



GLOBAL CENTER FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Federal Funding Primer on Climate Justice

*A Complete Guide
for Understanding
Justice40, the Inflation
Reduction Act,
and the Bipartisan
Infrastructure Law*



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A Complete Guide for Understanding Justice40, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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and Nina Schlegel, with Daniel Faber**

Designed by Nikki McCullough

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First Edition**



**GLOBAL CENTER FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**



About the Center

The Global Center for Climate Justice is a research center and movement resource hub dedicated to advancing more holistic approaches to climate justice. We highlight the linkages between the climate crisis, corporate power, the weakening of democracy, and social injustices of all kinds. Our aim is to show how solutions to the climate crisis are inseparable from the resolution of other major social and environmental problems, how exploitive political and economic power structures are the root cause of all crises, and how systemic changes to these structures of power are required to create a more just and sustainable future for all. To achieve this type of transformative change demands we work together to build a broad, inclusive, and intersectional climate justice movement. Such an intersectional approach shows how processes of class exploitation and inequality; racial, ethnic, and gender oppression; human rights abuses and political domination; imperialism; and ecological devastation are all linked. To build movement solidarity, we conduct timely research on strategic movement concerns, create popular educational materials from reports and interviews to infographics and webinars, and provide support and resources to climate justice coalitions and organizations.

Visit us at www.climatejusticecenter.org

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Acknowledgements

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Without the enthusiasm and skill of our graphic designer, Nikki McCullough, this report would be but a collection of Google documents. There would be no imagery, no icons, no flow graphics or beautifully tetris-ed summaries of where all this money is going. We are eternally grateful for your design magic. Thank you to Kathia Teran, whose singular web design skills are helping to make this report come alive on the web. A very special thank you to our readers, Dr. Daniel Faber and Kimberlee Cook. Your keen eyes helped us to uncover unanswered questions, run-on sentences, and inconsistencies – making the report not only more readable, but more impactful.

We also thank Dr. Marisa Sotolongo for clarification on where the “40” in Justice40 originated. Thank you to Senator Markey’s staff, who were helpful in sharing resources and in their commitment to getting information on how to access federal funding out to communities. Thank you to the staff at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), particularly the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights. We learned so much from attending one of your many informational webinars. We appreciate the EPA staff making themselves available to answer questions. Finally, we would like to extend a thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that form our Green New Deal [Resource Hub](#) – grassroots activists, coalition leaders, municipal employees, policymakers, funders and organizational staff – for sharing with us your projects, concerns, confusions, and ideas for the future when it comes to federal funding.

Sincerely,

Nina Schlegel, Executive Director
Global Center for Climate Justice

This report has been a yearlong labor of love by a small team at a small organization. Our aim is to help the climate movement better understand and access federal opportunities quickly. No portion of this report, in whole or in part, may be copied or used for public or commercial purposes without permission. In the interest of ensuring this information is shared, if you would like to summarize, reprint, or republish aspects of this report, we are very happy to work collaboratively with you.

Please be in touch: info@climatejusticecenter.org.

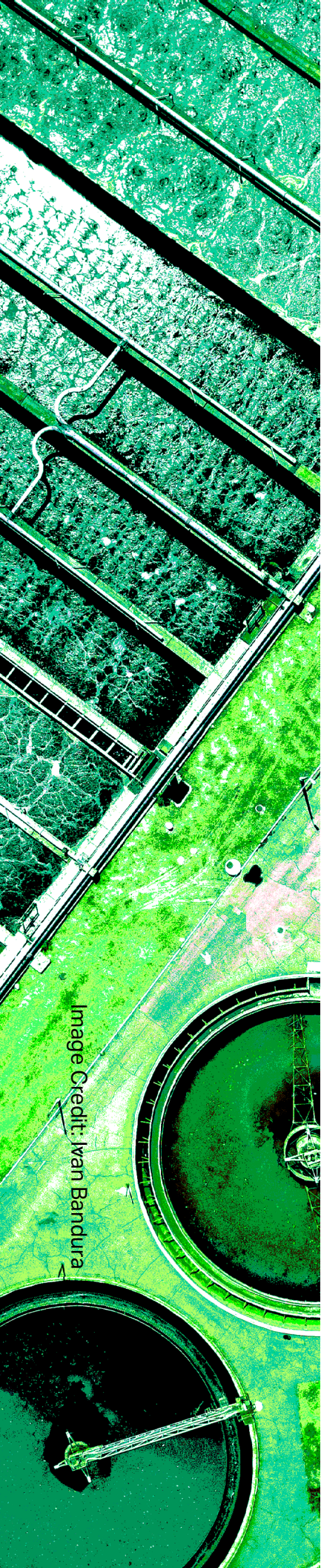


Image Credit: Ivan Bandura

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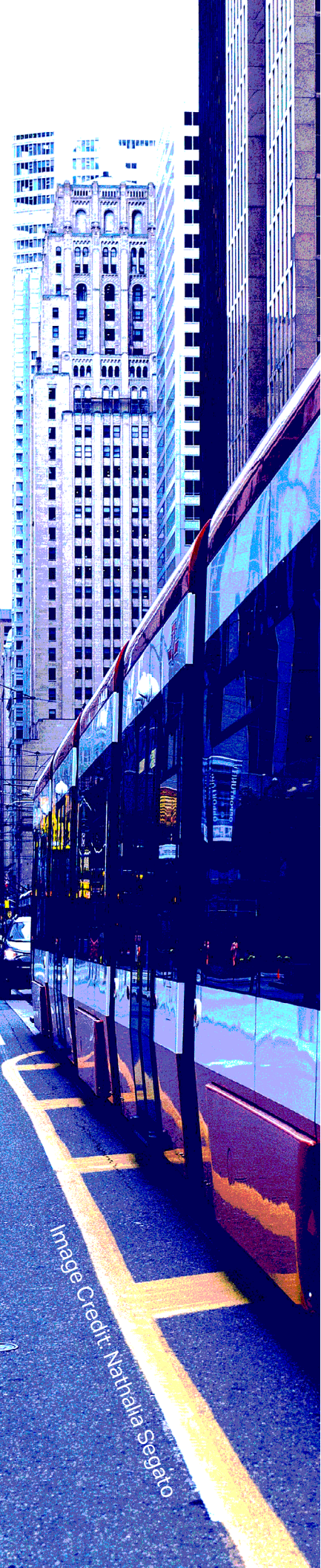
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The Purpose of this Primer

The over \$1.5 trillion in federal funds allocated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the Justice40 Initiative present a unique opportunity to jumpstart comprehensive local and state-based climate justice initiatives in the United States. But these opportunities can only be realized if climate advocates can access the financial resources being made available. At the Global Center for Climate Justice, we have participated in countless conversations with movement advocates, city and state government officials, and elected leaders on the IRA, BIL, and Justice40. Invariably, almost all participants have stated that the pace and complexity of these federal funding programs is overwhelming. While the excitement to participate in these initiatives is palpable, there are real concerns that the barriers to understanding, tracking, and applying to these funding opportunities makes them out of reach for precisely those applicants who are best positioned to use the funding to advance climate justice programs in their communities.

Since President Biden signed the Executive Order containing the Justice40 Initiative three years ago, and the ensuing enactments of the BIL and IRA, the environmental movement has been quick to respond with a number of policy primers, legal summaries, databases, and guidance programs. At the Center, we deeply respect the amazing work that already exists on these programs. What separates our work from these earlier efforts is that our Funding Primer provides a type of roadmap, or “first-stop” landscape view, of the incredible databases, insights, regulations, assistance providers, and other resources that have emerged to support implementation of the IRA, BIL and Justice40. Our primer is designed to: (1) provide a comprehensive introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Justice40; (2) answer critical questions related to their implementation; (3) share the climate movement’s justice concerns when it comes to federal funding; (4) highlight ways these programs can be shaped to advance climate justice; and (5) summarize where to find technical assistance and other key resources for entities eligible to apply for federal programs.

We understand these programs and grants, and the regulations that guide their implementation, are constantly evolving and will continue to do so. This first edition of the Primer represents our sincere effort to make the most accurate and up-to-date information on federal funding opportunities and initiatives readily understandable, and to ensure the best resources are within reach. We welcome [reader feedback](#) and corrections so we can make these resources as helpful to the movement as they can be. The Center intends to integrate major updates into future editions of the Primer. Our aim is to build a companion website to share updates consistently, and link to additional resources such as webinars, opportunities for funding collaboration, and more. If you are interested in partnering with us on these next stages of the project, please be in touch.

In solidarity,
Nina Schlegel, Executive Director



Executive Summary

Image Credit: Sergio Sala

A week after assuming office in 2021, the Biden administration issued Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, establishing the *Justice40 Initiative*. In the year and a half that followed, two additional major pieces of federal legislation were also passed: (1) the *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)*, and (2) the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, also known as the “*Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*”. Cumulatively, these once-in-a-generation federal investments provide trillions of dollars for needed infrastructure improvements, clean energy projects, climate resilience, transit upgrades, and much more.

We created this funding primer because we believe in helping our communities leverage these funding opportunities to advance justice.

Time is of the essence. The rollout of Justice40, the IRA, and BIL by the federal government has been swift and somewhat

chaotic as a result of the all-out effort by the Biden administration to fund critical investments as soon as possible, especially before the 2024 elections. An unprecedented level of opportunity exists to leverage these federal investments for climate justice, to transition our workforce towards clean energy, and to build more sustainable communities. But there is also significant risk that this funding could entrench our dependence on fossil fuels if our cities, Tribes, community-based nonprofits, and other entities eligible to participate in programs are left out of the process.

This *Federal Funding Primer on Climate Justice* provides an invaluable roadmap for navigating the maze of funding opportunities provided by Justice40, the IRA, and BIL. We created this document because we believe that by explaining these programs in more easily understood forms, and by addressing key questions and concerns, we can help direct community officials and activists alike to the funding resources best suited to their needs. In so doing, we will be enabling advocates to leverage these funding opportunities to advance critically important climate, environmental, and economic justice goals.



In order to elevate a shared understanding of the climate compromises baked into these investments, we also explore specific criticisms of each law, sharing concerns raised by the climate and environmental justice movements. We have summarized many of the most helpful resources for staying up-to-date on the latest federal funding developments and opportunities, and collected examples from across the nation of model funded programs. We share tips on how to access federal funding, where to find technical assistance, and how to assess the potential impact of the US political environment on future funding opportunities. In the final pages of this report, you will find our takeaways as we evaluate the rollout of these historic funding opportunities.

Report Sections in Brief

The Justice40 Initiative



The Justice40 Initiative is a requirement of Executive Order 14008 and mandates that 40 percent of the benefits from environmental and climate justice related federal investments go to communities that are disadvantaged, underserved, or overburdened by pollution. Its goal is to ensure that communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and pollution receive an equitable share of funding from major federal grants and programs.

Justice40 encompasses over 500 programs across 14 federal departments. About \$2.2 trillion is available for these programs through a combination of funds from the IRA, the BIL, and funds from each department's annual budget.

The best way to ensure that the Justice40 funding opportunities advance climate justice is by ensuring that any projects being funded are justice oriented, community powered, and both transparent and accountable to the public.

Seven Funding Categories Under Justice40



Climate Change



Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency



Clean Transit



Affordable and Sustainable Housing



Workforce Development



Remediation and Reduction of Legacy Pollution



Development of Clean Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

It is also important to recognize the challenges that governments and organizations face when applying for this funding. Common issues include navigating the maze of government bureaucratic institutions and information to find and apply for the relevant funding, as well as the lack of capacity (whether it be for staff or for resources) for many organizations to carry out these tasks. This is especially true for many environmental justice (EJ) organizations. To address these

and other shared barriers, we aim to provide a roadmap for potential applicants to navigate these barriers.

Some criticisms have come along with the rollout of Justice40. One consistent criticism of Justice40 is that although it seeks to address racial inequality, it does not mention race in either its language or in the screening tools created to designate disadvantaged communities. The Biden Administration decided to leave out any explicit mention of race from the Initiative’s language to avoid potential legal issues in light of the Supreme Court’s decision to dismantle Affirmative Action. Environmental justice advocates also suggest that more nuance is needed within the screening tools.

Throughout this section, you will also find tables that can help community advocates integrate Justice40 into their work. The “Implementation Guides” table showcases resource hubs that detail how a range of audiences can best put Justice40 goals into action. Two more tables – “Cities Advancing Justice” and “States Advancing Justice” – provide real world success stories of where Justice40 has already shaped government planning.

The Inflation Reduction Act



The IRA, which was signed into law in August 2022, includes \$369 billion in clean energy and climate investments that will go towards a multitude of policy sectors. It is intended to build on the initial funding opportunities that were introduced in the BIL. The funding coming from the IRA will either go directly to states and then redistributed to local governments, communities, or private entities; or it

can go directly to public and private community-based institutions and individuals.

This money will be given through a number of different funding categories which allows cities, tribal governments, and states the ability to tailor the use of funds to projects that will aid their unique climate goals. However, in order to maximize the effective use of these funds, local authorities will have to carefully guide planning, siting, and regulatory decision-making to ensure that disadvantaged communities are protected.

Five Funding Categories Under the IRA



Air Quality Improvements and GHG Reduction



Housing



Resilience



Clean Vehicles



Workforce Development

Many of these investments come in the form of tax credits for individuals and businesses, and direct payment options for non tax-paying entities. Tribes also have specific funding opportunities and program set-asides within the IRA.

The rollout of several IRA-funded projects like housing improvements or clean energy implementation have the potential to create more high quality and well paying jobs. Some projects offer bonus tax credits to clean energy projects that pay prevailing wages or use registered apprentices. Other bonus credits are given for projects meeting certain requirements on the use of domestically produced materials such as steel and iron.

We summarize some helpful tips for grant applicants and government entities to keep in mind when seeking federal funding. These include the importance of understanding community needs before choosing what funding to apply for; mapping out climate projects through Climate Investment Playbooks; educating constituents on IRA tax credits and other benefits through communications campaigns; building staff capacity and internal bandwidth to apply for and implement federal grants; leveraging assistance through networks, regional planning offices, and technical assistance providers; and applying for smaller grants through private foundations to help cover the costs of applying to larger federal grants.

One major critique of the IRA is that it enabled the sale of oil and gas leases in order to expand offshore wind energy infrastructure. The IRA has also been criticized for including tax credits for carbon capture, focusing on incentives over penalties, and having high barriers to access. The IRA nevertheless represents a historic opportunity to help protect, restore, and transform communities from further ecological degradation. This is especially true of environmental justice communities.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was signed into law by the Biden administration on November 15, 2021. It allocates \$1.2 trillion to transportation and infrastructure projects.

Money from the BIL is being distributed to 17 federal agencies, departments and commissions to manage over 350 distinct programs. It is estimated that local governments are eligible for approximately \$287 billion in direct funding (they are also eligible for pass-through funds from the states), while states will be eligible for about \$697 billion of the BIL pie. Tribal governments are earmarked to receive more than \$13 billion directly, and are eligible for many other programs. Many of these project funds are available to multiple entities, such as Tribal governments, nonprofits and local governments, all at once.

About half of the projects being funded by the BIL focus on roads, bridges, and other transportation projects. The Department of Transportation is working specifically on electric vehicle infrastructure, highway safety improvements, and the development of new bridges as well as improving existing ones. Other funds are going towards fighting legacy pollution, cleaning up drinking water, and expanding access to public transit.

We also provide a list of practical tips for BIL grant applicants, which includes: knowing exactly what funds your state was allocated; forming a centralized delivery team that can focus on equitable fund deployment and interagency partnership; leaning into local-level power despite state-level priorities; focusing on equitably developing workforces

to carry out new capital projects; learning from successful models from past grant recipients; and tapping into the abundance of technical assistance providers.

Critics have argued that the BIL provides insufficient funds to address the full social and economic legacy of disinvestment in communities of color and low-income communities. Like the IRA, it has also been criticized for including billions of dollars in subsidies for carbon capture and hydrogen fuel. It also invests heavily in upgrades to roads and highways. The BIL is an enormous set of funding priorities, and there is a long way to go before its full potential is realized. Instead of funding business-as-usual projects, new and existing BIL funding programs need to be consciously harnessed to capitalize on this unique opportunity so that project funds will create green jobs, ensure long term resiliency, and advance justice.

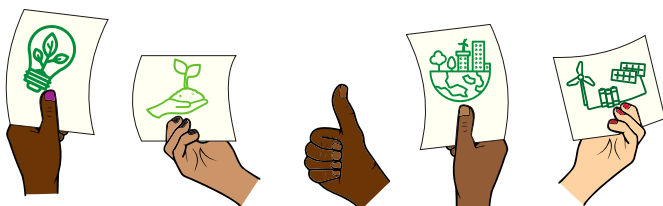
Accessing Funds and Evaluating Impact

In our final section, we assess implementation of the IRA, BIL, and Justice40 Initiative thus far and look down the road at what could impact their efficacy in the future. Now empowered with an in-depth understanding of these opportunities, we leave our readers with a list of funding trackers, and share tips for accessing grants through technical assistance and funding from intermediary organizations.

The current political moment, the 2024 presidential elections, the debt ceiling debate, and the looming threat of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 conservative policy playbook could all impact the future of federal funding. These are a few of the political uncertainties the movement should be on the lookout for as this funding is rolled out over the next decade.

The success of the BIL, IRA, and Justice40 covered programs in advancing justice will come down to how accessible they are to our communities, and what implementation really looks like on the ground.

Ultimately, the success of the BIL, IRA, and Justice40 covered programs in advancing justice will come down to how accessible they are to our communities, and what implementation really looks like on the ground. We sincerely hope that this Primer helps our readers better grasp the complicated world of federal funding, and that they take advantage of the many wonderful resources and organizations that we have highlighted.





Justice40 Initiative

Image Credit: Steve Adams

What is the Justice40 Initiative?

KEY TERMS

Climate and Economic Justice

Screening Tool (CEJST): A tool that aggregates various datasets to identify disadvantaged communities, meaning are those that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Disadvantaged communities: In the context of climate justice, communities that are marginalized, underserved, or overburdened by environmental injustices.

Equity: A concept centered around fairness and justice that considers systemic change and historic inequities to achieve equal opportunities and resources for all.

Legacy pollution: Contaminants that linger in an environment and continue to have negative impacts caused by polluting industrial sources that are no longer active.

Justice40 is an [Initiative](#) that sets a goal of committing 40 percent of the benefits from environmental justice (EJ) related federal investments to communities that are disadvantaged, underserved, or overburdened by pollution. The Initiative is a component of Executive Order [14008](#), which President Biden signed within days of taking office in early 2021. The Order pledges numerous actions the administration aims to pursue to address climate change and environmental justice (EJ) through federal policymaking and international diplomacy.

With the intention of remediating legacies of environmental injustice, it requires that 40 percent of the benefits from federal investments in seven different program areas going forward go to disadvantaged communities, which make up [roughly 40 percent](#) of the nation's population. These areas include climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development.

Justice40 is the Biden administration's effort to combat climate change and environmental injustices simultaneously, recognizing that patterns of inequitable investment and systemic racism are [fundamentally linked](#) to environmental justice issues. The Justice40 Initiative is not a one-time investment, nor a single pot of money. Rather, it is a series of changes to improve how the federal government ensures equitable distribution of the benefits of many programs. Hundreds of programs across 19 federal agencies are [currently covered](#) under Justice40.

