









FEDERAL FUNDING LEARNING SERIES PART 6

HOW YOU CAN AFFORD TO ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION AND STRATEGICALLY PLAN FOR FEDERAL FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

November 15, 2023

Introductions



Alex Dane
Senior Manager
Clean Energy Innovation
& Partnerships
WRI



Andrew Light
Clean Energy Specialist
U.S. Energy
WRI



Tansy Massey-Green
Senior Associate
US Program
RMI



Matthew Popkin

Manager

US Program

RMI



Jingyi Tang
Associate
US Program
RMI



Amy Turner
Director,
Cities Climate Law Initiative
Sabin Center for Climate Change Law

Today's Agenda

Welcome Funding Tool & Funding Guidance Update Spotlight on Near-Term Federal Opportunities Practical Guidance for Direct Pay Q&A

Funding Tool & Funding Guidance Updates: Introducing "AFFORD"

Maximize your potential for impact by using limited capacity and energy to pursue resources where they're needed most



Bottom Line: Our goals, time, and capacity have not changed significantly, but resources available to local governments, businesses and non-profit organizations have increased <u>a lot</u>.

The **AFFORD** tool, America's Federal Funding **O**pportunities and Resources for **D**ecarbonization, can accelerate state and local decarbonization efforts

Primary Use Cases:

- Identify and compare federal funding opportunities for specific local projects
- Assist non-profit entities and their partners strategically prioritize applications
- Align funding sources with overarching decarbonization and equity considerations to advance climate action, sustainability, and resilience plans

Secondary Use Cases:

- Increase alignment and awareness between climate, energy, and resiliency officers of federal funding opportunities and planning/grants officers (or consultants)
- Embrace federal efforts to centralize climate change, environmental justice, and equity in new projects

Built upon FFOLD, *AFFORD* is packed with more IRA incentives and tailored for local governments AND a broader audience

The tool has 80 new program additions

• This includes 24 tax credits and deductions

The range of eligible applicant types has been expanded to include:

- Municipal utility/co-op
- Cultural institution/faith group (tax-exempt)
- Health care institution (tax-exempt)
- University/college (tax-exempt)

The complimentary "Funding Guidance" has the following new or improved sections:

- Prepare for grant applications
- What to expect when you are expecting (to apply)
- Stacking & leveraging resources
- Prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements

AFFORD's new introduction page is designed to provide a more user-friendly experience, making navigation easier and more intuitive for those experienced and new to federal funding

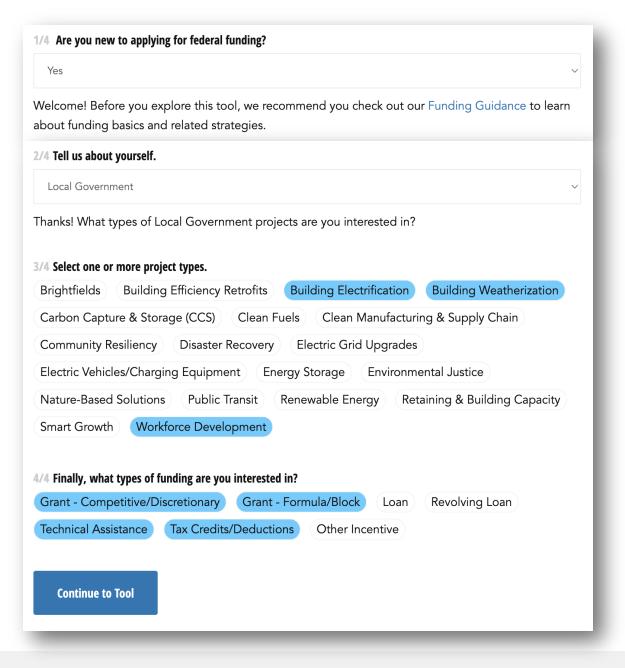


Navigating hundreds of federal funding opportunities can be overwhelming. Our funding tool, America's Federal Funding Opportunities and Resources for Decarbonization (AFFORD), is designed to help you identify, compare, and prioritize federal funding, tax credits, and other incentives. This tool is primarily intended to streamline public, non-profit, and community efforts to increase understanding of eligible funding and incentives that are relevant to your project, goals, and community.

