



# Climate Solutions Series

OVERCOMING HURDLES TO AGGRESSIVE CLIMATE ACTION POLICIES

## Harness CPRG Funds for Regional Climate Action

*Leverage Regional Collaboration to Be More Competitive and Effective*

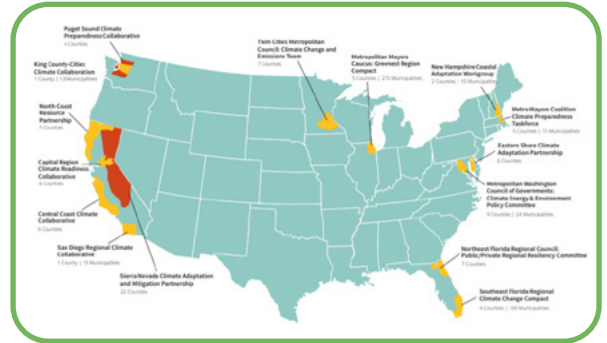
A new surge in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG)** program is putting the spotlight on regional climate action planning, and the results could be game-changing for our collective efforts to create healthier, more livable and resilient communities.

For those that have already developed plans, this is an opportunity to:

- Secure funding to implement identified climate solutions
- Collaborate more deliberately with regional colleagues

For those just getting started, you get the benefit of:

- Learning from colleagues that have been taking climate action
- Engaging more deeply with a diverse mix of community members

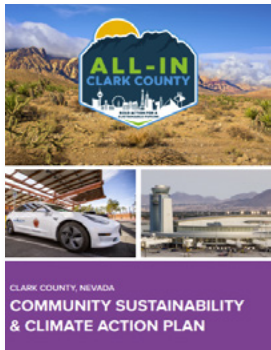


Source: "Regional Collaboratives for Climate Change - A State of the Art", Institute for Sustainable Communities.

Regional action on climate change has proliferated over the last decade with many examples around the country. **Common functions of regional climate collaborations include:**

- Building and resourcing a network of stakeholders to share best practices
- Developing and coordinating plans and policies
- Advocating collectively to state or federal agencies
- Sharing or pooling funds and resources
- Facilitating climate research and communications

## REGIONAL PLANNING IN ACTION



- The [Mid-Atlantic PACE Alliance](#) is a partnership between stakeholders in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to accelerate the implementation of Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and projects in the region.
- The [All-In Clark County Community Sustainability and Action Plan](#) collaborated with stakeholders across the region and engaged over 220,000 individuals in their most inclusive planning process to date.
- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments offers an [Electric Vehicle Deployment Clearinghouse](#) to facilitate collaboration to support EV plans, programs, and policies.
- The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is [tracking progress on the metrics](#) associated with their Connections 2050 vision of an equitable, resilient, and sustainable Greater Philadelphia region.

# Keys to Regional Climate Action Success



## Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Benefits Analyses

### Be smart about data collection

- Start reaching out to data sources early and leverage existing relationships with partners like utilities
- Ensure utilities describe how they generated the data, so it is a reproducible process
- Factor in the layer of complexity involved in receiving data in different formats from different utilities, agencies, and states
- Check calendar-year availability for all data to get the most recent, complete set
- Collect multiple years of data so you can reference any trends
- Focus on the sectors with the greatest opportunities for reductions: buildings and transportation
- Acknowledge data gaps rather than attempting low-quality estimations, especially for the PCAP
- Don't forget to collect data necessary for evaluating reductions/improvements and tracking progress after action implementation
- Data on demographics and physical environment will help you plan the size of the intervention you need to make an impact

### Resources:

- [US Community Protocol](#)
- [Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Inventories](#)
- [WRI Policy and Action Standard](#)
- [MWCOC GHG Inventories Guidance](#)



## Regional Coordination

### Engage early and often

- Build off existing regional initiatives
- Use the technical analysis components of CPRG to highlight where communities need to work together on issues like energy burden and jobs/housing imbalance
- Identify and cultivate agency champions
- Brief agency leadership and interested elected officials on analysis, scope and scale of the effort with opportunity for questions and input
- Hold roundtables to identify how ongoing collaboration can support their agencies
- Consider what kind of collaborative model might work best for your region for long term strategies
- Workforce readiness and supply chain hiccups could be limiting factors across a region. Ensure those are considered in planning efforts
- Empower direct partners with information to engage their constituents independently



## Equitable Community Engagement and Communication

### Make equity your "North Star"

- Start building relationships with community-based organizations (CBOs) and key local partners now. Get to know their priorities and capacity through genuine listening sessions
- Conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise to ensure all voices are reflected in the final plan, including economic development, public health, youth, seniors, and housing groups
- Take note of who has been missing from the table and find a way to engage them
- Consider hiring representatives of CBOs or underserved communities as ambassadors, and pay them a living wage for their time
- Host listening sessions that are focused on gathering feedback rather than presenting information one-way
- Listen to community issues and find common cause, rather than bringing new problems to solve
- Communicate the challenge of GHG reduction in familiar terms of energy or transportation burden rather than "MTCO<sub>2e</sub>". Keep in mind that 2 years of analysis will be distilled into a 2-page fact sheet
- Access tools that help identify the energy burdened and environmental justice communities in your jurisdiction

### Resources:

- [KLA Equitable Engagement RFP toolkit](#)
- [MWCOC Environmental Justice Toolkit](#)
- [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#)



Pages from Clark County, NV's "All In" Plan

### Resources:

- [All In Clark County Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Institute for Sustainable Communities: Regional Collaborations for Climate Change - The State of the Art Report](#)