The implementation of this Initiative, including which programs and communities qualify under its banner, is still under development and up to agency discretion. This leaves Justice40 vulnerable to being weakened if the priorities of the president change. Justice40 is key to the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For communities that qualify, Justice40 will open up many additional opportunities to enact long-needed mitigation of environmental harms and to adapt to climate change.



Image Credit: Lisanto

Justice40: How It Works

How Is It Overseen?

The Justice40 Initiative is part of a set of decisions that the Biden administration hopes will revitalize the nation's commitment to achieving environmental justice. Among these are new federal advisory councils that will oversee the integration and coordination of Justice40 programs across federal agencies.

Executive Order 14008, which encompasses Justice40, established a number of advisory councils – including the [Climate Policy Office](#), the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council ([IAC](#)), and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory

Council ([WHEJAC](#)) – which help agencies with the implementation of Justice40 Initiatives, coordinate across agencies, and track executive action. WHEJAC is [committed](#) to ensuring that “the voices, perspectives, and lived realities of environmental justice communities are heard in the White House and reflected in Federal policies, investments, and decisions,” while IAC is [intended](#) to act on WHEJAC's suggestions.

Two other offices, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), have been critical for helping entities with Justice40 funding by providing implementation guidance, aiding in updating screening tools,

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)



Established in 1969 by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Main function is to implement NEPA and develop climate policies, including those concerning environmental justice. Currently led by Chair Brenda Mallory, who reports to the President on compliance of various agencies.

CEQ also provides guidance to federal agencies on achieving Justice40 goals, reports to congress on implementation of Justice40, and releases updated versions of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

White House Office of Environmental Justice

Established by Executive Order 14096C in 2022. Led by the Chief Environmental Justice Officer, Jalonne White-Newsome. The office assists federal agencies with implementing significant systematic changes to better advance environmental justice, facilitates government-wide EJ policy, and holds agencies accountable for their progress.

Advise

Advise

Advise

White House Environmental Justice Advisement Council (WHEJAC)

Established by EO 14008 in 2021, and housed within EPA. Led by Co-Chairs Richard Moore and Peggy Shepard. It provides advisory recommendations to the IAC on how the federal government can better address current and historic environmental injustices.

WHEJAC's recommendations to various officials and the CEQ include recommendations on Justice40 implementation.

Consults

Coordinate

Whitehouse Interagency Council (IAC)

Established by EO14008 in 2022, within the Office of the President. Led by Chair Brenda Mallory, and consisting of members from 18 agencies. Developing federal strategy to address environmental injustices in consultation with WHEJAC and local environmental justice leaders, including performance metrics and an annual public scorecard. Tasked with development of training materials for federal employees to advance environmental justice and increase the meaningful participation of environmental justice communities in federal activities.

IAC consulted various agencies to develop the implementation guidance for Justice40 implementation and programs, and the CEJST tool.

White House Steering Committee on Equity (Steering Committee)

Established by Executive Order 14091 in 2023. Chaired by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, Neera Tanden. Created to coordinate and act as an accountability mechanism for government-wide efforts to advance equity.

Reviews Equity Action Plans of various agencies, which is part of the Justice40 initiative. Coordinates with the IAC to ensure that equity and EJ efforts are consistent and mutually reinforcing.



reviewing implementation tools, and coordinating interagency communication. In July of 2021, the White House issued an [interim report](#) that offered definitions for identifying “disadvantaged communities” to guide Justice40 covered agencies in adopting the best possible practices when it comes to the distribution of funds to communities in need.

These councils are a vital mechanism for the EJ movement to ensure that the implementation of Justice40 fulfills its potential.

Who Is Justice40 For?

Justice40 benefits are intended to flow directly to disadvantaged communities. But what are they? Defining such communities and locating them nationwide is the purpose of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)). This tool defines a community as disadvantaged if they exhibit one or more categories of environmental or socio-economic burden. In 2021, the White House issued formal [Interim Implementation Guidance](#) for Justice40 that identifies which categories of programs fall under the Initiative. There is additional guidance available in a [memorandum](#) that helps federal agencies and federal grant applicants like cities, states, nonprofits and Tribes in identifying eligible communities for Justice40 investments.

The environmental and socioeconomic burdens used as indicators of community disadvantage in CEJST fall into eight categories. All thresholds except workforce development also require communities to be at or above the 65th percentile for low income and at (or

above) the 90th percentile for each indicator category.

Climate Change: a community’s projected impacts from climate change;

Energy: average household percentage of income spent on energy or percentage of fine particles (2.5 mm or smaller) in the air;

Health: percentage of people in a community professionally diagnosed with asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or communities with a lower than average life expectancy;

Housing: historic underinvestment, housing costs, and low housing quality;

Legacy Pollution: proximity to sites identified as producing significant environmental harm;

Transportation: harmful effects from high traffic or barriers to transportation;

Water and Wastewater: proximity to identified sources of environmental pollution;

Workforce Development: meets one of a range of socioeconomic indicators and fewer than 10 percent of people have a high school education.

It is important to note that while the Justice40 Initiative set a goal that at least 40 percent of each covered program and investment should benefit disadvantaged communities, it is up to the discretion of each agency and department administering the programs to create their own methodology for [calculating](#) these benefits and positive community impacts.

Covered Agencies and Programs

Justice40 programs cover investments in any one of the following seven categories: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.

As of November 2023, there were over 500 federal programs covered by Justice40 across 19 federal agencies, departments, and commissions.

Over [\\$2 trillion](#) is now available through a combination of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) over the next 10 years. Justice40 mandates at least 40 percent of these investments benefit disadvantaged communities.

Justice40 does not itself provide programmatic funding; it is a set of guidelines for directing funding to communities that need it most. Justice40 affects new and existing federal funding programs, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Any programs that make investments in any of the above seven categories are considered Justice40 covered programs. While Justice40 sets a standard for how federal agencies should implement funding and projects, it is up to the agencies themselves to ensure they are complying with guidelines found in the Executive Order.

Funding sought through any covered agency can be used by states, local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions, private businesses, and other eligible applicants. Formula funding is used for some funds, meaning certain



Justice40 Breakdown

Covered Programs



Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency



Climate Change



Clean Transportation



Affordable and Sustainable Housing



Training and Workforce Development



Remediation and Reduction of Legacy Pollution



Critical Clean Water and Waste Infrastructure



Federal Financial Assistance



Federal Procurement Benefits



Direct Payments or Benefits to Individuals



Programmatic Federal Staffing Costs



Additional Federal Investments Under Covered Programs

Covered Investments

criteria for a project need to be met to receive funding and often determines how much funding recipients will be awarded. Other funds include competitive grants, technical assistance programs, loans, rebates, and increasing federal agency staff capacity. Interested applicants often can directly apply to the federal agency or their state for this funding. The Equitable and Just National Climate Platform has [more information](#) about which types of Justice40 covered funding and which projects are designated for which entities.

Implementation of Justice40

All Justice40 covered programs must have [stakeholder consultations](#) to ensure that communities are meaningfully involved in the implementation of program benefits. The term “stakeholders” refers to members of the community in which a project is taking place. Different federal agencies have different approaches to these consultations, but they generally include ensuring that project applicants, or outside organizations applying to work with disadvantaged communities, communicate their plans for community and labor engagement. For example, DOE has mandated that Community Benefits Plans (CBPs) be implemented alongside all clean energy projects funded by the BIL and IRA to give communities the agency to help shape projects to their specific needs.

These plans should show how they will advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), how they will promote the Justice40 Initiatives, and how they plan on including stakeholders during project planning,

initiation, rollout, and following its completion. Community members have a clear stake in the outcome of federal projects and investments, and have a deep knowledge of the needs of the community. Both are reasons for their inclusion in the implementation process.

For their part, federal agencies and departments must report publicly on the benefits flowing to disadvantaged communities through Justice40 covered programs. By December of 2021, agencies were [required](#) to submit methodologies for tracking these benefits in order to ensure transparency in the federal rollout of the Justice40 Initiative.

The federal government has utilized this collected data to implement an [Environmental Justice Scorecard](#). The Scorecard highlights progress towards 40 percent investments in disadvantaged communities across covered agencies. More specifically, the Scorecard website details the progress different federal agencies have made in advancing the Justice40 Initiative, implementing and enforcing civil rights, and embedding environmental justice (EJ) into their programs and operations. The White House has [said](#) it intends to update the Scorecard at least annually.



Image Credit: James Lewis

Justice40 in Practice

Justice40 is unique in its goal to ensure that communities disproportionately impacted by disinvestment, pollution, and climate change are the ones receiving targeted federal investments and programs. However, realizing the full potential of the Initiative relies on local leaders and grant applicants to pursue these available funding sources in order to ensure investments actually have the most impact possible, while being careful to not fund false climate solutions – such as carbon sequestration technologies or highway expansions – at the expense of more just, proven alternatives.

Advancing Climate Justice

The best way to ensure that these funding opportunities [advance](#) climate justice is by making sure any projects being funded are: (1) centering social and environmental justice concerns; (2) community-driven; (3) responsive to the stated needs of those affected by the investments; and (4) ensuring accountability by state and local governments in the grant implementation. Local and state governments can embody these practices by [co-developing](#) projects with affected communities, ensuring they have meaningful spaces to give feedback, and giving frequent updates on project progress. In fact, many Justice40 covered programs under the IRA

are cooperative grants which require a community partner - be that a nonprofit, Tribe, or institution of higher education.



Centering Social and Environmental Justice Concerns



Community-Driven



Responsive to the Stated Needs of Those Affected by the Investments



Ensuring Accountability by State and Local Governments in the Grant Implementation

There are a number of resources created by and for grassroots organizations to ensure that the equity aims of covered funding opportunities are being fully realized. Longtime national environmental and racial justice leadership organizations, like the [NAACP](#), are aiding in the just implementation of these initiatives by advocating for and monitoring the rollout of several projects under Justice40. The [Justice40 Accelerator](#) is a climate justice partnership that assists different Black and grassroots organizations

in securing funding coming from federal and state agencies. Their 151 members have so far won \$43 million in public funding. The [Equitable and Just Climate Platform](#) was founded by EJ advocates working together on national climate policy. They are identifying more inclusive climate policy development proposals in support of environmental justice. They have also created one of the first funding finder dashboards that allows users to search specifically for Justice40 covered programs. Additionally, states and municipal governments across the nation are [codifying](#) Justice40 into local laws to help guide their implementation.

However, there are still equitable access concerns when it comes to federal funding. Many smaller community-based organizations and nonprofits that are applying for these grants and programs struggle to compete with larger, well-funded organizations. They may not have staff capacity, technical expertise, or familiarity with the federal grant application process. For these reasons, there is a demonstrated disconnect between states, cities, and

well-funded nonprofits and front-line communities in their abilities to access critical federal funds. It is crucial to bridge this gap through technical assistance hubs, partnership opportunities, and simplified application processes for accessing federal funds.

Justice40 Implementation Guides

Thankfully, a plethora of large environmental and climate advocacy nonprofits have sought to help bridge the gap between federal agencies and grassroots groups with their own resources on how best to access and implement federal funding opportunities. The table below showcases a number of in-depth resource hubs that are specifically focused on Justice40, delineated by their intended audience. (Additional resources on technical assistance can be found in the last section of this report.)

Implementation Guides

Created By	Audience	Summary
Emerald Cities Collaborative	Frontline Groups and Community Organizations	This resource has guidelines for implementing Justice40 benefits for frontline organizations and communities. It describes the amounts of funding available from various federal acts, eligibility, and how to organize communities and access technical assistance. This information is disseminated through playbooks that focus on funding areas, such as energy and transportation justice, as well as playbooks on creating community benefit plans and agreements.



Urban Institute	Non-Profit Organizations and Community Organizations	By drawing on the experience of nonprofit organizations in frontline communities, the Urban Institute highlights how federal investments are currently delivered to underserved communities. The report dives into five themes for how Justice40 implementation can be improved: better identifying, engaging, and prioritizing communities; improving program designs; making definitions and measurements of benefits more clear; improving transparency in the Justice40 process; and increasing coordination of federal agencies with each other as well as state and local governments.
Climate-XChange and the Environmental Policy Innovation Center	State Governments	Based on interviews with state agency staff, this report documents what is needed by government officials to best meet Justice40 promises. Findings include six core needs including federal communication and support, state staff capacity constraints, reaching underserved communities, funding underserved communities, use of screening tools, and tracking and reporting progress towards Justice40 goals. Recommendations for these issues are provided.
PolicyLink	State, Local & Tribal Governments	This guide aims to help local, state, and Tribal governments implement the BIL equitably by suggesting standards that can guide infrastructure investments in these five categories: market shaping; reckoning, repair, and transformation; inclusive and equitable innovation; economic inclusion; and governance and democracy.
UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation	All Eligible Applicants	This report summarizes the best ways for governments and nonprofits to ensure that Justice40 funds and promises are effectively benefiting frontline communities. It highlights the dos and don'ts of project creation, how to implement equitable investments, and beneficial program models.
Equitable & Just National Climate Platform	All Eligible Applicants	A funding finder that allows users to search for opportunities by Justice40 category, eligibility, and agency the project is under. Information about the funds includes funding type and amount, eligible recipients, program administrator and description, next milestones, links to application, and if it results in direct pollution reductions or provides technical assistance/capacity building. It includes links to other Justice40 resources like screening and mapping tools, as well as other websites with funding opportunities.



Harvard Law School	All Eligible Applicants	<p>This tracker created by the Harvard Law School's Environmental and Energy Law Program provides up-to-date information about Justice40 Initiatives and timelines. The tracker provides information about individual agency timelines and initiatives, an overview of Justice40 and the EJ agency scorecard, how to access project funding or find further details, information about CEJST, agency equity plans, and any relevant executive order updates.</p>
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Tips for Grant Applicants

Nationwide, nonprofit leaders have [expressed optimism](#) about the potential of Justice40 to shift the structure of federal investments to address the legacy of environmental injustice. For some, however, this optimism is tempered by concerns about the actual ability of Justice40 to deliver meaningful benefits. To realize the [full potential](#) of this historic opportunity,

It is crucial that movement leaders find alignments between their own climate strategies and programmatic ideas with the EJ priorities established by Justice40 to unlock funding.

From the perspective of government agencies, there are a number of challenging needs to thread in order to match applicants with funding. These challenges include: (1) finding applicants for funding that are propos-

ing projects that will meet community needs; (2) overcoming the lack of capacity, whether it be for staff or for resources, faced by many non-profits; (3) addressing potential mismatches between existing projects or plans and new federal funding opportunities; and (4) adopting the appropriate processes and evaluation mechanisms to ensure funding is going to frontline and disadvantaged communities as intended.

Due to restrictive and onerous grant application guidance, eligible applicants can sometimes avoid starting new funding applications out of a fear of not being eligible. Others can spend precious resources and time in applying for funding but still "not hit the mark" intended by the program. Short turnaround times between funding announcements and application due dates also [limit](#) the extent to which community members can meaningfully engage in the project planning process. As a result, short timelines tend to favor projects that already exist and are expanding, or have been previously planned out.

To prepare for these challenges, applicants should ensure that their definitions of disadvantaged communities and any mapping tools they use to identify communities are up to date and reference the federal screening tools made available. Using the federal tools enhances a grant application because it

shows understanding and use of the same evaluation standards as federal agencies. The White House released a Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)) that uses census data to identify overburdened and underserved communities throughout the United States. This is a very useful initial tool to identify frontline communities locally. But there are many other tools appropriate to different types of project considerations. For example, under the IRA, additional federal investments and tax credits are being earmarked for communities that have historically been left behind during periods of economic transition, dubbed "[energy communities.](#)"

Resources for the Future has [cataloged](#) some additional federal screening tools.

More recently, the Biden administration released the Environmental Justice [Scorecard](#), a website which allows the public to look at the progress of any federal agency in institutionalizing Justice40. The Scorecard is a useful reference for grant applicants because it highlights major programs created under the Justice40 Initiative by agency jurisdiction. It also details outreach initiatives as well as technical assistance resources specific to each agency.



CEJST Tool: Defining Disadvantaged Communities

To be considered disadvantaged, communities must be above the 65th percentile for population considered low income, and above 90th percentile for at least one of the following indicators:



Climate Change

- Expected agriculture loss rate
- Expected building loss rate
- Expected population loss rate
- Projected flood risk
- Projected wildfire risk



Legacy Pollution

- Abandoned mine land (yes or no)
- Formerly used defense sites (yes or no)
- Proximity to hazardous waste facilities
- Proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities
- Proximity to Superfund Sites



Transportation

- Diesel particulate matter exposure
- Transportation barriers
- Traffic proximity and volume



Housing

- Housing cost
- Lack of green space
- Lack of indoor plumbing
- Lead paint



Workforce Development

- Linguistic isolation
- Low median income
- Poverty
- Unemployment



Health

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Low life expectancy



Energy

- Energy cost
- PM2.5 in the air



Water and Wastewater

- Underground storage tanks and releases
- Wastewater discharge



Additional Grantmaking Strategies to Consider:

- **Co-create** proposals with community stakeholders and create a plan or framework for equitable implementation of federal funds
- **Coordinate** first with communities to ensure projects meet their needs and prioritize projects most likely to benefit frontline communities
- **Ensure** your new or existing plans align with funding opportunities and use federal screening tools
- **Include** both local officials and community stakeholders in funding meetings, keeping them informed of your application timeline and details
- **Ensure** there is time for feedback on your proposal from partners and community stakeholders before it is submitted
- **Learn** from the success of other cities and states with implementing Justice40

Expanding the Reach of Justice40

State and local governments have already begun to institutionalize Justice40 goals into their own policy making. From the formation of oversight committees to new scorecards for monitoring progress, state and local leaders are taking Justice40 seriously, and seeking ways in which to make opportunities under the Initiative more accessible to their constituents. Below are just a few examples of how state and municipal offices are expanding the reach of Justice40. Each of these initiatives present a different approach to advancing environmental justice, evaluating the impact of policy, and most importantly, present additional avenues for climate and environmental justice advocates to push for their inclusion in decision making and funding.

Cities Advancing Justice

City	Initiative	Summary
Albuquerque, New Mexico	Executive Order for Equitable and Just Implementation of Justice40	Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque signed an Executive Order that established the Albuquerque Justice40 Oversight Coordinating Committee to plan and implement a five-year Justice40 Equitable and Just Administration Plan.
Austin, Texas	Austin Climate Equity Plan	After engaging with more than 200 community residents, in 2021, Austin adopted this Climate Equity Plan and evaluated its 74 strategies to account for various goals related to accessibility, community capacity, a just transition, etc.



Chicago, Illinois	Executive Order for Cumulative Impact Assessment	In Chicago, Mayor Lori Lightfoot signed an Executive Order which includes the creation of a citywide Cumulative Impact Assessment to illustrate how specific environmental, health, and social stressors impact neighborhoods across the city.
Cincinnati, Ohio	Climate Equity Indicators Report	This report published by the city of Cincinnati has 52 indicators paired with climate risk exposure for each of the city's neighborhoods. This city-specific analysis will drive the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, and is a helpful, city-specific complement to the national Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.
Denver, Colorado	Climate Protection Fund Five-Year Plan	The Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency published a five-year investment strategy to direct the funding in their annual \$40 million Climate Protection Fund. The city will allocate at least 50 percent of the funding toward disadvantaged communities.
Ithaca, New York	Ithaca Justice50 & Green New Deal	Launched in 2019, the Ithaca Green New Deal is the city's comprehensive program seeking to achieve both carbon neutrality and climate justice by 2030. This program, and the scorecard to evaluate the program, show Ithaca's commitment to integrating Justice40 goals into its city planning – even going beyond federal goals, with Justice50.
Los Angeles, California	Electric Bus Manufacturing and Workforce Partnerships	LA County Department of Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services, the Steelworkers Local 675, Jobs to Move America, Citrus College, and Proterra (an EV manufacturing company) collaborated on an electric bus manufacturing training program that targets under-represented groups with barriers to employment. This green workforce training program is the first of its kind.
Orlando, Florida	Future-Ready City Master Plan	To map out its path toward an equitable and resilient future, Orlando released a Future-Ready Master Plan. The plan aligns its city planning strategies with upcoming federal funding opportunities. Orlando also hosted a "federal funding alignment workshop" to unite city staff members to learn from each other, network, and collaborate.