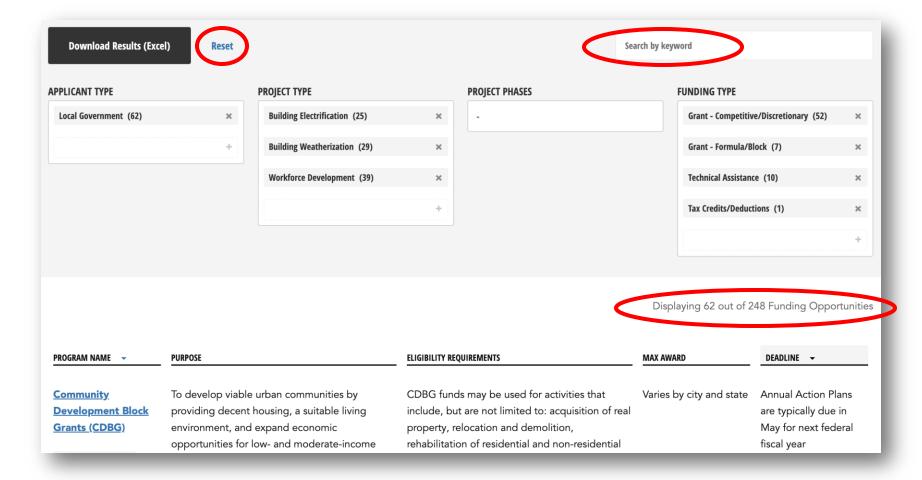
To get started, complete the 4 questions below so we can help you find the programs most relevant to you.

Let's explore!

Skip Questions & Go Directly to the Tool



248 funding opportunities are overwhelming, but AFFORD offers streamlined and enhanced filters, a new search bar, and a sorting function to help you quickly focus on what is most relevant to you



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AFFORD's latest Compare & Share function allows you to more easily focus on programs of interest and efficiently share those with your team and other partners

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)_ Implementation Compare			
	To assist communities in coastal and Great Lakes states and territories so they may form partnerships that train workers and place them into jobs that enhance climate resilience.		

Compare Programs

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) – Climate Ready Work Implementation Tribes, and Territorie

Purpose

To implement GHG reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures identified in a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) developed under a CPRG planning grant.

Federal Agency

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Deadline

April 1, 2024 (general); May 1, 2024 (Tribes and territories)

Funding Available

\$4,300,000,000 for general competition; \$300,000,000 for Tribes and territories

Eligibility Requirements

Only entities that directly received a CPRG planning grant are eligible to apply for an implementation grant.

Maximum Award Amount

\$500,000,000 for general competition; \$25,000,000 for Tribes and territories

Expected Allocations

115 for general competition; 100 for Tribes and territories

Average Award (Estimated)

\$37,400,000 for general competition; \$3,000,000 for Tribes and territories

Matching Funds

Not required

Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Competition

Purpose

To assist communities in coastal and Great Lakes states and territories so they may form partnerships that train workers and place them into jobs that enhance climate resilience.

Federal Agency

Department of Commerce

Deadling

November 30, 2023 (Letter of Intent); February 13, 2024 (Full Application)

Funding Available

\$50,000,000

Eligibility Requirements

This opportunity is open to state, tribal, territorial and local governments, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations in coastal states or territories.

Maximum Award Amount

\$10,000,000

Expected Allocations

10-20

Average Award (Estimated)

\$3,333,333

Matching Funds

Not required

Community Change Grants Program

Purpos

To support partnerships of community-based organizations (CBOs) to implement pollution reduction, workforce development, and community engagement projects.

