Value	Unit
Baseline Clinker Production	1000000	ton clinker
Baseline Emissions	875,000	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /year
Target Reduction	41%	%
Remaining Emissions	516,250	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /year

Emission Factors	Value	Unit
Clinker	0.875	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /ton clinker
Calcined Clay	0.15	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /ton calcined clay
LC3 Mix Proportions	Value	Unit
Clinker	50%	% of LC3
Calcined Clay	30%	% of LC3

Calculation	Value	Unit
Total LC3 Production	1,069,948.19	tons/year
Clinker Production	534,974.09	tons/year
Calcined Clay Production	320,984.46	tons/year

Emissions Check	Value	Unit
Clinker Emissions	468,102.33	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /year
Calcined Clay Emissions	48,147.67	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /year
Total Emissions	516,250.00	tons CO <sub>2</sub> /year



# Community Benefit Bonus Overview

If an Applicant intends to apply for the Community Benefit Bonus under RISE PA, a Community Benefits Plan (CBP) must be submitted and set forth the Applicant's approach to ensuring that investments of the RISE PA program advance four goals:

**1) Meaningful community involvement;**

*a) Defining a Community Beneficiary for the purposes of the RISE PA Program: At least 40% of the benefits of the project should accrue to low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC). The EPA CPRG program defines a DAC as census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile under EJ Screen (version 2.3) or in a disadvantaged census tract under the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST version 1.0).*

**2) Increased quality of life and environment, including improved environmental, community health, and economic benefits for Pennsylvania residents and communities;**

**3) Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in Pennsylvania communities and with Pennsylvania-based stakeholder groups;**

**4) Contributing to the [Justice40 Initiative](#).**



# Fair Labor Bonus Overview

## 1) Good Neighbor Agreement

- a) Ensure access to jobs and business opportunities for local residents
- b) Investment in training for local workers
- c) Commitments to pay wages/benefits above prevailing wage

## 2) Collective Bargaining Commitments

- a) Negotiate a Project Labor Agreement
- b) Remain neutral during union organizing
- c) Permit union recognition through card check
- d) Enter into binding arbitration to settle first contracts
- e) Allow access to appropriate non-workplaces
- f) Refrain from holding captive audience meetings

## 3) Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program

- a) Funding for on-the-job training for New Employees
- b) Reimburse up to \$30,000 per New Employee
- c) Pay for up to \$10,000 in supportive services per New Employee

**Small projects:** Complete 1, 2, or 3  
**Medium-scale:** Complete 2 of 3  
**Large-scale:** Complete all 3



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Bonus Overview

<b>GHG Emissions Reduction Percentage Range</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Project Cost</b>
21-24%	2%
25-29%	4%
30-34%	6%
35-40%	8%
41% +	10%