States Advancing Justice

State	Initiative	Summary
California	Transformative Climate Communities Program	California's comprehensive, place-based investment in climate action clearly embeds climate resilience and equity into all phases of infrastructure projects.
Delaware	Justice40 Oversight Committee	The Delaware legislature passed a resolution to create a Justice40 Oversight committee to monitor the state's environmental justice progress.
Illinois	Climate and Equitable Jobs Act	This Illinois Act of 2021 is a great example of high-road job creation that ensures proper wages and benefits for workers, supports apprenticeship programs, and specifically targets historically under-represented populations. The Act also requires prevailing wage on all nonresidential wind and solar developments and EV charging station manufacturing.
Hawai'i	Civic Advisory Group & AmeriCorps VISTA Program	To prioritize community engagement while working toward energy justice, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) created a Civic Advisory Group through which community members can give input on local energy projects. HSEO also worked with the Hawai'i Climate Change Commission to launch the AmeriCorps VISTA Program to research and work to resolve statewide energy equity issues. HSEO has leveraged federal funds to hire staff members focused on community outreach and engagement.

Critiques of Justice40

Image Credit: Wesley Tingey

Justice40 is a concrete endeavor by the Biden administration to incorporate environmental and climate justice goals into a multitude of federal investments. The EJ movement's consensus has long been that governments must tackle climate change and social inequalities simultaneously. Direct investment in disadvantaged communities can begin to address environmental burdens that have historically been placed upon them, while combating the current and future impacts of climate change at the same time.

That said, the Initiative's reception in climate justice circles has not been fully positive. From critiques about its omission of a specific mention of race to concerns about its arbitrary benchmarks, justice advocates have been vocal about their apprehension at its rollout alongside their praises.

Understanding Justice40's limitations, as well as its benefits, is important in order to fully grasp the Initiative's impact.

While it is ultimately the responsibility of the federal government to fine-tune the Initiative, individuals have agency to provide direct

feedback on the screening tools used for implementation, along with other feedback opportunities for specific grant programs (run by the offices administering each grant). Below, we explore some of the main critiques of Justice40.

No Mention of Race



Environmental justice (EJ) advocates have long said that, due to a history of racist housing and transportation policies, race is the best predictor for determining whether a community qualifies as an EJ community and thus would receive Justice40 funds. One major critique of Justice40 is that although it seeks to address racial inequality, it [omits](#) any mention of race in its language.

The Biden administration decided to leave out any explicit mention of race from the Executive Order's language to avoid potential legal issues. In light of the Supreme Court's decision to dismantle affirmative action in the summer of 2023 by making it unconstitutional to consider race in college admissions, some legal scholars [believe](#) it will be harder now to defend race-based policies in court. Dorothy A. Brown, a law professor at the Emory University School of Law, however, thinks that if the Biden administration wants to address racial inequity it should not let the fear of lawsuits stand in its way. [She says](#), "They're

going to get sued whether or not they take race into account. If you want to address environmental racism, there is no colorblind way to do that. The best defense would be to say this is remedial work based on past governmental discrimination... But you can't be timid about it."

"If you want to address environmental racism, there is no colorblind way to do that."

— Dorothy A Brown

Some researchers [advocate](#) that race should not be thought of as just one factor among many contributing to environmental injustice. Rather, it is the top factor, and should be explicitly addressed as such. The journal *Science* released [a study](#) showing that although CEJST might be used to shape pollution emission reduction efforts by income, it may not address racial disparities.

However, a [Grist study](#) supports the Biden administration's claims that a race-neutral approach is somewhat effective. The study points out that race can be implicitly addressed through proxies for race like proximity to traffic and hazardous waste sites, poverty level, and linguistic isolation. But these proxies are not perfect. The study showed that the first version of CEJST failed to include around 9,000 majority non-white census tracts in the "disadvantaged" category, while some high-income and affluent tracts were deemed disadvantaged. Over [2,300 people](#) wrote feedback to the Biden administration to address this issue, and the White House responded by releasing an updated version of the tool that expanded its disadvantaged communities list, indicating that the White House is responsive to community feedback to improve the tool.

Lack of Nuance



EJ advocates also suggest that more nuance is needed within the tool. Right now, the tool is relatively bimodal, designating communities as either "disadvantaged" or "not disadvantaged." This means that census tracts that meet multiple socioeconomic and environmental burden thresholds are not differentiated from those who only meet one. This approach does not address the fact that some communities have faced cumulative burdens from multiple stressors over time.

The White House [has said](#) that while CEJST does not currently reflect these cumulative burdens, a future version may. This [Justice40 Analysis](#) web tool published by the Center for Neighborhood Technology helps visualize the shortcomings of the federal definition of "disadvantaged" by mapping census tracts facing significant environmental and economic challenges that are not deemed "disadvantaged" by CEJST.

Some advocates argue that more nuanced language should be included in CEJST and Justice40. As it stands now, individual federal agencies *could* take a more nuanced approach to administer programs under the Justice40 umbrella. But because such action is not required in the Executive Order, it is not guaranteed that these agencies will do so.

Any program with a strict cutoff for eligibility will always exclude some deserving communities. The lack of nuance also fails to account for areas that do not currently qualify as disadvantaged, but that are guaranteed to become disadvantaged in the future. [For example](#), Gillette and Campbell are two Wyoming counties that are not presently categorized as disadvantaged, but due to planned coal plant closures, they will soon become EJ communities.

40 Percent Starting Point



In order to measure success, it makes sense that federal policies operate by setting what they deem to be achievable goals. However, some [advocates](#) make the case that 40 percent of spending allocated to disadvantaged communities should be a *starting point*, not an end goal.

The White House has not explained why they chose the benchmark of 40 percent. According to EJ researchers, it was [modeled](#) on a New York State [measure](#) that calculated that about 40 percent of the population of New York is disadvantaged – particularly considering socioeconomic status and race. This 40 percent figure is roughly comparable to national averages. According to the [2020 Census](#), about 40 percent of the population is non-white, whereas 37 percent of all households and 53 percent of Black households earn less than \$50K per year.

The 40 percent benchmark, then, seems to equate a national estimate of disadvantaged people with the amount of federal investment needed to address racial inequity. But this is like comparing apples and oranges: one is a population statistic, and the other is a complex measure of racial equity reparations.

The scale of investment in disadvantaged communities must represent the actual harm experienced by these communities over time for this Initiative to be truly reparative.

That said, the fact that the federal government chose a funding percentage that mostly exceeds the percentage of the population characterized as disadvantaged – albeit it only by a few percentage points – is a step forward toward advancing environmental justice.

If Justice40 is restricted to a narrow definition of what qualifies as “climate-specific” spending, the scope of the entire Executive Order could be much smaller than it should be. With a broader scope of climate spending included, however, Justice40 could steer billions of dollars annually. At a [minimum](#), the 40 percent should apply to all investments in water infrastructure, transportation, housing and buildings, agriculture, and energy because all these sectors directly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding False Solutions



Another major critique of Justice40 is that it provides funding for [false solutions](#) to climate change, including carbon capture and nuclear energy. These “clean” energy technologies that seem less harmful than other fossil fuels hide their true cost, because they are still harmful for human and environmental health. Or in the case of carbon capture, only moderately effective at reducing emissions. Investing in these technologies can disincentivize the transition to genuinely clean energy sources and low-tech, high-efficiency emissions reduction efforts - such as planting trees - and prolongs our dependence on fossil fuel companies. [Over 500](#) EJ and CJ organizations have publicly rejected these technologies as part of a just and sustainable path forward.

More Federal Support Needed



More federal assistance is needed for state agencies when it comes to distributing federal funding in accordance with Justice40 investments. State agencies are responsible for administering major portions of BIL and IRA formula funds, facilitating competitive grant applications, and coordinating stakeholder engagement. Many state staff members [fear](#) they are missing details and opportunities due to an overwhelming amount of information coming from the federal government. Most of the technical assistance states need is in relation to tracking, mapping, and reporting on goals and benefits related to the Justice40 Initiative. State staff also feel limited in their capacity, despite hiring more staff in attempts to increase their bandwidth.

State-based staff have [suggested](#) a multitude of solutions from federal agencies that would help them improve their outreach. Many want to prioritize personal connections and collaborative events because this makes points of contact for government aid and technical assistance easily visible to those applying for grants for the first time while reducing the strain on state agencies. They have also suggested having mixed audiences – representatives from different levels of government and across different states and regions, as well as people from non-governmental sectors – to promote the sharing of best-practices between groups and more efficient information dissemination. They also want to push federal agencies to provide opportunities for feedback. Some state staff members have [reported](#) that though they feel comfortable asking questions about different programs, they do not feel comfortable pushing for more federal support.

A promising region where this is beginning to take shape is in New England. Since September 2023, a trio of [funders](#) and nonprofits have organized regional and state-level gatherings to bring state and local decision makers together with community leaders to share policy updates, federal funding questions, and to network. This effort is now also supported by one of the 11 regional Thriving Communities Grants from the EPA, which will provide [\\$50 million](#) in subgrants for a variety of EJ projects.



**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**
PROGRAM

Information overload and resource fatigue is commonly reported and can lead to agencies missing funding opportunities. More state-to-state knowledge sharing would be beneficial to aid state agencies in incorporating best practices into their project funding and outreach. Many state staff have also [said](#) that an established point of contact in relevant federal and regional offices would help if states had more minor questions like project development or project eligibility. Overall, many state agencies have reported a low awareness of technical assistance providers. This leads to a lack of support for administering federal funds and for NGOs, causing states to rely on already constrained state resources and funding.

Increasing Access and Technical Assistance



When it comes to getting funding to the communities that need it most, many state agencies use federal [mapping and scoring](#) technology when finding projects to finance. However, the use of this technology is not required. Some state staff have even reported that the preferential scoring for communities is not enough to ensure access to funding opportunities. Many criteria like the technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) readiness criteria often block environmental justice and disadvantaged communities (DACs) from accessing proper funding. Similarly, Tribal nations are experiencing difficulties meeting project and grant application requirements. Oftentimes, these requirements are similar to those for state programs. Tribal governments have even less staff and bandwidth than states that do apply to these projects.

The lack of resources for state agencies often means they are relying on come-to-us models for projects and applications. Due to this situation, outreach to already underserved communities is further limited. Some staff have [reported](#) feeling as though certain disadvantaged communities are being missed in the screening tools. Some believe that screening tools should be used more

proactively when identifying where to prioritize outreach or direct technical assistance. They have also said that while federal criteria are beneficial, certain criteria when mapping disadvantaged communities regionally might either be irrelevant to states, or be completely missed by federal screening. As a result, there are high levels of concern that..

While the overarching Justice40 goals might be met, smaller and lower-capacity communities might not receive their fair portion of the funds being distributed.

Final Thoughts

Though imperfect, the Justice40 Initiative remains an unprecedented opportunity for communities, cities, and states to prioritize historically underinvested populations, engage community members in decision-making processes, and center justice in local and statewide planning. The passage and initial implementation of Justice40 has marked an important step toward realizing climate justice in communities across the country.



Inflation Reduction Act

Image Credit: Chuttersnap

What Is the IRA?

KEY TERMS

Tax incentive: A policy designed to encourage a particular behavior or activity by lowering taxes owed through deductions, exemptions, and credits.

Green bank: An entity that specifically funds investments in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure to help finance a just transition.

Oil and gas lease: A document allowing a company or an individual to extract oil or gas from beneath a designated piece of land.

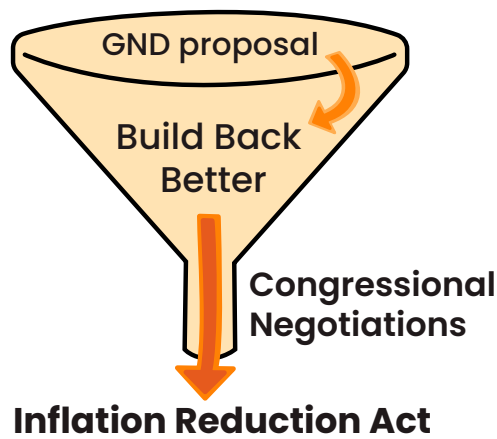
Direct pay: A process for tax-exempt entities to claim a direct payment from the IRS in the equivalent amount they would have received as a tax credit if they were taxable.

Energy Community: A community that has been historically reliant on jobs in the extraction, processing, transportation, or storage of fossil fuels.

The passage of the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) was a response by the Biden administration to calls in progressive circles for a Green New Deal. The “Build Back Better” plan was President Biden’s initial [response](#) to the climate justice movement’s push for more ambitious action. And though conservative Democratic Senators Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema maneuvered to weaken its scope, the IRA remains an expansive law that addresses multiple priorities, including the need for meaningful action by the government on climate change.

The IRA provides approximately [\\$392 billion](#) dollars in funding over ten years for climate adaptation, resilience, and mitigation. It also improves the [Affordable Care Act](#) to lower health care costs. These provisions are combined with language that raises taxes on large corporations and the wealthy, and enables Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. The overall goal of the IRA is to reach interconnected environmental and health goals while still lowering the federal deficit in order to prevent inflation and a possible recession. It aims to achieve this by [reducing](#) the cost of basic needs – [namely](#) health care and

prescription drugs. It also promises to reduce energy costs through clean energy tax credits and to encourage domestic manufacturing.



On April 20, 2023, Congressional members who initially sponsored the Green New Deal [reintroduced](#) the resolution. That same month, Senator Ed Markey and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez released an implementation [guide](#) meant to ensure that both the IRA and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) live up to some of the Green New Deal’s main tenets.

The Inflation Reduction Act ultimately creates investments towards some of the goals of the Green New Deal Resolution.

Major programmatic areas receiving funding include improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gasses, increasing home energy efficiency, expanding clean energy and electric vehicles (EV), environmental restoration, creating green jobs, and increasing community and tribal resilience.

The funding opportunities it provides will require significant engagement with communities across the country to deliver on its claims of climate adaptation and resilience. The IRA is a down payment on this goal. Communities across the US must continue to advocate for deeper investments in public services and climate resilience programs to reach the transformative potential of a [Green New Deal](#).

Unlike the BIL, most of the funding in the IRA (about [65 percent](#)) will go towards energy-related tax credits. Though many of these tax credits will go to private businesses, they also can go to individuals for EV purchases and home energy efficiency improvements, public projects, or non-profit organizations that want to install clean energy. It is vital that advocates help ensure their communities are aware of and can take advantage of these tax credits. States and municipalities, for their part, will need to get creative to help fill in needs gaps, ensuring that the people and communities who most need funding can take advantage of it through new avenues such as green banks and loan programs.



IRA: How It Works

Image Credit: Andrew Roberts

Funded Programs

The IRA is the largest ever federal investment to address the threat of climate change. The Act includes billions in clean energy and climate investments, building on initial funding opportunities that were introduced in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Notably, many IRA programs have been specifically earmarked for disadvantaged communities. In total, about **\$118 billion** in IRA investments - or 74 programs - are subject to Justice40, meaning that at minimum, 40 percent of the benefits from these covered programs must flow into environmental justice communities.

Covered investments include electric vehicles, clean energy programs, electric power infrastructure, and climate resilience. Funding for these investments will be distributed through federal agencies and their programmatic offices will oversee individual grants and implementation. Some of the IRA funding is given directly to the states, either for state programs or for redistribution to local governments, communities, or private entities. Funding can also go directly to federally recognized Tribes, communities, institutions, and individuals.

\$118 billion in IRA investments across 74 programs fall under the Justice40 framework

IRA money will be distributed through various funding types to better allow states, cities, tribal governments, and nonprofits the ability to tailor the use of funds to specific climate-related projects. Some of the funding will also be used by federal agencies to hire new staff and build out new offices. However, in order to maximize the benefits and efficiency of the IRA, the federal government will carefully plan alongside and coordinate with state, local and Tribal governments as they implement funds.

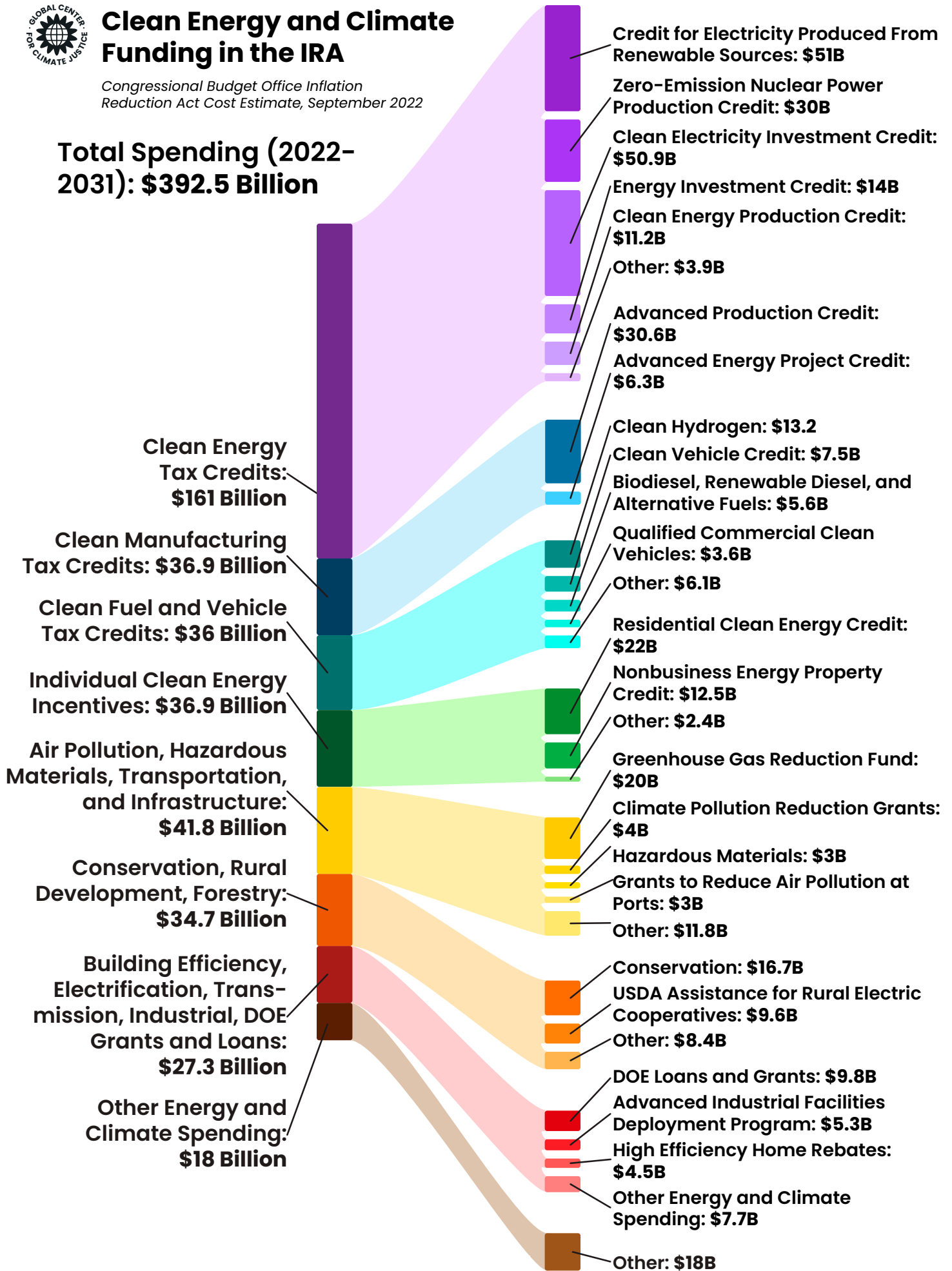
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Clean Energy and Climate Funding in the IRA

Congressional Budget Office Inflation Reduction Act Cost Estimate, September 2022

Total Spending (2022-2031): \$392.5 Billion





New Offices Under the IRA



To administer the enormity of new funds and programs made available by the IRA, some federal agencies have created entirely new offices and programs:

- The Department of Energy launched an [Energy Savings Hub](#) aimed at helping customers, renters, and homeowners find ways of reducing energy bills through IRA funding and programs. This includes projects like installing efficient heat pumps, better insulation, rooftop solar and battery storage, and electric vehicle purchases for tax credits.
- They also launched the **Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)**. SCEP is very actively working with state and local organizations to accelerate the deployment of clean energy and speed up economic opportunity and job development. SCEP also enables the Department of Energy to work with local governments and communities on long-term projects.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched a **Green and Resilient Retrofit program** designed to improve energy and water efficiency (as well as climate resilience) in multifamily, low-income homes.
- Finally, the Department of the Interior has released a new **Restoration and Resilience Framework** that is helping to guide a total of \$2 billion in funding from the IRA towards protecting public lands and waters. This will include projects under the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

What Are the Funding Timelines?