Federal Agency

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Deadline

NOFO expected in Fall 2023; applications will be open on a rolling basis for one year

Funding Available

\$2,000,000,000

Eligibility Requirements

Partnerships of two or more CBOs, or a CBO plus a local government, Federally-recognized Tribe, or higher education institution is eligible to apply.

Maximum Award Amount

\$3,000,000

Expected Allocations

TBA

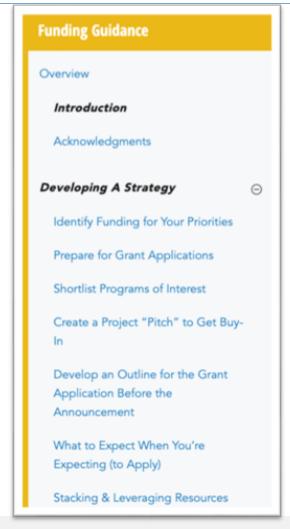
Average Award (Estimated)

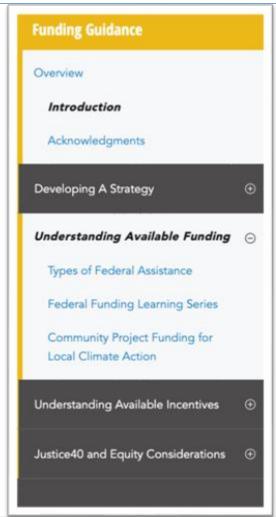
Mostly \$10-20 million, with some \$1-3 million grants for community engagement

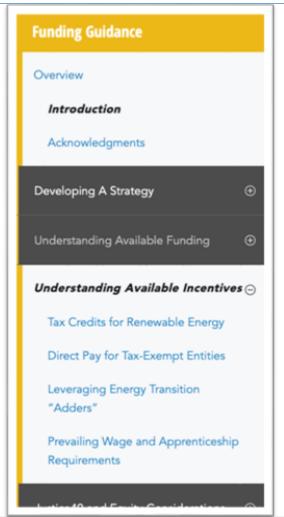
Matching Funds

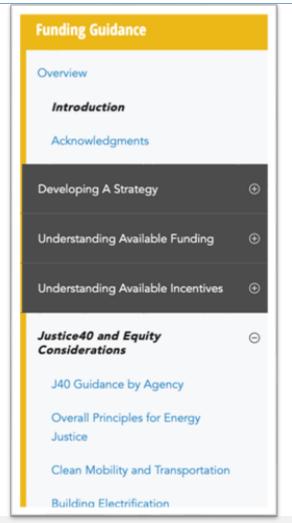
TBA

The Funding Guidance walks you through what you need to know and do to prepare effectively for federal opportunities









Feedback welcome!

Your ideas, suggestions, and user experiences matter to us. Let us know what's working well and how we can enhance this further!



Reach out to Matthew Popkin at mpopkin@rmi.org or Alex Dane at alex.dane@wri.org



Send emails to cityrenewablesaccelerator@rmi.org

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Spotlight on Near-Term Opportunities

The following 5 programs offer new and familiar mechanisms to advance local and community climate action

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Renew America's Schools Program Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program Low-Cost Capital Opportunities

11/15/2023

The US DOE's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants Program (EECBG) is both familiar and increasingly flexible, with a wider list of eligible uses and a new technical assistance option

What It Is:

- Distributes formula funding to states, local governments, and tribes to implement strategies to reduce emissions and energy use
- Funds a wide array of efficiency retrofits, renewable energy installations, and innovative energy financing strategies

What's New:

- As an alternative to traditional grants, DOE will providing Local and Tribal governments with the option to apply for vouchers to receive technical assistance and/or equipment rebates
- Vouchers provide a streamlined application process with fewer administrative requirements and allow eligible recipients to take advantage of customized technical expertise or get reimbursed for eligible equipment

Important Dates:

• Full applications are due by April 30, 2024 (cities and towns that do not receive direct formula funding must apply to the state)

The US DOE's Renew America's Schools Program helps upgrade our energy infrastructure, with priority given to schools with renovation and repair needs

What It Is:

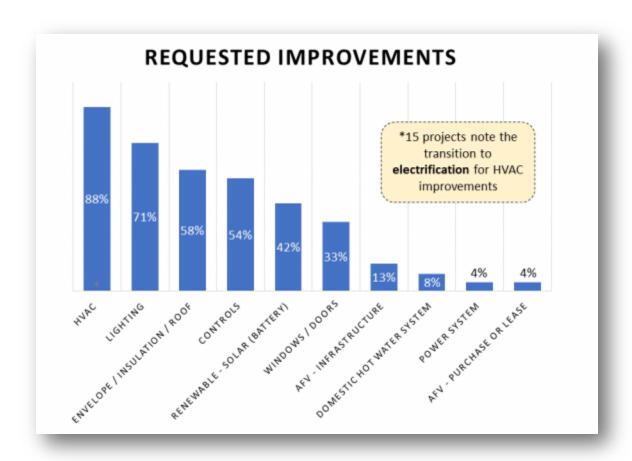
 New grant program to support nonprofit, for-profit, and community organizations making efficiency, renewable energy, or alternative fuel vehicle improvements

What's New:

 The program, which launched in 2022, has announced ~\$178M across 24 awards for its first round – an average award of ~\$7.5M

Important Dates:

 DOE anticipates releasing a second round of funding in Spring 2024



US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants offer a single opportunity to significantly advance equitable climate action

What It Is:

 Designed to implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond and achieve substantial community benefits

What's New:

- EPA expects 115 awards for general competition and 100 awards for Tribes and territories, with an average award estimated at \$37,400,000 for the general competition and \$3,000,000 for Tribes and territories
- Any state, local government, tribe, or territory can apply for an implementation, but the application must align with the preliminary climate action plan created by a state or lead planning organization

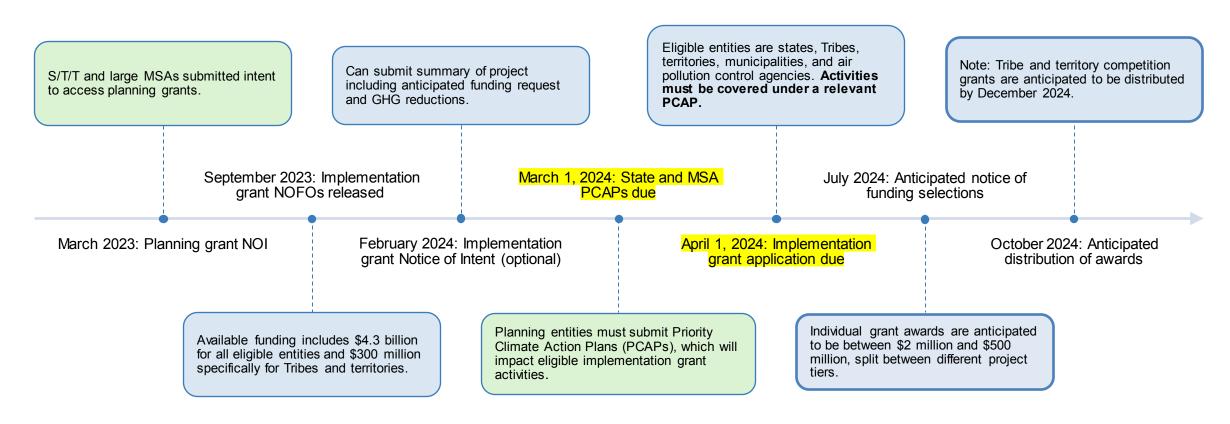
Important Dates:

• Full applications are due April 1, 2024 (general) and May 1, 2024 (Tribes and territories)



ALL of the \$4.6 billion reserved for implementation grants is planned to be distributed in one round

Engage now with your state and/or your MSA lead organization's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) Process!



^{*}Dates given for General Competition open to all eligible entities. Dates for Tribal and territories only competition are generally one month later.