IRA [Funds](#) are apportioned to federal agencies, which then reallocate the funds to their bureaus to issue grants. There are both individual grant deadlines with specific dates issued by [Grants.gov](#), and overall program funding deadlines (the date by which each agency must have distributed all of its funding for that particular program). Program funding deadlines are often multi-year, meaning the program funding is available in set annual installments until all of the allocated funding is drawn down in a future date - usually set as ending in 2026 or 2031. There are sometimes rolling applications with funding only available until the money runs out, which means it is in an applicant's interest to apply as soon as possible.

As there are so many differing periods of availability and special stipulations regarding the application process for IRA funds, it is imperative to check the White House's [database](#) regarding periods of availability for each of the programs and tax credits that are of interest to you. Each IRA tax credit and deduction is also highly specific, so it is also important to check their [requirements](#) before pursuing them. In addition, there are numerous independently run federal funding trackers, many of which are described and linked to in the final section of this report.

Funding Types

There are six overarching project [categories](#) that the IRA funds: energy, manufacturing, environment, transportation, agriculture, and water.



Certain types of funding opportunities will only be available to particular entities (for example states or Tribes) so it is important to check the eligibility of each grant carefully. The [majority](#) of IRA funding is allocated through tax incentives to private companies and individuals, rather than through grants to public and private entities. Block grants can

only go to governments and consumer tax credits can only go to individuals. Loans are able to be used by any entity. Review the table below (adapted from [BlueGreen Alliance](#)) to learn more about the IRA's funding types, who is eligible for each type, and how the funding can be applied.

IRA Funding Types

Type of Funding	How It Works	Who Is Eligible
Mandatory Grant	Funds are automatically awarded to all eligible applicants	Typically awarded to state or local governments
Formula Grant	Type of mandatory grant where funds are given in accordance to a formula, or fixed set of criteria	Typically awarded to state or local governments
Block Grant	Type of mandatory grant given to a smaller government entity by a larger one and used to fulfill a broad set of functions. Smaller government entities can use funds at their own discretion	Typically awarded to state or local governments
Discretionary/ Competitive Grant	Grants that are given to individuals or organizations chosen from a pool of applicants in a review process that typically has a fixed set of criteria	State and local governments, private companies, nonprofits, labor unions, or individuals
Categorical Grant	Used to fund a highly specific set of programs and activities working towards a certain goal	Typically awarded to state or local governments
Project Grant	A subset of categorical grants that funds specific projects, initiatives, or services. These grants are also competitive	Typically awarded to government agencies, nonprofits, or private companies
Basic Loan	Pool of funding that is given but also expected to be paid back with interest. The IRA loans are typically lower cost and have more flexible financing	Typically given for specific projects to governments or companies
Loan Guarantees	These reduce the risk of a project by having the federal agency agree to assume any debt for the loan in case the project defaults	These are sometimes provided along with basic loans to reduce the risk of a project



Bonds	Securities that are issued in exchange for a loan, similar to an IOU. An entity can issue a bond and sell it for cash. Bonds typically have to be paid back by a certain date, with a set interest rate	Typically used by any entity that can issue debt to raise money, such as local governments
Refundable Tax Credit	Can be used to generate a federal tax refund. The amount generated is typically larger than the amount of tax owed throughout the year. Guarantees a benefit	Typically given to project developers, manufacturers, and consumers
Nonrefundable Tax Credit	Can only be used to offset taxes owed, not to increase a federal refund. There will not be a sum larger than the amount owed throughout the year. Cannot guarantee a benefit	Typically given to project developers, manufacturers, and consumers
Direct Pay	An option where tax-exempt government entities receive a direct payment equal to the value of the tax credit for a qualifying project	Typically given to tax-exempt entities, and other eligible state, local, and tribal governments
Investment Tax Credits	Dollar-for-dollar tax credits to offset project expenses related to clean energy	Entities investing in clean energy infrastructure or facilities manufacturing parts for clean energy projects or EVs
Production Tax Credits	Rebates based on the amount of a certain product made by a company (e.g. a rebate per kilowatt of clean energy produced or per solar panel manufactured)	Given to manufacturers or utilities
Consumer Tax Credits	Given to incentivize consumers to buy certain products (e.g. solar panels) or make certain energy efficiency changes to their homes	Given to individual taxpayers
Excise Tax	Tax levied on a manufactured good or service. The tax is given to the production, not paid by the consumer	The IRA extends an excise tax on coal to support miners affected by Black Lung Disease
Tax Deductions	Lowers the amount of taxes owed to the IRS by lowering the amount of income that is eligible to be taxed	Similar to tax credits, can be given to businesses or consumers
Cooperative Agreements	Similar to grants, involve the transfer of something of value from federal agencies to local governments for public benefit	Given to local and state governments, or private recipients
Technical Assistance	Targeted support to an organization with a specific development need or problem, usually delivered over an extended period of time	Given to disadvantaged communities that might lack access to resources and bandwidth to access certain opportunities



IRA in Practice

Image Credit: Jared Murray

There's much to celebrate when it comes to the benefits of the IRA. Recently, the Treasury Department estimated that the law would yield cumulative global economic benefits to the tune of [\\$5 trillion](#), and that only from the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions reductions from the IRA between today and 2050 are projected to be on the order of 21 billion tons. It will also save governments globally an estimated \$5.6 trillion in avoided climate-related damages before 2050 - \$640 billion of that right here in the U.S.

Reviews of the IRA's impact over the past two years are more [modest](#). While sales of electric vehicles are up as expected, investments in clean energy are behind schedule, mostly because of logistical barriers - such as permitting requirements, supply chain delays, and grid interconnection bottlenecks. While many IRA investments come in the form of government grants, the legislation has also created a host of new federal tax credits to support individual and business investments. For non tax-paying entities like local governments and universities, these benefits are available through direct payment options.

The law's tax credits have proved extremely popular

Although most of the IRA's investments are still in early stages, the law's tax credits have proved extremely popular; encouraging companies to invest \$44 billion in clean energy manufacturing in 2023 alone.

There are additional reasons to be hopeful the IRA will direct the U.S. towards a more sustainable and resilient future. The law dedicates more than [\\$720 million](#) for programs in Tribal Nations and Native communities. And one of the largest IRA programs is the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: an historic [\\$27 billion](#) investment in three separate programs. It will mobilize both public and private financing through a series of green banks, providing competitive financing for clean technologies and solar developments. While the tax credits and direct payments alone will benefit cities and their residents, it is important for municipal governments and eligible nonprofits to understand the diversity of grant opportunities and technical assistance also provided by the IRA.

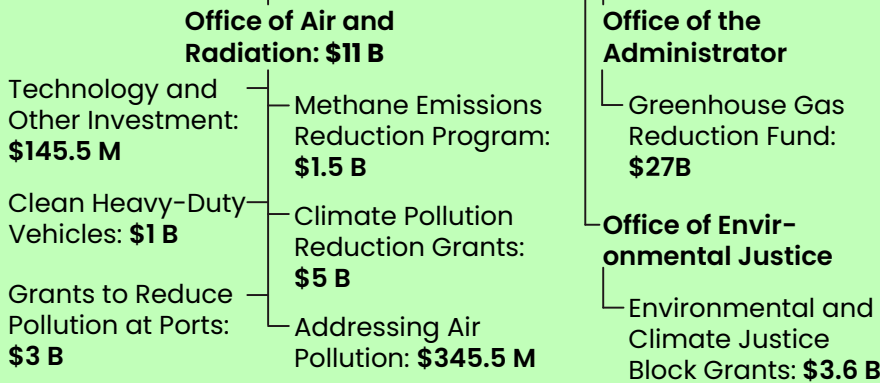
The graphic below describes in detail the various agencies funded by the IRA, their total funding amounts, the sub-agency bureaus, offices and commissions overseeing the IRA's programs, and the names and funding mounts of each program. All new tax credits made available through the IRA are listed under the Department of the Treasury.



The Inflation Reduction Act's Funded Programs



Environmental Protection Agency: \$42.1 B

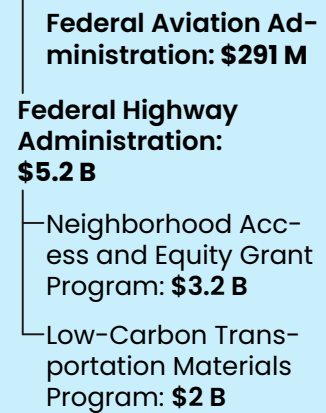


Current funding totals in White House Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook as of November 2023.

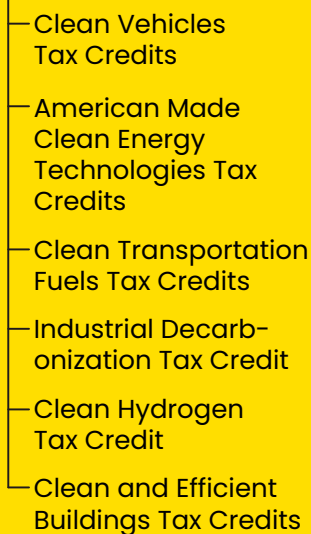
Treasury programs are tax credits, not funded programs, numbers are rounded.



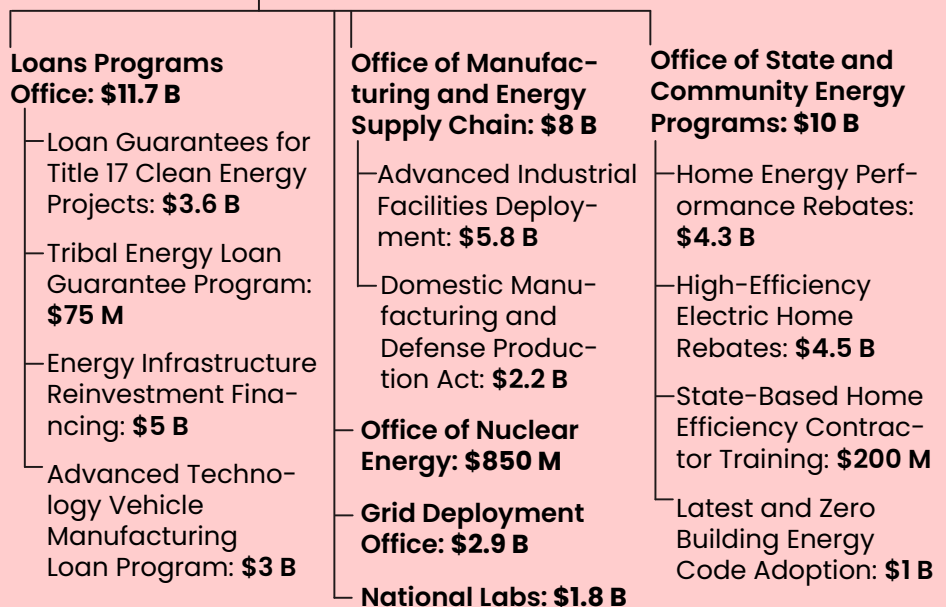
Department of Transportation: \$5.5 B



Department of the Treasury



Department of Energy: \$35.3 B





Department of Agriculture: \$43.3 B

Natural Resources Conservation Service: \$19.3 B

- Conservation Technical Assistance: **\$1.3 B**
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program: **\$5 B**
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program: **\$8.5 B**
- Conservation Stewardship Program: **\$3.2 B**
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program: **\$1.4 B**

US Forest Service: \$4.8 B

- Urban and Community Forestry Assistance: **\$1.5 B**
- Assistance to Underserved Forest Landowners: **\$400 M**
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects in Wildlands: **\$1.8 B**
- Other Forestry Programs: **\$1.1 B**

National Institutes of Food: \$250 M

Rural Business-Cooperative Service: \$2.5 B

- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): **\$2 B**
- Biofuel Market Expansion: **\$500 M**

Office of the Secretary: \$2.3 B

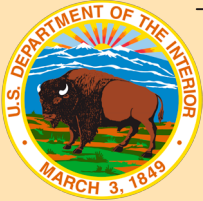
- Assistance for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers, Foresters: **\$2.3 B**
- Equity Commission: **\$10 M**

Rural Utilities Service: \$10.7 B

- Powering Affordable Clean Energy: **\$1 B**
- USDA Assistance for Rural Electric Cooperatives: **\$9.7 B**

Farm Service Agency

- Assistance for Distressed Borrowers, Land Access: **\$3.3 B**



Department of the Interior \$6.5 B

Bureau of Reclamation: \$4.6 B

- Drought Mitigation: **\$4 B**
- Water and Canal Improvements, Resilience Projects: **\$603 M**

National Park Service: \$1.2 B

- National Park Service Employees and Maintenance: **\$700 M**
- Conservation and Resilience: **\$500 M**

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Tribal Climate Resilience and Electrification Programs: **\$385 M**

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations: \$25 M

US Geological Survey: \$23 M

US Fish and Wildlife Service: \$250 M



Department of Commerce: \$4.9 B

NOAA

- Investing in Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience: **\$4.4 B**
- Facilities, Research and Acquisitions: **\$502 M**



Dept. of Housing and Urban Development \$940 M

Office of Housing, Multifamily Housing, Recapitalization

- Green and Resilient Retrofit Program: **\$940 M**



General Services Administration: \$3.4 B

- Real Property Activities: **\$3.4 B**



Council on Environmental Quality: \$32.5 M

- Environmental and Climate Data Improvement: **\$32.5 M**




**UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE®**

**US Postal
Service: \$3 B**

Postal Service
Clean Fleets: **\$3 B**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Dept. of Homeland
Security \$500 M**

Office of Chief
Readiness: **\$500 M**

Identifying Funding Opportunities

The IRA's vast suite of programs and grants are still being rolled out in real time at every level of government. The unprecedented scope of these climate investments and the necessity of creating new regulations and offices to manage them has introduced a whole new layer of complexity and demanded that any eligible applicant spend significant amounts of time familiarizing themselves with each program's stipulations.

Thankfully, countless advocacy organizations, government offices, and municipal networks have created indispensable guides that break down subsections of the IRA's opportunities. The guides provide direction on who is eligible, how to apply, model projects, and sometimes include searchable databases to identify near-term grant opportunities. Our team has researched and summarized some of the best guides and sorted them by applicant type in the tables below.

For Tribes

Author	Purpose
White House	This resource is specifically designed for Tribal Nations and summarizes the projects and funding earmarked for Tribes or for which they are an eligible applicant. It includes the category of project, which agency it is under, how much is available, and more detail on the funding opportunity.
Evergreen Collaborative & NDN Collective	Highlights IRA opportunities for Tribal governments and indigenous communities. Their summary includes programs to which indigenous individuals can apply, along with tax incentives for individuals and Tribal Governments.
White House	This guidebook put out by the White House features descriptions of all funds coming from the IRA that are dedicated to Tribal Governments. It lists all programs organized by project type and includes the overseeing agency, program name, funding amount, program description, and timelines. It also describes how tax incentives and direct pay will work for Tribal Governments.



For State and Local Governments

Author	Purpose
Center for American Progress	Informative article that describes the overarching themes of IRA investments. Includes summarized information about fund amounts going to energy efficiency and electrification, as well as how states, cities, and Tribal governments can benefit from these investments.
Internal Revenue Service	This recently released guidance from the IRS is for taxpayers navigating resources coming from the IRA like tax credits, deductions, and direct payments for eligible entities. Information on each tax credit, payment or deduction is hyperlinked, with further clarification on who qualifies and during what time period.

For Energy Communities

Author	Purpose
The Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities	This Interagency Working Group, created by Biden with an Executive Order, publishes this Funding Clearinghouse which lists current funding opportunities available to energy communities. The list is reviewed and updated weekly, and includes links to applications, information about status, funding type, program purpose, and eligible recipients.

For Local Governments

Author	Purpose
Local Infrastructure Hub	This in-depth analysis of the IRA shows how state and municipal governments can best utilize this funding to accelerate clean energy projects. Information provided includes key IRA clean energy incentives, the role of municipal governments in accelerating an energy transition, and strategies for maximizing clean energy deployment.
C40 Cities	A detailed publication that includes graphical breakdowns of how IRA funding will be beneficial for municipal governments. Beginning with what is already being funded, the report includes detailed graphics of the best ways local governments can access funding. The report also contains tables with every project title available to municipal governments with funding amounts, the focus area, overseeing agency, and the timeframe for next steps.
United States Conference of Mayors	Municipalities were until recently ineligible for tax credits (as tax-exempt entities). This resource details exactly how municipal governments can use the new direct pay tax credit funds in the IRA to their full extent. It explains what direct pay tax credits are, what credits are available to cities, how to use them, limitations, and also includes some case studies for the use of direct pay tax credits in cities.