^{*}Green: part of planning grants process. Blue: part of implementation grants process

The first-ever Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program for renewable energy tax credits (48(e)) opened this fall

What It Is:

- Tax credit adder (10-20% of eligible capital costs) for up to 1.8 GW of total nameplate capacity of eligible wind and solar projects
- Program has further subdivisions based on category (see chart on right)

Important Dates:

- First application round is due November 18, 2023 to US DOE, who will determine allocations
- Applications submitted within the first 30 days (by November 18, 2023) will be treated as being made on the same date and time
- Transitions to rolling applications into early 2024

Category	Qualification	Capacity Allocation
1: Low- Income Community	Being sited within a "low- income" census tract as defined by the New Markets Tax Credit	700 MW
2: Tribes	Being sited on "Indian land"	200 MW
3: Covered Housing Program	Being associated with a building that is part of a covered housing program	200 MW
4: Economic Benefit Project	Distributing at least 50% of the benefits from the project to low-income households	700 MW

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Identify Existing and Future
Projects
Eligible for IRA
Incentives:
New IRA Bonus
Mapper Tool

IRA Eligibility Enhancements (beta) Overview of enhancements Q East Chicago, Indiana.... < return Justice40 Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit (30C) 41 East Chicago, Indiana, United States Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Energy Communities Energy Community*: Yes Chicago Low Income Communities Bonus Credit Program[†]: Yes · Prioritized due to CEJST Energy Burden Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit‡: Yes Justice 40: Yes · Identified as disadvantaged for Justice 40: • ≥ 90th percentile for diabetes and is low income • ≥ 90th percentile for asthma and is low income • ≥ 90th percentile for households at or below 100% federal poverty level and has low HS attainment ≥ 90th percentile for low median household income as a percent of area median income and has low HS • ≥ 90th percentile for unemployment and has low HS attainment • ≥ 90th percentile for energy burden ≥ 90th percentile for RMP proximity ≥ 90th percentile for NPL (superfund sites) proximity ≥ 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste sites ≥ 90th percentile for heart disease 90

Oak Fores

11/15/2023

≥ 90th percentile for low life expectancy
Is low income (imputed and adjusted)

≥ 90th percentile for share of properties at risk of flood

A large amount of low-cost capital has already been released, but even more is coming soon through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

National Clean Investment Fund

- \$14 billion in grants to fund 2-3 national nonprofit clean technology financiers
- Grantees will provide financial products and support predevelopment expenditures for qualified projects

Solar For All

- \$7 billion in grants to eligible governmental entities and non-profits
- To expand distributed solar in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the U.S.

Clean Communities Investment Accelerator

- \$6 billion in grants to 2-7 hub nonprofits to deliver funding and technical assistance
- Designed to build the clean energy financing capacity of local community lenders in low-income and disadvantaged areas

Grant funding may seem preferred, but local governments have been using existing streams of low-cost capital – which has only expanded in additional financing programs

Clean Water State Revolving Fund:

- The program has been in place since 1988 and has a long history of funding a wide range of wastewater and conservation projects
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$11.7 billion for the fund, as well as an additional \$1 billion to address emerging contaminants

Green and Resilient Retrofit Program:

- Introduced in Inflation Reduction Act, this HUD program is designed to improve HUD-assistance multifamily properties with the highest need for climate resilience and utility efficiency upgrades, regardless of prior development or environmental retrofit experience.
- \$1 billion in funding for direct loans and grants
- There are 4 application review periods, with 3 application deadlines remaining on November 30, 2023, February 28, 2024, and May 30, 2024

Questions to use as a gut check as you explore a range of funding and financing programs

Formula Funding

Will grant funds be used as a substitute or augmentation for projects planned to be funded vis capital improvement funds or bonds?

Has the use of federal funds been intentionally considered?

Has thought been given to innovative and equitable use of funds?

Are you funding a pre-existing project slated for funding already?

Competitive Funding

If formula grants and local funding isn't available for project, are competitive federal grants being pursued?