For All Applicant Types

Author	Purpose
BlueGreen Alliance	A comprehensive document that includes easy to understand explanations of key job-creating provisions coming out of the IRA, how IRA investments in different sectors are linked to job creation, health benefits, and climate action, and lists the funding opportunities that can be used to support jobs.
White House	The federal government's comprehensive guide describing each funding opportunity under the IRA with eligibility and program information.
Sabin Center & Environmental Defense Fund	This interactive dashboard allows users to search for different funding opportunities and programs by federal agency or eligible applicant type. Each project is defined briefly, and recent relevant agency updates are also listed.
White House	This resource from the White House maps out how direct pay tax credits are intended to function. It covers a full list of applicable tax credits for direct pay, who is currently eligible for direct pay, and what benefits they might receive.
Rocky Mountain Institute	This database provides a more user-friendly experience for navigating all IRA funded projects using data from the original spreadsheet provided by the White House. This database allows users to sort projects by funding eligibility, sector, topic, and funding type. It has also updated some of the information from what the White House originally published and allows for a better understanding of the projects being supported.
Housing and Urban Development	The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development has a funding navigator that allows people to search funding opportunities under HUD's authority by project type, subtype, audience, funding type, and by keywords.
Evergreen Collaborative	This resource breaks down how to implement the IRA into different project categories. These include environmental and climate justice block grants, clean energy tax credits, climate pollution reduction grants, greenhouse gas reduction funds, rural utilities service programs, and direct pay.
Environmental Protection Agency	The Environmental Protection Agency released a flier that summarizes EPA projects funded by the IRA and IIJA. The flier includes high-level information on some of the largest funding opportunities, and QR codes to further information.
America is All In	This sortable table links out to numerous additional IRA resources from the federal government and compiled by advocacy organizations. Users can search the table by resource type, audience, description of the resource, its authors, relevant tax codes, and what keywords and IRA programs the resources fall under.

For Rural Communities

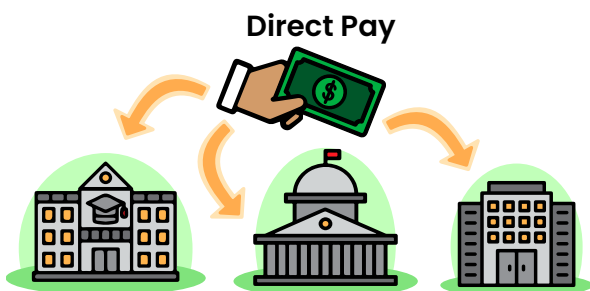
Author	Purpose
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (DOE)	This guide put out by the OECD provides assistance for applying to federal funding programs supporting clean energy projects in rural and remote areas. It runs through different aspects of applying for federal funding, such as navigating the process and what funding might be relevant for specific communities.

For Colleges and Universities

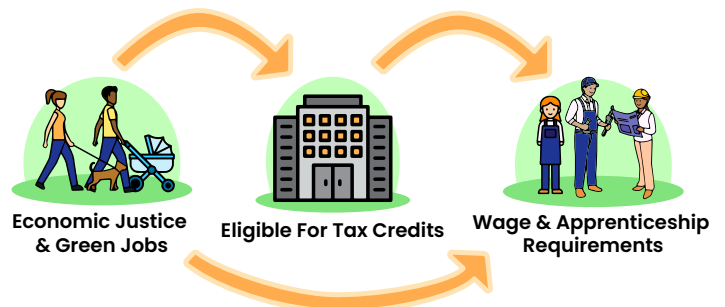
Author	Purpose
Second Nature & MIT	Details how institutions of higher education have a role in expanding the reach of IRA funds. Describes all funding opportunities that higher educational institutions are eligible for, and others where they can provide research power.

Advancing Climate Justice

New direct payment options and project funding coming out of the IRA increase access to climate and clean energy opportunities for governments, nonprofits, and Tribes. **Historically**, only taxpaying entities, such as individuals and businesses, have been able to take advantage of tax incentives relating to climate and clean energy. Prior to the IRA, municipal governments and nonprofit entities (including universities and nonprofit organizations) had been unable to use tax credits unless they partnered with private firms to work on clean energy or resilience projects. But now, new direct payment options created by the IRS expands eligibility for such benefits to tax-exempt entities so they can receive direct support for clean energy investments.



These new direct payment options also enable tax exempt entities to pursue their climate goals, such as expanding [smart surfaces](#). Smart surfaces increase the resilience of neighborhoods, which is especially important in cities. Smart surfaces are designed to combat the effects of sun, rain, and heat. Surfaces like these include reflective pavements and roofing, porous pavement, green roofs, and solar panels. Not only will these surfaces help reduce heat island effects which historically have predominantly occurred in disadvantaged communities, they also reduce the need for air conditioning.



The IRA provides additional [tax credits](#) to entities that abide by prevailing wage requirements and that use registered apprentices. Other bonus credits are given for projects meeting certain requirements for materials (like steel and iron) made domestically. The White House envisions that these wage and

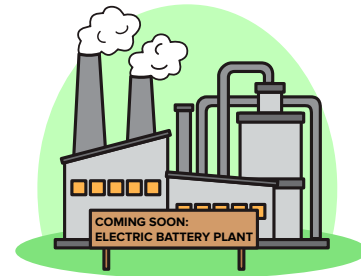
apprenticeship requirements can help forge a “pathway to the middle class for working families, including for workers who have been historically underrepresented in construction and manufacturing.”



Federally recognized Tribes have a collection of [funding](#) opportunities specifically earmarked for them within the IRA. This includes supplementary funds to investments made through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Many of the funds are aimed at accelerating investment in clean energy related projects, facilitating Tribal climate adaptation and resilience, and supporting the electrification of homes. Some \$225 million of funding is dedicated to climate resilience, including [\\$135 million](#) to support the relocation of Tribal communities being displaced due to climate change. This is one of the first government funded climate relocation projects. Tribal governments are also eligible for many of the clean energy tax incentives and are often eligible entities for other funding programs not specifically enumerated in the [Tribal Playbook](#) released by the White House.

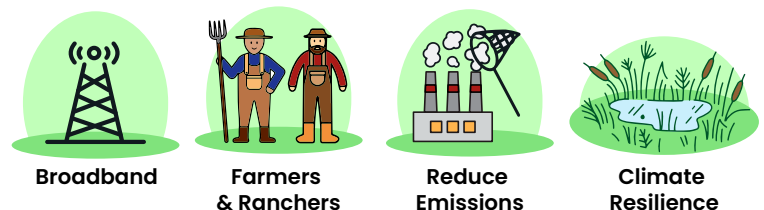
“Energy communities” are a newly defined set of beneficiaries of IRA investment dollars.

Energy communities are communities that have a coal mine or used to have a coal fired power plant that has now closed. This means that the community is either already feeling the economic impacts of the closure, or could



be affected by energy transitions in future years. Places that have been historically reliant on jobs in the extraction, processing, transportation, or storage of coal, oil, or natural gas that now face higher levels of unemployment are also considered energy communities. Many of the projects and tax [incentives](#) benefiting these communities are administered by the Department of Energy. Additionally, the Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing [loan program](#) overseen by the Department of Energy will guarantee loans to projects that retool, repower, repurpose, or replace older energy infrastructure in these communities (as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions in existing infrastructure).

Often overlooked when it comes to technological investments, the IRA has incorporated projects and funding strategically aimed at revitalizing and connecting rural communities as well. [Rural communities](#) are eligible for major investments in electricity services and expanded access to affordable clean energy solutions. Additionally, IRA-eligible projects aimed at climate resilience and emissions reductions are looking at ways to partner with farmers and ranchers to reduce emissions from farming operations. Financial support is also being offered to rural communities affected by the pandemic and climate-fueled natural disasters like extreme drought.



Broadband

Farmers & Ranchers

Reduce Emissions

Climate Resilience

Tips for Grant Applicants



Understand Needs. In order to best take advantage of the funding opportunities coming out of the IRA, it is important to have a firm understanding of the needs and capacities of the constituencies you serve in order to match funding to what communities actively need or want. Once a clear baseline of needs and capacities has been established, it is helpful to search for aligned projects, tax incentives, and grant opportunities. These can be identified through the many existing resources and databases, including those listed in the table above, which have breakdowns of different funding opportunities depending on agency, project type, applicant type, and other search terms.

Streamline Permitting. To continue maximizing the impacts of the IRA, local governments are [encouraged](#) to streamline permitting processes and remove obstacles to the implementation of clean energy projects locally to make applying for federal funding less time-consuming. Cities can create new task forces for executing projects (e.g. a team focused on clean buildings) while also supporting existing or new community partnerships (e.g. local [Workforce Investment Boards](#) that can unite employers with workforce training providers).

Map Out Your Best Projects. Another promising tool to make the overwhelming task of capitalizing on the IRA more manageable are [Climate Investment Playbooks](#), where applicants build themselves a list of concrete projects that would tap into IRA incentives, mapping out clear goals, project beneficiaries, locations, and projected economic impacts to help identify which federal funding opportunities are most aligned with the projects they

are ready to pursue. Creating clear routines for outlining and launching new projects also helps when it comes to repeating the application process for future projects.

Educate Constituents on Benefits. The IRA's grants and tax credits are being offered to entities that have never before applied for federal grants, and to many entities not previously eligible for direct federal benefits, such as universities and hospitals. The [largest pools](#) of IRA funding are going to tax credits for low-carbon technologies and clean energy production so that nonprofits and governments can finally take full advantage of these large financial incentives. To ensure that businesses and individuals take advantage of these tax incentives, cities should also launch marketing and communications [campaigns](#) to educate the public about available IRA tax credits and benefits. These campaigns should include information about technical assistance so assess applicants in accessing these funds.

Build Staff Capacity. Another important consideration in applying for federal funds is creating the internal bandwidth to apply for grants and implement funded projects. Cities, Tribes, and nonprofit organizations that have created a process for identifying potential grant partners or have an existing understanding of priority projects for their constituents, like [Milwaukee](#), have noted these internal structures have prepared them well to sift through the enormous amount of IRA grant possibilities and identify the grants that best fit their needs. Other cities or nonprofits have invested in staffing up - hiring additional employees specifically to help identify grant possibilities and identify partners or needs in real time.



Cities, Tribes and nonprofits that have created processes for identifying grant partners and projects are best positioned to move forward and apply for funding.

Leverage Networks. Because much of the funding available through the IRA and BIL is accessible now, or only available until funds are expended, *time is of the essence*. Dedicating new or existing staff time to monitoring and acting on grants should be a top priority of municipal governments right now. But where capacity is tight, local government [coalitions](#), regional planning [offices](#), dedicated state and local staff, regional technical assistance providers through the EPA’s [Thriving Communities](#) program, and other policy or municipal networks can be essential resources to help eligible local applicants wade through the IRA’s myriad of possibilities. Another approach is to seek out partnership grants with local eligible entities such as nonprofits. California’s Office of Planning and Research has in-depth [recommendations](#) on preparing and managing partnership grants.

Assistance from Aligned Foundations. A consortium of grant makers has also formed the [Invest in Our Future](#) fund, which is a catalytic grant foundation that helps nonprofits and municipalities apply for federal grants by awarding them a small grant and guidance as they develop their projects and work on federal grant applications. The [goal](#) is to use small grants to help disadvantaged communities eventually secure larger sums of federal grant funding.

Because much of the funding available through the IRA and BIL is accessible now, or only available until funds are expended, time is of the essence.

The IRA’s Impact So Far

In its first year alone, the Inflation Reduction Act created over [170,000](#) new jobs and invested [\\$278 billion](#) in clean energy projects. The table below outlines a few examples of IRA funding at work in communities across the country.

Location	Project	Summary
Alaska	Climate Resilience in Remote Communities	NOAA announced \$500,000 in IRA funds in 2024 for remote Alaska communities to work towards stronger climate resilience and food security. These funds will be distributed through the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Indigenous Engagement program; they will also be used to collaborate with Indigenous communities.
Bryan County, Georgia	Domestic Production of Electric Vehicles	Hyundai will start EV vehicle and battery production at a \$5.5 billion plant in Georgia, motivated by IRA incentives for domestic production of clean vehicle components. The plant will employ at least 8,100 workers.



Chicago, Illinois	Clean Energy Job Training & Energy Communities Tax Credit Bonus	The Sustainability Hub is a new job training facility in Chicago created by Power52's Ecademy and 548 Enterprise. The facility will offer clean energy job training for local residents, particularly underserved community members, veterans, and returning citizens.
Connecticut	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund / Green Bank	Connecticut is serving as the model for the nation's first Green Bank, using IRA funds to invest in a green economy. The Green Bank is aligning with Justice40 and directing at least 40 percent of its investments to disadvantaged communities.
Detroit, Michigan	Air Pollution Reduction	The IRA has provided investments to reduce air pollution in industrial zones in neighborhoods like Southwest Detroit, which currently contains some of the most heavily polluted ZIP codes in the US.
Gila River Indian Community, Arizona	Solar Panel Installation	The Gila River Indian Community received \$5.65 million to construct and install solar panels over the Casa Blanca Canal. This is the first portion of the IRA's total \$25 million dedicated to projects covering water conveyance facilities with solar panels.
Hancock County, West Virginia	Tax Incentives for Battery Storage & Renewables	Form Energy – a clean energy storage company – is starting construction on an iron-air battery system manufacturing plant where an old steel mill once stood. The construction of the factory will generate 750 well-paying jobs.
New England	Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program	Boston-based nonprofit Health Resources in Action (HRIA) and two community-based partners received \$50 million to remove barriers to accessing federal funds and to provide subgrants for clean ups, environmental workforce development, disaster resiliency, and other local environmental projects.
Oregon	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program	EPA awarded Oregon a \$3 million planning grant and \$1 million to the Portland metro area to support strong pollution reduction strategies that especially benefit disadvantaged communities and update its state climate action plan.
Rural Communities	Empowering Rural America & Powering Affordable Clean Energy Programs	The Rural Power Coalition successfully lobbied for and secured IRA investments in rural electrification: the New ERA program received \$9.7B for rural electric cooperatives to reduce GHGs; \$1B for the PACE program will help make clean & affordable energy accessible to rural communities.
Southern Texas	Access to Trees and Green Spaces	The Forest Service is awarding \$21,750,000 to the southern region of Texas to increase and maintain a healthy urban tree canopy and to improve access to nature in disadvantaged urban communities.



Critiques of the IRA

Image Credit: Joshua Sukoff

While the Inflation Reduction Act has been [celebrated](#) by the White House as a successful accomplishment – with others even going so far as suggesting that it has the power to “[save civilization](#)” – environmental justice advocates have raised concerns with the IRA from when it was first debated in Congress to the ways in which it is being implemented today. In this section, we explore many of these critiques in order to add nuance to readers’ understanding of the IRA and to better understand its role in supporting climate justice projects and initiatives nationwide.

Environmental justice advocates have raised concerns with the IRA from when it was first debated in Congress

Supports the Expansion of Fossil Fuels



One major critique of the IRA is that a congressional compromise reached during the bill’s formation enabled the sale of additional oil and gas leases in exchange for the expansion of offshore wind energy infrastructure.

The IRA originally [mandated](#) the sale of ten leases in the Gulf of Mexico, and one in Alaska’s Cook Inlet. A later [announcement](#) reduced this to three lease sales through 2029, and limited the lease region to the Gulf of Mexico. This three-sale plan, with one sale occurring in 2025, 2027, and 2029 respectively, represents the [fewest](#) number of lease sales since the federal leasing program was launched decades ago. Nevertheless, these sales thwart Biden’s promise to cease offshore drilling altogether.

The IRA [requires](#) that the Department of the Interior hold offshore oil and gas auctions for at least 60 million acres before it can lease any offshore areas for the development of wind energy infrastructure. The potential environmental damages of this mandate are immense. Oil rig construction is detrimental to marine life, and there is a one in five chance of an oil spill happening. Over 88 million tons of carbon dioxide will be released by these drilling operations, while oil production in the Gulf of Mexico alone would add about one million tons of greenhouse gasses every year for the next fifty years. Perhaps most importantly, this provision in the IRA prolongs the fossil fuel era by providing lucrative concessions to oil companies, directly preventing the crucial shift towards clean energy.



This provision in the IRA prolongs the fossil fuel era by providing lucrative concessions to oil companies

What's more, these lease sales compound [justice concerns](#) for Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities situated near oil and gas plants who will continue to disproportionately bear the brunt of negative health impacts of fossil fuel infrastructure. There are definite benefits for communities of color in the IRA, such as toxic-site cleanup. But as Rhiana Gunn-Wright, the Director of Climate Policy at the Roosevelt Institute warns, these benefits do not erase the bill's costs. She [says](#), "If the cost of our life is not taken as fully as a ton of carbon — that's dangerous."

The IRA does include some [positive reforms](#) to fossil fuel extraction policy. Specifically, it requires companies to pay \$5 per acre to nominate areas where they want to drill (raised from \$1.5 per acre), and it requires companies to pay \$900 per metric ton of methane emitted from their operations (a number that will be raised to \$1,500 after two years). These are important reforms, but they do not address the root issue: the economy's reliance on fossil fuels.

Environmental justice advocates are understandably [upset](#) by these concessions to the fossil fuel industry. In the words of Siginia Maupin, Executive Director of Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic, "This new bill is genocide, there is no other way to put it. This is a life or death situation and the longer we act as though the world isn't on fire around us, the worse our burns will be. Biden has the power to prevent this, to mitigate the damage." The Climate Justice Alliance

[concluded](#) that the weaknesses of the IRA outweigh its benefits, stating that "The Inflation Reduction Act is not a climate justice bill."

Supports Carbon Capture



Another major critique of the IRA is that it provides tax credits for carbon capture projects. The IRA makes it much easier for companies to access [45Q](#), an existing tax credit for carbon capture. The IRA also extends the deadline for companies to start construction on carbon capture equipment from 2026 to 2033. Carbon capture is a technology that has enabled large fossil fuel companies to continue advocating for coal, oil, and gas to be part of our energy mix. Internal documents from BP, for example, [noted](#) that carbon capture and storage will "enable the full use of fossil fuels across the energy transition and beyond." Instead of resorting to false solutions, this money could be directed to green infrastructure that is highly effective at carbon capture, like the creation of wetlands and urban tree planting, which can also provide important environmental, health and social benefits.

Incentives Over Penalties



The IRA has been further critiqued for its [overreliance](#) on tax incentives for clean energy projects rather than instituting penalties for fossil fuel use. Because dirty energy is still affordable, it will not be going anywhere any time soon. Neither the IRA, nor any other federal law, has set requirements for utilities to transition away from fossil fuel-based energy, and transition tax incentives alone

are not enough to rapidly decarbonize our energy sector at the pace necessary to avoid catastrophic global warming. [Studies](#) have shown that penalties are more effective than incentives for environmental reform, but as it stands, it is up to eligible entities, including individuals, companies, and utilities whether or not they choose to take advantage of the tax credits for clean energy.

Unequal Access to Benefits

Another issue with the IRA is the false assumption that everyone is benefiting from its tax credits. While tax credits for clean energy and energy efficiency are being presented as benefits for all consumers of energy, renters who do not own property are not able to [access](#) many directly. Oftentimes it is [landlords](#) who profit from upgrading older electric systems, though [renters](#) can receive some rebates on appliances and for energy efficiency measures. Others have [noted](#) that larger tax credits for switching to solar and wind energy require ownership of property and housing to even make the decision to switch one's energy source, and thus benefit from the tax credit. All of this creates a major barrier to lower income people and communities benefiting from tax credits equitably.

Additionally, some environmental justice (EJ) advocates are concerned about unequal grant allocation processes for receiving IRA funds, particularly in states that are already [hostile](#) to communities of color. In these states, like Louisiana or Mississippi, funding might be routed through state governments, which could potentially hold onto the money or otherwise make funding more difficult to access. Moreover, due to the top-down grant management and federal regulations that govern many IRA programs, the application

process can be inequitably onerous on smaller-resourced and staffed organizations, regions and municipalities. Program applications do not always consider these unique barriers to access.

State preemption also limits actions local governments can take. Updating building energy codes, improving interstate electricity transmission lines, and any other project that might involve statewide coordination or standards can be limited in scope by state existing law. The broad language present in the Inflation Reduction Act requires many federal, state, and local agencies to interpret complicated rules and regulations by themselves, resulting in further barriers to accessing funds. All this requires extra resources, time, and knowledge for overburdened communities to overcome barriers when applying to grants.