Is there staff capacity to pursue competitive federal funds to underwrite/fund priority projects?

Climate Finance Decision Tree: Alternative Options

State Formula
/ Competitive Grants

If project does not have existing bond capital, formula or competitive grant funding, have statelevel grant funding options been explored?

State Revolving Loan Funds

If the project anticipates a return on investment and/or seeks up-front capital to capitalize on IRA elective pay, have state-level revolving loans been explored?

Accessing GGRF Financing

If existing public project finance mechanisms aren't available and project investment requires financing or otherwise, are the lending vehicles offered via the GGRF being considered?

Practical Guidance for Direct Pay

SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW

Inflation Reduction Act "Direct Pay" for Tax Credits

Amy E. Turner
Cities Climate Law Initiative, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law
Sustainable Cities Fund

November 15, 2023

*Does not constitute legal advice

IRA Tax Credits Uncapped → Value Unknown

04-22-23

The Inflation Reduction Act's \$391 billion could actually be far more—and that's a good thing

Key provisions of the law have no caps on spending, which means the actual outlay could be more, or less, than the figure we keep hearing.



The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 represents a historic, \$369 billion investment in the modernization of the American energy system. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) preliminary assessment finds that this law—in combination with other enacted policies and past actions—will help drive 2030 economy-wide greenhouse



Recently passed legislation may help fulfil that potential. Critical funding for this next energy revolution is expected to come from the IRA, which will provide an estimated \$1.2 trillion of incentives by 2032 — creating the most supportive regulatory environment in clean tech history, according to Goldman Sachs Research.

Goldman Sachs

Direct Pay for Tax Incentives

- 17 "SEC. 6417. ELECTIVE PAYMENT OF APPLICABLE CREDITS.
- 18 "(a) In General.—In the case of an applicable entity
- 19 making an election (at such time and in such manner as
- 20 the Secretary may provide) under this section with respect
- 21 to any applicable credit determined with respect to such
- 22 entity, such entity shall be treated as making a payment
- 23 against the tax imposed by subtitle A (for the taxable year
- 24 with respect to which such credit was determined) equal to
- 25 the amount of such credit.

Parties Eligible for Direct Pay

- Exempt organizations under Section 501 of the Tax Code
- States and local governments
 - Territories, agencies, instrumentalities
 - Municipally-owned utilities
- Indian tribal governments
- Alaska Native Corporations
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Rural electric coops

BUT

NOT Eligible: partnerships, taxpayers

Must own the asset

Nontaxpayers cannot use transferability

Direct Pay: Mechanics



Registration

Register project for which tax credit will be claimed on a to-be-released online portal from the IRS

• Get unique registration number



IRS Filings

File tax return (Form 990-T) & Form 3800 with registration number and supporting documentation by tax deadline

 Due 4.5 months after end of taxable year (+6-month extension if requested)



Refund

IRS makes payment after review of tax filing

 Could be more than 1 year after project is placed into service/money is spent

Direct Pay: Bureaucratic Considerations

Collecting needed documentation

No ability to amend filing later for incorrect or missing credit claims

Cash payment comes after IRS reviews Form 990-T

Form 990-T is new to many municipalities; local governments don't file federal tax returns

Different teams in local government need to work together

Local govts only

Direct Pay: Benefits

Guaranteed money for eligible projects

No competitive grant application

Mostly uncapped

Often stackable with grants and other forms of financing

No extended reporting (for most credits)

Available now

Tax Incentives Eligible for Direct Pay

Section 30C

Alternative fuel refueling property

Section 45

Renewable electricity production tax credit (PTC)

Section 45Q

Carbon dioxide sequestration credit

Section 45U

Zero-emission nuclear power production credit

Section 45V

Clean hydrogen production credit

Section 45X

Advanced manufacturing production credit

Section 45Y

Clean electricity production credit

Section 45Z

Clean fuel production credit

Section 48

Energy investment tax credit (ITC)

Section 48C

Qualifying advanced energy project credit

Section 48E

Clean electricity investment credit

Section 45W

Qualified commercial vehicles

Tax Incentives Eligible for Direct Pay

Section 30C

Alternative fuel refueling property

Section 45

Renewable electricity production tax credit (PTC)

Section 48

Energy investment tax credit (ITC)

Section 45W

Qualified commercial vehicles

Clean Energy Tax Credits: ITC & PTC

Investment Tax Credit (IRC sec. 48)	Production Tax Credit (IRC sec. 45)
6 percent to 30 percent* credit for wind and solar projects, and other forms of clean energy starting in 2025.	O.55 cent to 2.75 cent per kWh* credit for wind and solar projects, and other forms of clean energy starting in 2025. Inflation adjusted.
Tax credit claimed for year project is placed in service	Tax credit is claimed each year for 10 years based on output

^{*} Based on meeting prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements.

ITC & PTC Bonuses or "Adders"



5%-30% (ITC) and 0.55 cent to 2.75 cent (PTC) spreads based on meeting prevailing wage & apprenticeship requirements (projects <1 MW are exempt/get higher credit automatically)



2% to 10% increase for meeting domestic content requirements (plus, for tax-exempt entities, tax credit starts phasing down in 2024 if domestic content reqs not met)



2% to 10% increase for siting in an "energy community"



Low-income community bonus credit of 10%-20% (more limited – must apply) (ITC Only)

ITC vs. PTC: How to choose?

Economic factors

- Higher credit amount depends on energy market, project size, and more
- PTC often good for utility scale, but this is not universal

Administrative factors

- ITC is one-time; PTC involves 10 years of filings
- ITC offers more cost certainty

Can't make broad claims about which credit has a higher value in each instance

Clean Commercial Vehicle Credit (IRC s 45W)

Up to 30% tax credit for purchase of qualified clean commercial vehicle

- \$40,000 cap for vehicles larger than 14,000 pounds
- \$7,500 cap for vehicles smaller than 14,000 pounds
- Uncapped in the aggregate
- Can be combined with other programs (clean school buses, etc.)

Alternative Vehicle Fueling Credit (IRC s 30C)

6 to 30 percent credit for charging equipment for electric, hydrogen, or natural gas vehicles

- Cap of \$100,000
- Only for fueling infrastructure built in nonurban census tracts or low-income communities
- Prevailing wage & apprenticeship for 30% credit

Elective Pay – Moving Forward



Tax credits are available this year (2023-2032)

Current projects are eligible



IRS guidance is not final, but we generally understand how claiming tax credits will work based on preliminary and draft guidance



Huge potential; credits are mostly uncapped and money is available now for state & local governments & agencies and nonprofits

Thank You!

Amy E. Turner

Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, Columbia Law School
Sustainable Cities Fund

aturner@law.columbia.edu

Twitter: @amyturner



Questions & Discussion

Type directly in the Zoom Q&A

Near-term resources to keep you going!

Understanding the IRA

- <u>WRI Catalyzing Local Clean Energy: A Roadmap for Maximizing Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities and Community Benefits</u>
- <u>USDN's Inflation Reduction Act Miniguide</u>
- C40 Cities and Climate Mayors IRA Guidebook for Local Government Leaders
- RMI 4 Ways the IRA Speeds the Shift to a Cleaner, More Affordable Energy Future
- WRI Beyond Climate: 6 Big Benefits of the IRA

Understanding Federal Funding Opportunities

- AFFORD Tool (Updated 10/05/2023)
- Electrification Coalition EV Funding and Financing Guide

Understanding Equity & Federal Funding

- Renewables Accelerator Funding Guidance
- IRA Bonus Mapper (Beta)
- White House CEQ Justice40 Guidance











THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS **LEARNING SERIES!**

For more info, please contact:

Matthew Popkin at mpopkin@rmi.org Tansy Massey-Green at tmassey-green@rmi.org Amy Turner at aturner@law.columbia.edu Alex Dane at alex.dane@wri.org