All this requires extra resources, time, and knowledge for overburdened communities to overcome barriers when applying to grants.

Since many of the projects and funding opportunities coming out of the IRA are entirely new investments, the stipulations, standards, and regulations that govern implementation can be broad or unclear. For example, through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), EPA is providing funding for green banks. While EPA has recently released an implementation framework, there are still concerns about how regional governments can access that money and reach communities who need it most. It has been [shown](#) that local governments often do not have

the bandwidth or staff to find all the funding opportunities that fit their needs. They will also not apply to important opportunities if they do not have sufficient resources to carry out a project.

Missed Opportunities



Soon after the IRA was passed, Uprose, the Climate Justice Alliance, and Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition published a [factsheet](#) analyzing the IRA's strengths and weaknesses, outlining various missed opportunities. A few of these missed opportunities are: (1) a lack of direct investment in the climate resiliency workforce; (2) a lack of direct investment in the electrification of public transit; (3) a lack of funding for lead pipe replacement; and (4) not embedding considerations of the cumulative impact of environmental burdens in future energy siting decisions and projects.

Final Thoughts

As the largest federal investment addressing climate change to date, the IRA undoubtedly has a powerful potential to advance climate justice across the country. If leaders implement IRA funds in ways that align with Justice40 goals, these billions of dollars flowing to environmental justice communities can make a lasting difference. Despite its flaws, communities, Tribes, cities, and states should take every advantage of the grants, tax incentives, and technical assistance provided through the IRA to help realize their own climate justice goals. Sound investments made in our communities now will have significant environmental, health and social benefits in the years to come.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Image Credit: Wesley Tingey

What Is the BIL?

KEY TERMS

Broadband: High-speed internet connection

Energy Resilience: The ability of power grids and buildings to withstand power outages and to reliably provide energy in any conditions

Weatherization: Home improvements that reduce energy consumption and costs such as insulation, ventilation, and air sealing.

Reparative Justice: A holistic approach to justice that centers repairing past harms, stopping harms in the present, and preventing future harms

Transit-Oriented Development: An urban planning strategy that designs compact, walkable, and mixed-use spaces that prioritize access to public transit and pedestrian/bicycle safety over cars

In November of 2021, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ([BIL](#)) – also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ([IIJA](#)). This historically large-scale suite of investments garnered bipartisan support in Congress, but [was not](#) as bipartisan as previous infrastructure legislation which had passed with overwhelming support from both parties.

The BIL is another major source of possible funding for climate justice and Green New Deal-type priorities for state and local governments, tribes, and nonprofits. Though this law is not explicitly about climate change, the large-scale infrastructural improvements it funds and the jobs it creates can help ensure that we are building for a more climate resilient, economically vibrant, and just future.

The \$1.2 trillion this law allocates for new programs and infrastructure projects include:



Public Transit And Railways



Home, School, and Business Weatherization and Efficiency



Grid Modernization



Drinking Water Infrastructure



Wastewater Treatment



Broadband Expansion And Accessibility



Workforce Development



Recycling



Clean Energy Transmission



Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

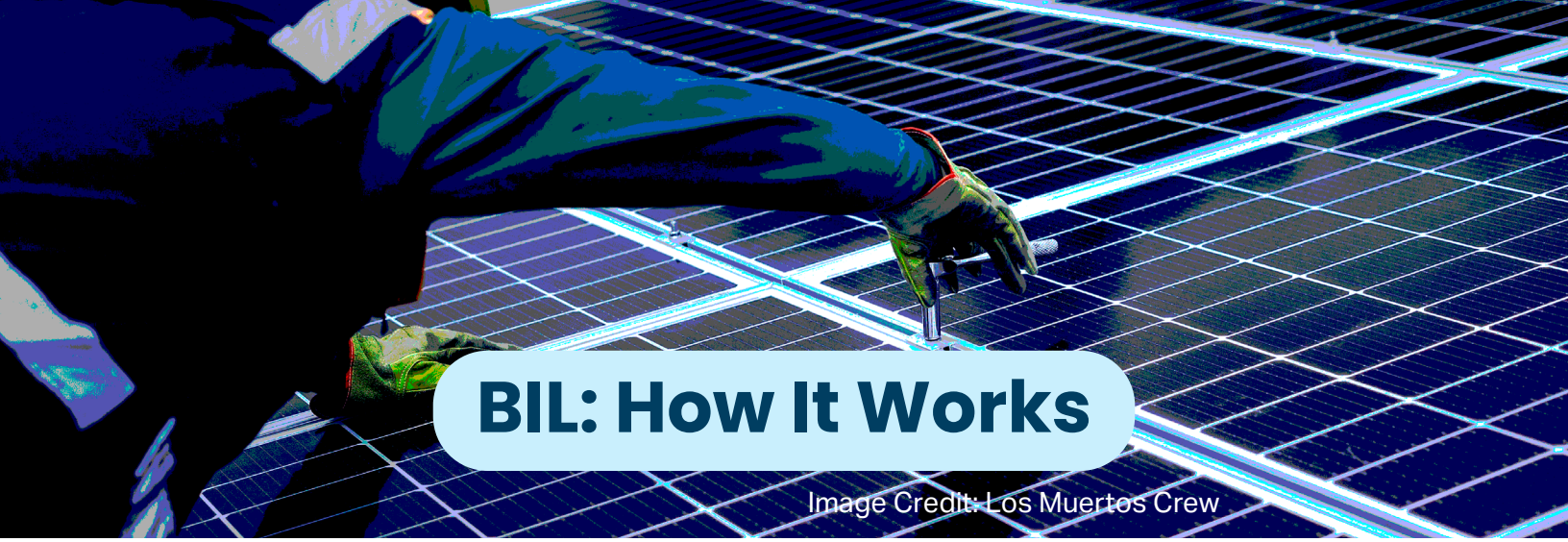


Environmental Remediation

For critical sectors of our economy, from public transit to broadband service and wastewater infrastructure, the BIL provides unprecedented levels of investment. While some of the BIL’s investments fund existing grants and programs, there is also [\\$550 billion](#) in new spending. This investment comes at a critical moment in time. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America’s infrastructure has a [cumulative grade of C-](#) due to its failures, conditions of assets, and widespread need for repairs.

Because the focus of the BIL is on infrastructure, it is crucial that states, municipalities, tribes and other recipients ensure this funding goes towards climate resilient, community-building projects instead of increasing our dependency on fossil fuel infrastructure. In communities reliant on fossil fuels, this funding can be used to build resilient, clean alternatives. We want to ensure that frontline communities are receiving the resources they need to be resilient in the face of future changes, not harmful and extractive industries.

America’s infrastructure has a cumulative grade of C- due to its failures, conditions of assets, and widespread need for repairs.



BIL: How It Works

Image Credit: Los Muertos Crew

Funded Programs

Money from the BIL is being distributed to 17 federal agencies, departments and commissions to manage over 350 distinct programs. The majority of BIL funding is flowing directly from federal agencies to state governments in the form of formula grants. It is estimated that local governments are eligible for approximately [\\$287 billion](#) in direct funding (they are also eligible for pass-through funds from the states), while states will be eligible for about [\\$697 billion](#) of the BIL pie. Tribal governments are earmarked to receive more than [\\$13 billion](#) directly, and are eligible for many other programs. Many of the BIL's project funds are available to multiple entities, such as Tribal governments, nonprofits and local governments, all at once. This makes estimating the funding going towards each type of eligible recipient difficult to predict before disbursement.

About [60 percent](#) of the money made available will be distributed through formula funding, while the other 40 percent will be allocated through competitive grants, loans, and federal support programs. Approximately [70 percent](#) of the funding available to local governments is in the form of competitive grant opportunities. The remaining funds, which are largely for transit infrastructure, will be distributed through formula funding and based on

population demographics. It is important to note that while local governments have billions of dollars available to them through the BIL, they must [actively apply](#) for the majority of this grant money.

About 60 percent of the money made available will be distributed through formula funding, while the other 40 percent will be allocated through competitive grants, loans, and federal support programs.

Unlike for the IRA, very few new federal offices are being created to help administer the BIL as much of the funding is going towards enhancing current infrastructure funds or projects. However, there is a new [Grid Deployment Office](#) being set up to aid in the building of a resilient clean energy electric grid under the portion of BIL funds earmarked for improving broadband service.



How Does Funding Work?

Funds coming from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are apportioned to federal agencies, which are then responsible for allocating formula funds directly to states or setting up competitive grant processes for other eligible entities to apply for them. There are both individual grant deadlines with specific dates issued by [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and overall program funding deadlines, which is the date by which each agency must have distributed all of its funding for that particular program. Program funding deadlines are often multi-year, meaning the program funding is available in set annual installments until all of the allocated funding is drawn down in a future year - usually set as ending 2026 or 2031. There are sometimes rolling applications with funding only available until the money runs out, which means it is in an applicant's interest to apply as soon as possible.

As there are so many differing periods of availability and special stipulations regarding the application process for BIL funds, it is imperative to check the White House's [database](#) regarding periods of availability for each of the programs and funding options that are of interest to you. In addition, there are numerous independently run federal funding trackers, many of which are described and linked to in the final section of this report.

There are three major [categories](#) of BIL funded programs:



(1) Broadband



(2) Climate and the Environment



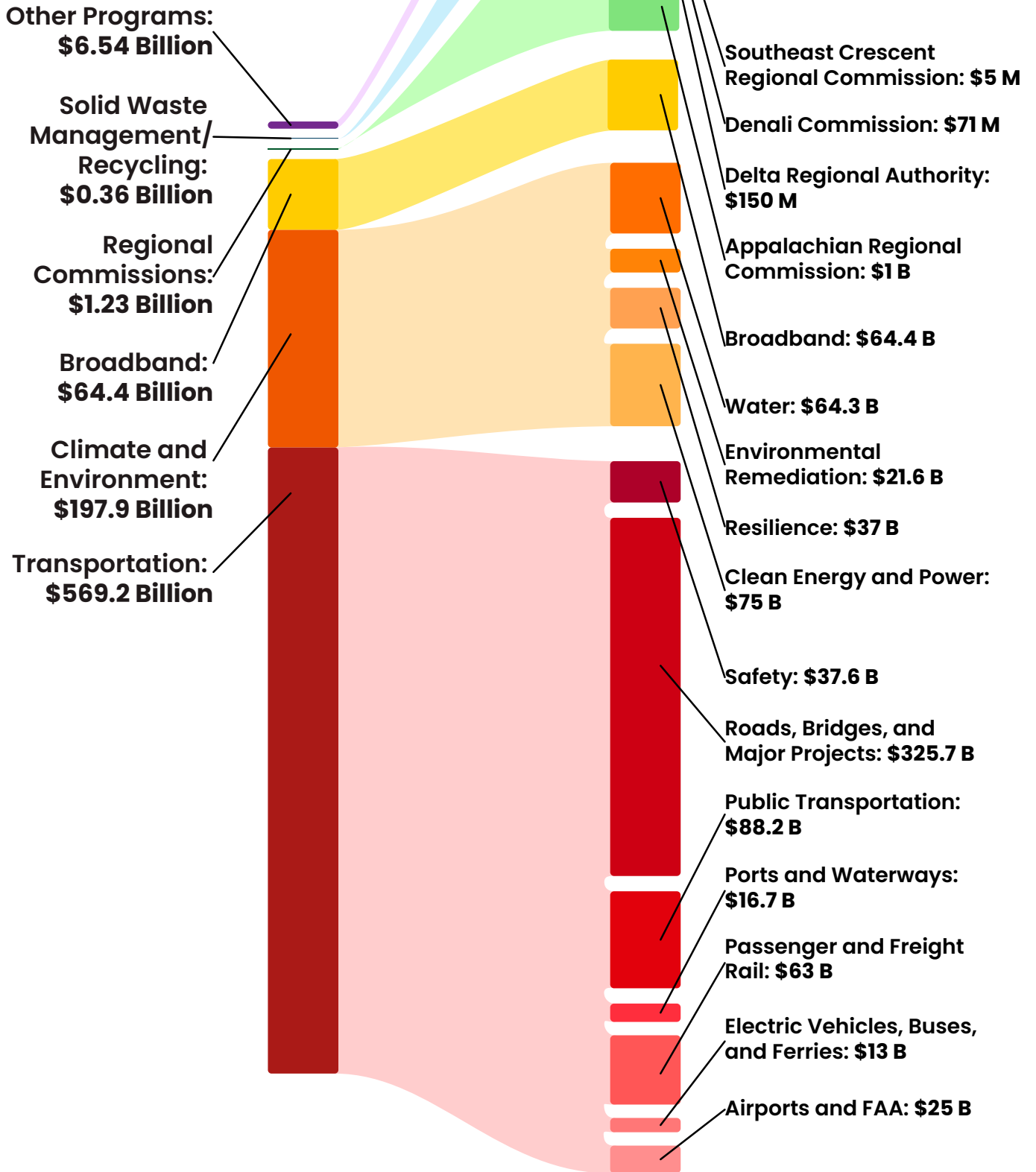
(3) Transportation

They are accompanied by many additional, smaller-scale investments. Certain types of BIL funding opportunities will only be available to particular entities (such as state agencies or transportation authorities) so it is important to check the eligibility criteria for each grant carefully. BIL block grants and formula grants are primarily for state and local governments. Loans are able to be used by any entity, though most loan opportunities identify a specific set of eligible loan recipients. The funding types table detailed in the IRA: How it Works section of this report provides fuller detail on various funding mechanisms, their eligibility, and how the funding can be applied.



Summarized BIL Funding By Category: Total \$839.6 B

Funding Amounts from the White House BIL excel data from January 2024, based on program appropriations when Public Law 117-58 was enacted.





The BIL in Practice

Image Credit: Dário Gomez

Most of the projects being funded by the BIL are investments in transportation infrastructure, and account for about [68 percent](#) of the act's total funding. The Department of Transportation (DOT), which is overseeing the vast majority of BIL-funded programs, is prioritizing electric vehicle infrastructure, expanding access to public transit, modernizing airports, highway safety improvements, the construction of new bridges, and improvements to existing bridges.

68% of the projects being funded are investments in transportation infrastructure.

The remaining BIL funds are spread across 16 other departments and commissions, supporting projects including those that tackle legacy pollution, the clean up of drinking water and lead service lines, building of more resilient physical and natural infrastructure, and the expansion of broadband internet services. Like the IRA, numerous BIL-funded projects fall under the purview of the [Justice40 Initiative](#), where at minimum 40 percent of the funds must go to historically disadvantaged and overburdened communities.

Funded Program Areas



Electric Vehicle Infrastructure



Expanding Access to Public Transit



Modernizing Airports



Highway Safety Improvements



Construction of New Bridges



Improvements to Existing Bridges



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Funded Programs



Department of the Interior
\$30.6 Billion

Bureau of Reclamation: \$8.3 B

- Water and Water Infrastructure Projects: **\$7.6**
- Colorado River and Ecosystem Resilience Projects: **\$700M**

Departmental Offices

- Wildfire Management: **\$1.5B**

Office of the Secretary

- Direct Federal Spending and Resiliency Measures: **\$905M**

Central Utah Project: \$50 M

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement: \$11.3B

- Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund: **\$11.3B**

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Ecosystem Resilience Programs: **\$455M**

US Geological Survey

- Earth and Resources Mapping: **\$511M**

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Irrigation, Water and Climate Resilience: **\$3B**

- Orphaned Well Site Plugging & Remediation: **\$4.7B**



Department of Commerce: \$51.2 B

NOAA: \$3 B

Climate and Societal Modeling: **\$7.2M**

National Telecommunications and Information Administration: \$48.2 B

- Coastal Resilience Programs: **\$776M**
- Research, Mapping and Modeling: **\$722M**
- Fish Passage and Recovery Programs: **\$572M**
- Habitat Restoration and Other Programs: **\$893M**
- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment: **\$42.4B**
- Tribal Broadband Program: **\$2B**
- Middle Mile and State Digital Equity Grants: **\$3.7B**

Current funding totals in White House Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as of January 2024.



Federal Communications Commission: \$14.2 Billion

- Affordable Connectivity and Broadband Deployment: **\$14.2B**



Environmental Protection Agency: \$60.8 B

Other Water Programs: **\$5.2B**

Pollution and Solid Waste Programs: **\$535M**

Office of Transportation and Air Quality

Clean School Bus Program: **\$5B**

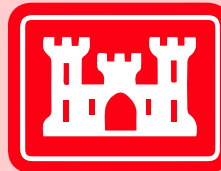
Superfund: \$3.5 B

Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$12.7 B

Geographic Water Programs: \$1.7 B

Brownfields Projects and Response: \$1.5 B

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$30.7 B



Army Corps of Engineers: \$17.1 Billion

- Ports and Waterways: **\$8.8B**
- Inland Flood Risk Management: **\$2.5B**
- Coastal Storm Risk Management: **\$2.5B**
- Other Restoration & Water Projects: **\$3.2B**



General Services Administration: \$3.4 Billion

- Real Property Activities (Ports and Waterways): **\$3.4B**



Department of Transportation: \$565.6 Billion

- Road Safety Programs: **\$17.1B**
- Tribal Transportation Programs: **\$4B**
- Transportation Resilience: **\$10.1B**
- Ports, Ferries, Waterways: **\$1.3B**
- Training and Technology: **\$400M**
- Federal Highway Administration: \$337.9B**
 - Electric Vehicles, Buses and Ferries: **\$8B**
 - National Highway Performance Program: **\$148B**
 - Surface Transportation Block Grants: **\$72B**
 - Other Roads, Bridges and Major Projects: **\$76.9B**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- Vehicle and Highway Safety: **\$6.4B**

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

- HazMat and Natural Gas Safety Grants: **\$1.2B**

Office of the Secretary

- Major Roads, Bridges and Infrastructure Grants: **\$30.3**

Federal Aviation Administration

- Airport Infrastructure, Terminal and Facilities Grants: **\$25B**

Federal Railroad Administration

- Passenger and Freight Rail **\$66B**

Motor Carrier Safety Administration

- Commercial and Motor Carrier Safety Programs: **\$5.1B**

Maritime Administration

- Port Infrastructure and Marine Highway Grants: **\$2.3B**

Federal Transit Administration: \$91.3 B

- Public Transportation Grants: **\$57.8B**
- Urbanized Area Transportation Grants: **\$33.5**



Department of Energy: \$74.9 B

Power Marketing Administration

- Transmission Borrowing Authority and Transmission Services: **\$10.5B**

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations: \$10 B

- Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs: **\$8B**
- Energy Improvements for Rural/Remote Areas: **\$1B**
- Energy Storage Demonstration Programs: **\$505M**
- Industrial Emissions Projects: **\$500M**

Office of Cybersecurity & Emergency Response

- Energy Sector Cybersecurity: **\$550M**

Loan Programs Office

- CO2 Transportation Infrastructure Program: **\$2.1B**

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program: **\$1B**

Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management: \$11.5 B

- Clean Energy Demonstrations on Mine Land: **\$500M**
- Rare Earth and Critical Material Demonstrations: **\$942M**
- Carbon Capture and Storage Programs: **\$6.4B**
- Direct Air Capture Hubs and Prizes: **\$3.6B**
- Orphan Well Plugging: **\$30M**

Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains: \$7.4 B

- Battery Manufacturing, Materials, and Recycling: **\$6.8B**
- Industrial Research and Implementation: **\$620M**

Office of State and Community Energy Programs: \$5.4 B

- Weatherization Assistance Program: **\$3.5B**
- Energy Efficiency Block Grants and Loans: **\$800M**
- State Energy Programs and Training: **\$520M**
- Renew America's Schools and Non-profits Programs: **\$550M**

Office of Nuclear Energy Assistance

- Nuclear Credit & Advance Reactor Programs: **\$8.5B**

Federal Energy Management Program

- Energy Conservation for Federal Facilities: **\$250M**

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy: \$855 M

- Building Codes Upgrades for Energy Efficiency: **\$225M**
- EV Battery Recycling: **\$210M**
- Wind, Solar, Hydro, and Geothermal Investments: **\$420M**

Grid Deployment Office: \$16.2 B

- Electric Grid Resilience: **\$5B**
- Electric Grid Upgrades and Reliability: **\$5B**
- Transmission Facilitation Program: **\$2.5B**
- Smart Grid Investments: **\$3B**
- Hydroelectricity and Other Investments: **\$754M**



Dept. of Homeland Security: \$8 Billion

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

State and Local Cybersecurity, Risk Management: **\$1.1B**

US Customs and Border Patrol

Land Port of Entry Modernization: **\$430M**

Science and Technology

National Security: **\$157M**

FEMA: \$5.8 B

Dam Safety and Rehabilitation: **\$800M**

Hazard Mitigation: **\$3.5B**

Flood Mitigation Assistance: **\$1.5B**

US Coast Guard

Facilities Construction and Upgrades: **\$429M**



Department of Agriculture: \$8.4 Billion

Forest Service: \$5.4 B

Community Wildfire Defense Program: **\$1B**

Wildfire Programs and Firefighter Salaries: **\$2.6B**

Restoration, Vegetation and Seed Programs: **\$1.4B**

State Forest Action Plans: **\$200M**

Improvements to Roads, Trails and Dams: **\$260M**

Office of the Secretary: \$10M

Rural Utilities Service

Broadband: **\$2B**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Programs: **\$918M**



Delta Regional Authority: \$150 Million

Delta Programs, Funds and Planning Grants: **\$150M**



Appalachian Regional Commission: \$1 Billion

Regional Development and Commission Funds: **\$1B**



Northern Border Regional Commission: \$150 Million

Northern Border Catalyst Program: **\$150M**



Dept. of Health and Human Services: \$4 Billion

Administration for Children and Families

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program: **\$500M**

Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction: **\$3.5B**



Southeast Crescent Regional Commission: \$50 Million

Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Funding: **\$5M**



Department of the Treasury

Denali Infrastructure, Workforce and Other Programs: **\$71M**



Denali Commission: \$71 Million

Denali Infrastructure, Workforce and Other Programs: **\$71M**

Identifying Funding Opportunities

It has been over two years since the BIL was passed, but the vast nature of its programs and possibilities can make it daunting to

approach as a funding applicant. Below is a table of key resources – many created by the same federal agencies overseeing the BIL’s funding opportunities – for interested applicants to filter through and identify promising grants, model programs, and information on how BIL money can be used to advance equity and resilience.

For Municipal Governments

Author	Purpose
C40	The downloadable resource on this page gives readers an extensive overview of city eligibility for projects funded by BIL and examples of the types of projects that can be completed with these funds.
Governing the Future of States and Localities	This article provides not only a broad overview of the types of funding coming out of BIL, but different real-world examples of cities and projects.
National Association of City Transportation Officials	This quick overview of the BIL for cities provides important background, major policy changes to affected laws and regulations, different types of funding opportunities, and specific formula grant programs.
National League of Cities	This interactive map allows users to track projects funded by BIL on a map of the United States. It includes projects on a city, town, village, and city-county equivalent level. By clicking on a project or region, users are able to see the category of project, specific area, budget, project name, and the population it is affecting. Users are also able to search projects by any one of these categories.
White House	This fact sheet contains the best authoritative information available on the subject. It contains project descriptions broken down by general category, how much money is available, what type of program it is, and deadlines for applications.

For County Governments

Author	Purpose
National Association of Counties	The table provided gives access to information about all of the programs available specifically to counties. Important information included is the agency it is coming from, the sub-agency, fiscal year funding amounts for 2022 and 2023, five year funding amounts, the type of funding, a description of the opportunity, and other important information like deadlines.



For Rural Communities

Author	Purpose
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations	This guide put out by the OCED provides assistance for applying to federal funding programs supporting clean energy projects in rural and remote areas. It runs through multiple steps of applying for federal funding like how to navigate the process and what projects or sources of funding might be relevant for specific communities.
White House	This "Rural Playbook" contains the best authoritative information available on the subject. It identifies specific programs and sources of funding set aside for rural communities; including project titles, descriptions, guidelines, and funding availability. It also includes a breakdown of where rural communities will be able to find other benefits that are not project specific under the BIL.

For Public Agencies

Author	Purpose
Build America Center	This "Plan Ahead" tool provides historical Notice of Funding Opportunity timelines for people to better understand typical time frames for funding programs, with the goal of helping public agencies better develop plans for grant applications. It also shows current funding opportunities that have been announced in the past three months, six months, and year.

For State and Local Transit Agencies

Author	Purpose
American Public Transportation Association	This comprehensive list of resources gives a broad overview of BIL and an extensive list of resources published surrounding the BIL. This includes new information; webinars and presentations; funding tables; formula apportionment tables; NOFOs and expressions of interest; competitive grant awards; law code analyses; memoranda, guidance, and regulations; and requests for information.

For Energy Communities

Author	Purpose
The Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities	The table provided gives access to information about all of the programs available specifically to counties. Important information included is the agency it is coming from, the sub-agency, fiscal year funding amounts for 2022 and 2023, five year funding amounts, the type of funding, a description of the opportunity, and other important information like deadlines.



For All Applicant Types

Author	Purpose
<u>BlueGreen Alliance</u>	A comprehensive document that includes easy to understand explanations of key provisions coming out of BIL, provisions by agency, how BIL will impact job quality and equity, and different types of funding.
<u>Department of Commerce</u>	The resource provides a brief description of the broadband initiative and a database users can search. Users can search programs by application status, the agency it is under, or what it funds.
<u>Department of Energy</u>	This resource includes the proper Department of Energy contact person and information on each BIL energy program, as well as the link for the application and the application closing date.
<u>Department of Transportation</u>	This table provided by the Department of Transportation includes all programs covered under their jurisdiction. The information includes the program, category it is in, and the five year funding amount.
<u>Department of Transportation</u>	Similar to the table above, this source from the DoT includes information regarding only competitive grants. It also provides more information about which applicants are eligible to apply.
<u>Environmental Protection Agency</u>	EPA released a table that includes all of the funding opportunities under their jurisdiction from BIL and includes information about which law the funding comes through, the type of program, the funding amount and type, eligible applicants, applications deadlines, and a program summary.
<u>Headwaters Economics</u>	This map of the United States shows rural capacity, or the amount of staffing, resources, and expertise needed to apply for funding. These results can be broken down by county, county subdivision, community, and Tribal areas. This map can be used by communities to advocate for resources, highlight areas where states should invest more, and to target infrastructure investments.
<u>Housing and Urban Development</u>	Housing and Urban Development has a funding navigator that allows people to search funding opportunities under HUD's authority by project type, subtype, audience, states and territories, funding type and stage, and keyword.
<u>Local Infrastructure Hub</u>	This website allows the reader to search through BIL's nearly 400 funding opportunities. Readers have the ability to search by agency, category, eligible applicants, and keywords.
<u>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association</u>	The table includes NOAA's Notifications of Fundings under their jurisdiction. The table includes information about what the grant opportunities are, where they are posted, and dates of interest for letter of intent, proposal deadlines, and earliest start date.

<p>National Wildlife Federation</p>	<p>This resource places environmental justice communities at the forefront and highlights what investments in the BIL will help those communities most. They include sections on what the bill includes key areas covered, and then explains specific funding for key areas including broadband, energy, climate resilience, transportation infrastructure, Tribal assistance, and water infrastructure.</p>
<p>United States Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>This resource allows users to track where BIL spending has gone thus far. It summarizes data and presents it in a multitude of ways with some graphs going more in depth than others that allows for the tracking of how much spending is going to what programs.</p>

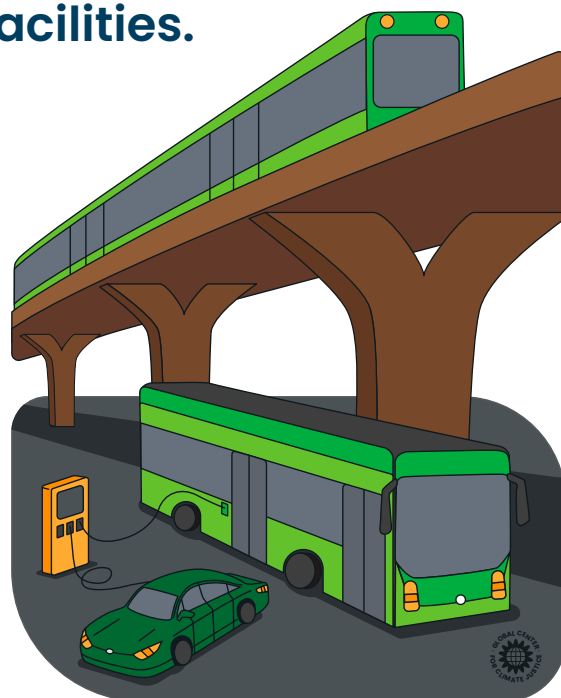
Advancing Climate Justice

Transportation funding under the BIL can support a variety of different equity and access-driven programs across the country. For instance, the [proposed](#) access improvements to public transportation and expansion of passenger rail lines will reduce emissions and enhance economic mobility. This [includes](#) projects such as the clean school bus program, reconnecting communities programs, ferry grants for rural connectivity, tribal transportation funding, funding EV charging infrastructure, grants for buses and bus facilities, transit-oriented development funding, and grants to improve streets and sidewalks for disabled individuals. These programs have the joint capacity to improve infrastructure and address some historical climate justice and access inequities.

Furthermore, BIL funds can be used to address the inequitable legacy of pollution and broaden access to basic utilities and other necessities in rural areas, municipalities, and on Tribal lands. For example, BIL programs can be used to expand access to clean drinking water and the [replacement](#) of lead service lines as well as [removing PFAS](#) from sources of drinking water. Communities that have long faced legacy pollution from toxic or polluting facilities are also set to benefit.

Cleaning up Superfund and Brownfield sites, reclaiming abandoned mine land, and capping orphaned oil and gas wells are all remedial projects for which the BIL provides funding.

These investments all have the potential to significantly benefit communities of color, rural communities, and Indigenous communities that have historically borne the burden of living near toxic facilities.



Additionally, rural areas are at higher risk for energy disruptions during times of critical need, so businesses, states, and Tribes are being provided [\\$5 billion](#) towards ensuring these disruptions to the electric grid are reduced.

Tips for Grant Applicants

Know What Your State Received. Because states are the primary recipients of BIL investments, the first step in accessing funds should be to find out what exactly your state is receiving, and who you should contact in various state agencies. The White House has published [BIL fact sheets](#) for each state that provide detailed information about announced funding and projects. It also includes anticipated funding for different categories over the next five years.

Connect with Funding Coordination Offices.

Historically, states and localities have used traditional project management offices to manage the deployment of federal funds. With the BIL's breadth of stakeholders and large funding pool, some consultants have [suggested](#) that states and localities form a centralized delivery team, aimed at more efficiently partnering with agency leaders and other stakeholders to accelerate the delivery of federal funds, helping agencies build capacity, coordinating across agencies, implementing data tracking strategies, and other actions essential to success. States have already begun institutionalizing this model; Massachusetts recently created its Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office ([FFIO](#)). Another approach is to seek out partnership grants with local eligible entities such as nonprofits. California's Office of Planning and Research has in-depth [recommendations](#) on how to prepare and manage partnership grants.

Lean into Local Power. Local communities can use BIL funding to advance justice-oriented projects, even planning at the state level does not align. For example, Austin's [Climate Equity Plan](#) includes transit-oriented development goals and community engagement, while Texas's state-level planning continues to prioritize destructive practices such as highway expansion.

Highlight Workforce Development. The BIL focuses on capital projects more than on the workers who will carry out the projects. The [White House](#) and various agencies including the Department of [Labor](#), the Department of [Commerce](#), and the Department of [Transportation](#) have all provided guidance and support for workforce development in BIL implementation. [This report](#) published by the Brookings Institution provides guidance to state and local leaders on how they can utilize BIL funding to strategically invest in equitable workforce development.

Utilize Technical Assistance. Since its passage, numerous nonprofits and government entities have created technical assistance centers or guides to assist applicants in applying for and implementing BIL projects. The White House itself published a BIL Technical Assistance [Guide](#) which summarizes technical assistance offerings by project type. This includes programs for transportation, internet, water, power grid and clean energy, resilience, and environmental remediation. Included in the guide is a communities of practice section that provides



information about different groups for state, local, and Tribal governments to join so they can learn from peers about best practices for implementation of these funds and projects. Additional technical assistance guides are detailed in the final section of this report.

Learn from Successful Models. States and localities with little federal grant experience can further set themselves up for success by reading successful grant applications from other organizations. The Build America Center has been [collecting](#) successful awards with project narratives, cost-benefit analyses, and

other application documents that could serve as models for new grant applications.

The BIL’s Impact So Far

With [\\$306 billion](#) of BIL funds already apportioned to state and local projects, around 80 percent of the law’s competitive funding remained outstanding as of November 2023. The table below provides a small but illustrative snapshot of the kinds of projects and geographies the BIL has funded in its first two years.

Location	Project	Summary
Arizona	Tribal Water Sanitation Systems	The BIL invested \$8.72 million in the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project to remove the arsenic that has been contaminating the Tribe’s water supply since the 1960s. This investment will help provide Hopi communities with safe, potable drinking water.
Atlantic City, New Jersey	Clean School Bus Program	The Atlantic County Special Services School District was awarded \$1,525,000 in BIL funding to replace diesel buses with zero-emissions school buses to improve air quality for students.
Detroit, Michigan	I-375 Reconnecting Communities Project	The DOT awarded the city of Detroit \$104 million through the INFRA Grant Program. This funding will be used to replace the sunken I-375 freeway with a lower-speed boulevard with pedestrian walkways, wider sidewalks, and other traffic calming measures. In the 1960s, this highway displaced thousands of Black residents in the Black Bottom and Paradise Valley communities.
Donaldsonville, Louisiana	Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization	10 million of BIL funding is going to Donaldsonville to modernize and improve the safety of the city’s legacy natural gas pipelines that currently pose major health risks to community members.
Greenup County School District, Kentucky	Infrastructure Projects & Green Energy Job Training	Kentucky’s Greenup County School District serves around 2,700 students. The BIL provided the district \$15 million to replace roofing, install solar panels, and for building upgrades. The district is also launching a Green Energy Pathways career program to educate high school students about the green energy industry.



Jackson, Mississippi	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	Jackson's Department of Public Works was awarded funding through the BIL's SS4A program. The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, in partnership with the city, submitted the application. This is a great example of a capacity-constrained city partnering with a local organization to apply for a grant.
Las Vegas to Southern California	Transit Project	BIL funding has been allocated to the Brightline West high-speed rail project between Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. The fully electric rail line, which could begin operations in 2027, aims to reduce traffic on I-15, create good paying jobs, and decrease carbon emissions.
Maryland	Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program	The Maryland Equitable Charging Infrastructure Partnership received \$15 million to deploy 58 EV charging stations in multifamily housing sites, faith-based sites, municipal sites, and EJ communities. Workers who have been historically underrepresented will also be supported to join the EV industry.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Lead Removal Project	The BIL allocated around \$129.5 million for lead pipe replacement in Wisconsin, \$30 million of which will go to Milwaukee to replace their estimated 341,000 lead lines.
New York City, New York	Transit Project	\$21 billion of the \$36 billion that New York is poised to receive from the BIL is dedicated to transit. For example, NYC received a large competitive grant to extend the Second Avenue Subway to 125th Street in Harlem.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Job Creation	Philadelphia will receive almost \$1 billion over the next five years to fund various infrastructure projects. These projects are expected to create jobs for highway, bridge, and building construction workers; electrical contractors; plumbing contractors; and more contractors and sub-contractors whose labor will be essential.
Phoenix, Arizona	Infrastructure Project	Phoenix was awarded \$25 million to construct a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Rio Salado River, providing residents of South Phoenix safe access to the downtown area without needing a car.
San Antonio, Texas	Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Smart Grid Grant program	San Antonio was awarded \$30 million from this DOE program to modernize and improve grid resiliency through microgrids, solar, and battery storage. Going even beyond the goals of Justice40, 60 percent of these benefits are designated for disadvantaged communities.

Critiques of the BIL

Image Credit: Jared Murray

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is an extraordinarily broad piece of legislation, requiring many new federal programs to be designed, staffed, and overseen. Experts [interviewed](#) by the Bipartisan Policy Center in 2022 agreed that reasonable progress has been made in funding existing infrastructure, while there was regulatory uncertainty surrounding new programs. A year later, NRDC [evaluated](#) the BIL's implementation as "mixed" on advancing climate adaptation and equity, raising concerns about state agencies being wedded to the old way of doing things and funding legacy, car-centric projects like highway expansions. Environmental justice advocates also have various concerns with the law. In this section, we explore a few of the movement's critiques to better evaluate this historic infrastructure investment law, and identify where improvements can be made.

Insufficient on Infrastructure



One key concern with the BIL is that, while doubtlessly a significant pot of money, it is simply insufficient to cover the magnitude of infrastructure repairs needed nationwide, let alone to provide all the infrastructure investments needed in historically underinvested communities. For example, the BIL allocates \$15 billion for badly needed lead pipe replacement, but that is only a [third](#) of what

is needed to replace lead pipes nationally. Similarly, the bill allocates \$50 billion over five years for water and wastewater systems improvements – a good start – but it is estimated the nation needs closer to [\\$35 billion](#) annually to truly fix these systems.

The BIL's funding amounts are not nearly enough to address the full social and economic costs of historical disinvestments in communities of color and low-income communities. The Biden administration recently announced [\\$3 billion](#) for infrastructure projects that reconnect communities historically separated by highway and bridge construction - neighborhoods that are disproportionately communities of color. The interstate highway system displaced over a [million](#) people when it was built. This is a solid investment, but many more like it are needed to achieve reparative justice. As a recent [Brookings report](#) on the BIL's equity shortcomings noted, "if we want to ensure prosperity for all in the future, the BIL is only a down payment on the debt that is owed to communities who have been denied resources."

BIL is only a down payment on the debt that is owed to communities who have been denied resources.

Insufficient on Equity



A lack of prioritizing access to public infrastructure in how BIL funds are used leads to another critique among climate justice advocates: equity is [insufficiently](#) baked into the act. There are no explicit requirements for how states should use funds, meaning that while some states may consider equity as they implement BIL funds, especially to align with Justice40 goals, they are not legally required to do so. The Act's targets for how to equitably prioritize investments and allocate grants remains ambiguous. Moreover, there have been calls to consider race when making BIL funding decisions, despite the Supreme Court deeming race-based policies unconstitutional, [creating confusion](#) among stakeholders.

Lack of Local Capacity



Another concern is that many local governments simply lack the capacity to develop projects and draft proposals for competitive grants. Without the necessary administrators to identify promising grant opportunities, engage with communities, and manage awarded infrastructure projects, it is likely that historically disinvested communities will also be less able to take advantage of BIL funding. For example, Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) within the BIL attempt to improve states' water quality, but they have [significant hurdles](#) to implementation. The process of applying to these and other major funds can be confusing and time-consuming, further limiting eligible applicants who are often stretched for capacity in their ability to access these resources.

Funding False Solutions



Another major critique is that the BIL includes [\\$25 billion](#) in subsidies for carbon capture and hydrogen fuel innovations. This is framed in the bill as "clean energy," but that is misleading. These purported clean energy solutions enable fossil fuel companies to continue polluting, and it does nothing to mitigate their outsized influence on energy politics or the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure. Moreover, the BIL includes [\\$7.5 billion](#) to fund the construction of an electric vehicle charging network across our highway corridors – but it also includes funding for hydrogen and natural gas fueling stations. According to an [article](#) published by the Food & Water Watch, this makes the BIL's investments "a net negative for the climate."

BIL will depend on how state and local governments decide to invest the money granted to them – and whether or not those investments center climate and equity.

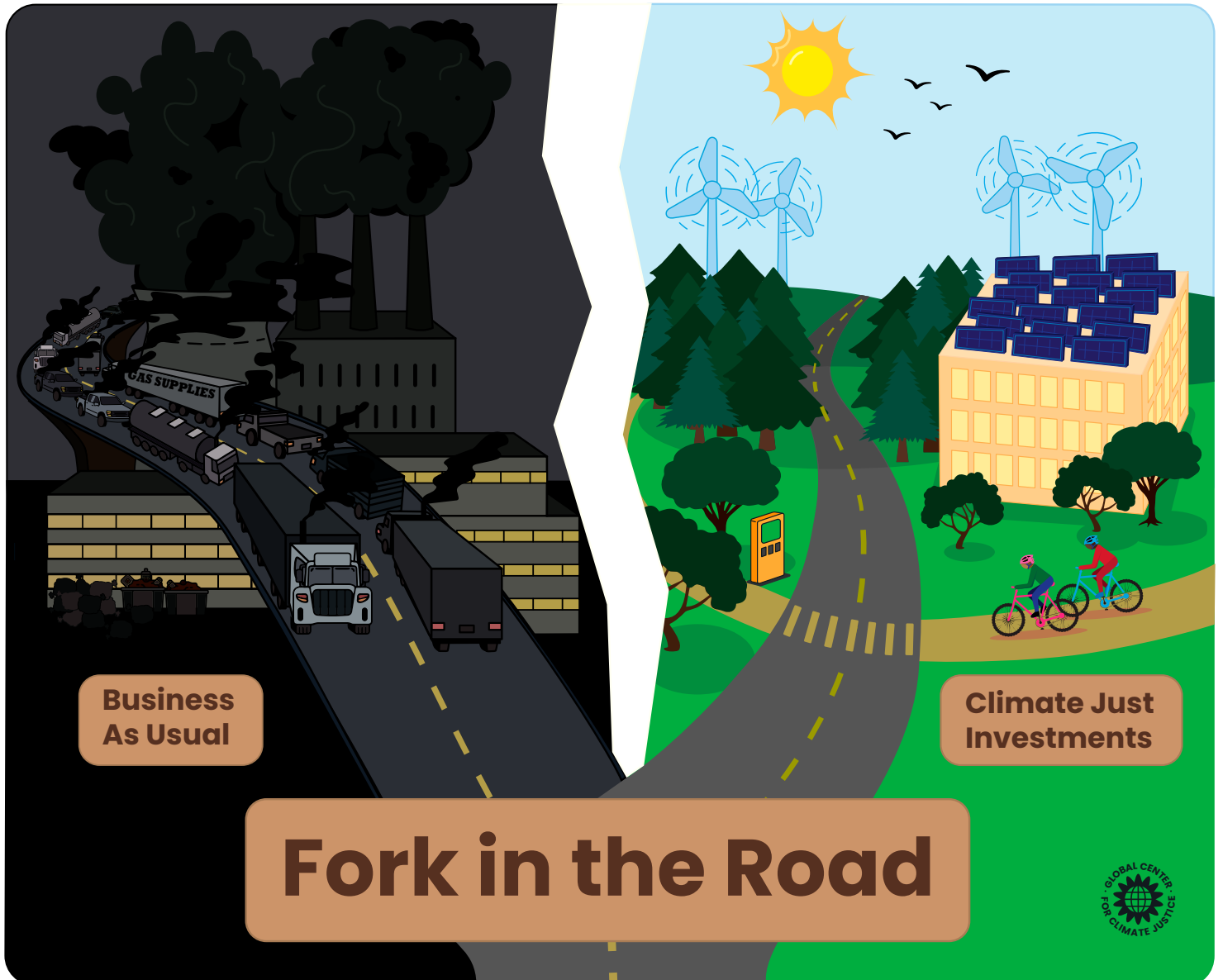
While the BIL allocates significant amounts of money for funding public transit and rail systems, it also heavily prioritizes upgrades to roads and highways. The BIL is not going to radically transform our transportation system; it is largely funding business as usual. The final impact of the BIL will depend on how state and local governments decide to invest the money granted to them - and whether or not those investments center climate and

equity. Prioritizing investment in public transportation is **crucial** not only to move away from gas powered cars and single-occupancy vehicle travel, but also because public transit investment leads to more job opportunities for young people and people of color, and improves access to services and stores.

Final Thoughts

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents a sorely needed, once-in-a-generation investment in American communities, and its applications will have a lasting impact

on the United States' resilience to climate change. Instead of funding business-as-usual projects, such as highway expansions, new and existing BIL funding programs need to be consciously harnessed to capitalize on this unique opportunity so that project funds will create green jobs, ensure long term resiliency, and advance justice. BIL funds can help to repair historic underinvestments in environmental justice communities, improve building efficiency nationwide, modernize public transportation and increase its accessibility, upgrade water infrastructure, and tackle a plethora of other climate-related investments to ensure the long-term viability of our common resources.



Business As Usual

Climate Just Investments

Fork in the Road

Accessing Funds & Evaluating Impact

Image Credit: Sophie N

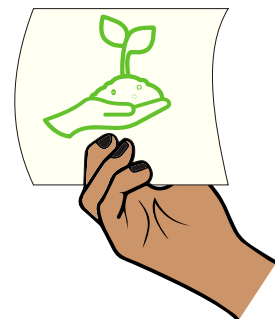
The rollout of Justice40, the IRA, and BIL by the federal government has been swift and somewhat chaotic as a result of the all-out effort by the Biden administration to fund critical investments as soon as possible, especially before the 2024 elections. An unprecedented level of opportunity exists to leverage these federal investments for climate justice, to transition our workforce towards clean energy, and to build more sustainable communities. But there is also significant risk that this funding could entrench our dependence on fossil fuels if our cities, Tribes, community-based nonprofits, and other entities eligible to participate in programs are left out of the process.

An unprecedented level of opportunity exists to leverage these federal investments for climate justice. But there is also significant risk if our communities are left out of the process.

In our final section, we assess implementation of the IRA, BIL, and Justice40 Initiative thus far and look down the road at what could impact their efficacy in the future. Now empowered with an in-depth understanding of these opportunities, we leave our readers with a list of funding trackers, and share tips for accessing grants through technical assistance and funding from intermediary organizations.

The current political moment, the 2024 presidential elections, the debt ceiling debate, and the looming threat of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 conservative policy playbook could all impact the future of federal funding. These are a few of the political uncertainties the movement should be on the lookout for as this funding is rolled out over the next decade.

Ultimately, the success of the BIL, IRA, and Justice40 covered programs in advancing justice will come down to how accessible they are to our communities, and what implementation really looks like on the ground.



Accessing Grant Resources

Image Credit: Katie Moum

Applying for federal grants can be onerous. The process of identifying a grant opportunity, formalizing partnerships, registering with the federal government, and submitting a detailed proposal can take many months. These and other requirements can have the effect of overwhelming small staff and limiting which organizations see themselves as potential grantees, in turn limiting the reach of beneficial federal investments.

There are certain legal and financial stipulations on grants which federal agencies are unlikely to change. But, recognizing the barriers such stipulations present, the Biden administration and its agencies have given billions in grant money directly to community lenders to disburse, making it easier to access for small organizations. They have supported numerous technical assistance providers that offer free services and feedback to applicants. For their part, several large nonprofits have created funding trackers or are themselves providing pro-bono technical assistance. Various private philanthropic funders have also shifted their funding priorities to help address the gaps between federal opportunities and organizations on the ground. And the federal government, aware of the burden of grant applications, has made available very digestible step-by-step grant guides and other resources to aid prospective applicants. Each of these key resources are described below.

Staying Up to Date: Funding Trackers



With the veritable blizzard of information coming out of the federal government and its various agencies about funding opportunities, it can be easy to miss important updates, grant notifications, and relevant news. Compiled below are some of the best, most frequently updated federal funding and news trackers to date. We encourage you to explore and sign up for newsletters from these trackers to stay informed and learn about regulatory changes, program amendments, and grant opportunities as they become available.

- [Infrastructure \(+IRA\) Tracker](#) – This newsletter from Drexel University’s Nowak Lab’s updates subscribers each time the federal government opens new funding opportunities from the BIL, IRA, and the CHIPS and Science Act. The updates are sent out 24 to 72 hours after funding is announced.
- [Inflation Reduction Act Tracker](#) – Jointly run by Columbia Law School, Columbia Climate School, the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, and the Environmental Defense Fund, this tracker records federal actions taken to implement climate change related provisions of the IRA.



- [Local Infrastructure Hub Funding Opportunities](#) – This searchable hub helps you navigate BIL funding opportunities. You can search by agency, category, or applicant eligibility. It is run by many program partners, including the National League of Cities and United States Conference of Mayors.
- [Energy Communities Funding Tracker](#) – The Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization tracks investments through the IRA and BIL on this site, with pages on competitive funding, formula funding, tax credits, and a funding clearinghouse.
- [SSDN's Grant Opportunity Database](#) – The Southeast Sustainability Directors Network runs this frequently updated multi-sheet database with federal funding opportunities sorted by funding topic. It also includes a forward-looking Gantt chart for expected future grants that is helpful for application planning.
- [Climate Program Portal](#) – Developed by Atlas Public Policy, this resource tracks federal funding for climate, energy, and transportation initiatives under the BIL and the IRA. It includes a Climate Program Dashboard which breaks down funding by sector and agency, a Technical Assistance Directory, and a comprehensive library of related resources.
- [Federal Environmental Justice Tracker](#) – Harvard's Environmental & Energy Law Program's Tracker provides up-to-date information about how specific federal agencies are making progress toward Justice40 and other EJ commitments.

Foundations Bridging the Gap



Given the enormity of programs under Justice40, the IRA and BIL, a plethora of private foundations have rapidly retooled their focus in the last two years to assist their grantees and communities in accessing federal dollars. Contacting program officers or reviewing foundation websites are the best ways to determine if a foundation is currently prioritizing programs related to federal investments. Where a foundation may not provide funds, they may support their grantees through the grant application and management process. For [example](#), intermediaries can cover meeting expenses and some overhead costs, and they can bear the burden of time-consuming grant-related stipulations (such as ensuring agency reporting requirements are met).

Contacting program officers or reviewing foundation websites are the best ways to determine if a foundation is currently prioritizing programs related to federal investments.

Many smaller grassroots organizations do not have administrative employees; it is often the executive directors that are wearing many hats, tasked with balancing program work with administrative grant work. This is another reason why unrestricted grants from foundations are useful when they provide grant application assistance and management – or fund receiving organizations enough to hire

administrative staff members to do this work. Resources to hire more staff members are often more impactful than funding capacity-building training.

Federal funding can bring organizations closer to accomplishing their goals, but it is also true that the process presents significant administrative challenges. Interested applicant organizations should be introspective to ensure that this process is the right option for them, and ask themselves if accepting public money would reduce their ability to effectively advance their stated mission. In some communities with fraught relationships with their local or state governments, it may be the case that accepting government dollars could paint the organization in a different light – some organizations might prefer to work fully outside of the government, relying more on philanthropic grants. That said, philanthropy cannot invest on the scale that governments can, and systems change requires the mobilization of as many resources as possible. Public dollars are just that – public – and organizations fighting for justice deserve to have their work funded.

Community Lenders



Given the strict applicant specifications and requirements of many federal grants, EPA has created two innovative new programs under the IRA that lower barriers to funding access by having community lenders oversee and distribute the funds. Community lenders are nonprofit entities that have money lending capacity, such as credit unions, community development financial institutions, green banks, housing finance agencies, minority depository institutions, and others.

The purpose of using community lenders is to help direct public and private capital so that it is efficiently channeled into historically excluded communities and towards organizations that understand the needs of their communities best. The two new EPA programs are the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund ([GGRF](#)) and the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program ([TCGM](#)).

These community lenders help channel public and private capital into historically excluded communities.

The GGRF is a pool of \$27 billion to support projects that reduce energy cost burdens, increase climate resiliency, build renewables and expand energy efficiency. GGRF funding is distributed through three competitive programs. The first is the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, which will provide \$6 billion in financing capacity to five community lenders so they, in turn, can provide capital to underinvested communities for clean technology projects. The second is the \$7 billion Solar for All competition, which will award up to 60 grants to state, Tribal, local governments or community lenders to expand low-income solar programs and access to solar investments for disadvantaged communities across the country.

The final GGRF program is the National Clean Investment Fund competition, which will award a combined total of \$14 billion to three national financing institutions so they can leverage funding from the private sector and provide more affordable, accessible clean energy financing to thousands of projects nationally. At least 40 percent of the National

EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: \$27 Billion



Community Lenders Announced:

On April 4, 2024, EPA [announced](#) it had selected recipients for all \$20 billion in grant awards under the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA).

NCIF's three recipients:

- [Climate United Fund](#),
- [Coalition for Green Capital](#), and
- [Power Forward Communities](#).

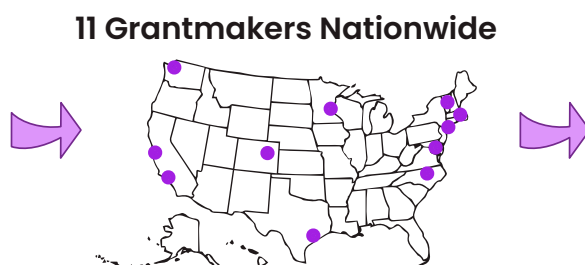
CCIA's five awardees:

- [Opportunity Finance Network](#),
- [Inclusiv](#),
- [Justice Climate Fund](#),
- [Appalachian Community Capital](#),
- and [Native CDFI Network](#).

Clean Investment Fund financing must go to disadvantaged communities, whereas the entirety of both the Solar for All and Clean Communities Investment funds must.

EPA's other community lending program - TCGM - supports environmental justice and public health investments in underserved communities. In December of 2023, the program distributed \$600 million in funding to 11 pass-through grantmaking entities nationwide. The 11 Grantmakers and their partners were chosen to help reduce the burden of the federal grant application process for resource-constrained nonprofits, institutions, and Tribes serving environmental justice communities and will begin distributing sub-grants in the fall of 2024. Funding will be available through the Grantmakers for up to three years. There are three nationwide Grantmakers, and an additional nine regional Grantmakers. EPA has published a [table](#) of all 11 selected Grantmakers and their partners.

EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program: \$600 Million



1,000s of Communities Working to Address Environmental Injustices

These unconventional funding opportunities broaden access for entities that may otherwise be entirely ineligible for a federal grant. Among these are fiscally sponsored organizations, many of which are climate and environmental justice groups that are new, and which operate at a grassroots level. The federal government does not recognize unincorporated fiscally sponsored organizations as separate legal entities, making them unable to be a lead applicant or partner on most grant opportunities. There are a few exceptions, such as when a fiscal sponsor is applying for funding and providing a subaward to a lower-resourced but incorporated nonprofit. However, the fiscal sponsor remains responsible for all compliance, and many fiscal sponsors are not amenable to administering federal grants because of these reporting requirements.

Expanded Technical Assistance



Aware of the barriers that federal registrations and stipulations pose, the federal government has introduced a plethora of technical assistance programs - from agency resource

sites to specific technical assistance - to help communities access all the federal funding that is currently available. There are [over 100](#) technical assistance providers located in various federal agencies, offices, departments and commissions. EPA has recently released a series of how-to [modules](#) to help prospective applicants learn about the ins and outs of applying for and administering federal grants. While the resource was created by the EPA, much of the content is applicable to grants from other federal agencies as well.

The largest federal resource for grant applicants is Grants.gov's [Grants Learning Center](#). The Learning Center covers the basics of grant applications including relevant government regulations and frequently asked questions, defines government jargon, and shares tips for grant reporting. It is a critical first-stop for new and under-resourced applicants.

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Select Government Technical Assistance Providers

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Training, Tools, and Technical Assistance	Technical assistance to support the operation of EPA's \$5 billion grant program included in the IRA that seeks to financially support states, local governments, tribes, and territories take ambitious steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Community Change Grants Technical Assistance	Applicants who are eligible for Community Change Grants can receive technical assistance while they are applying for funds as well as after selection.
Department of Energy Outreach, Technical Assistance, and Application Resources	The DOE is helping state and territorial energy offices apply for and implement Home Energy Rebates. Their resources include templates for developing grant application plans, fact sheets, application checklists, and FAQs.



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<u>Federal Interagency Thriving Communities Network</u>	The Thriving Communities Network aims to help federal agencies coordinate, collaborate, and deploy specific technical assistance to historically disinvested communities. This website details agencies' efforts to provide technical assistance and will link their pages as they become public.
<u>Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs</u>	A DOE program for federally recognized Tribes. This site lists various agencies and their technical assistance programs specifically created for indigenous communities.
<u>Promoting Readiness and Enhancing Proficiency to Advance Reporting and Data</u>	An EPA program created specifically to support grant recipients representing small, underserved, and/or Tribal communities to enhance their capacity in meeting data and reporting requirements. The program will provide funding to a select number of organizations.
<u>Rural Partners Network</u>	A network housed in the USDA that helps rural communities find resources and funding to create jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability with support from various federal agencies.
<u>Public Sector Funding & Technical Assistance Program</u>	A DOE website detailing various technical assistance programs and contacts for energy-related public funding opportunities managed by the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP).
<u>State and Local Solution Center</u>	This SCEP Center compiles information on BIL and IRA funding, lists numerous helpful data tools and resources for reaching clean energy goals, and shares information on upcoming events for state and community energy programs.
<u>State Directed Technical Assistance Programs</u>	A White House guide listing all known state-level technical assistance programs. Contact information for state offices is included, along with eligibility and other parameters.
<u>Technical Assistance Guidebook</u>	A White House guidebook that details over 100 technical assistance programs hosted under various federal agencies as of September 2023. These agency programs assist with tasks like registering to receive grants and answering technical or program-specific questions



<u>Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)</u>	<p>EPA has chosen 16 Environmental Justice TCTACs to help remove barriers for and build capacity in underserved and overburdened communities and Tribes. These Centers will provide technical assistance for navigating federal grant writing, facilitate meetings and community engagement, and provide translation and interpretation services.</p>
<u>Workforce GPS</u>	<p>An online technical assistance website sponsored by the Department of Labor for workforce professionals, educators, and business leaders. The site offers useful webinars and other training resources, research, and promising workforce development practices.</p>

In addition to these federal tools, an ample number of nonprofit organizations and consulting firms are providing low-cost or pro bono technical assistance. This table summarizes many of the current offerings of which our team is aware.

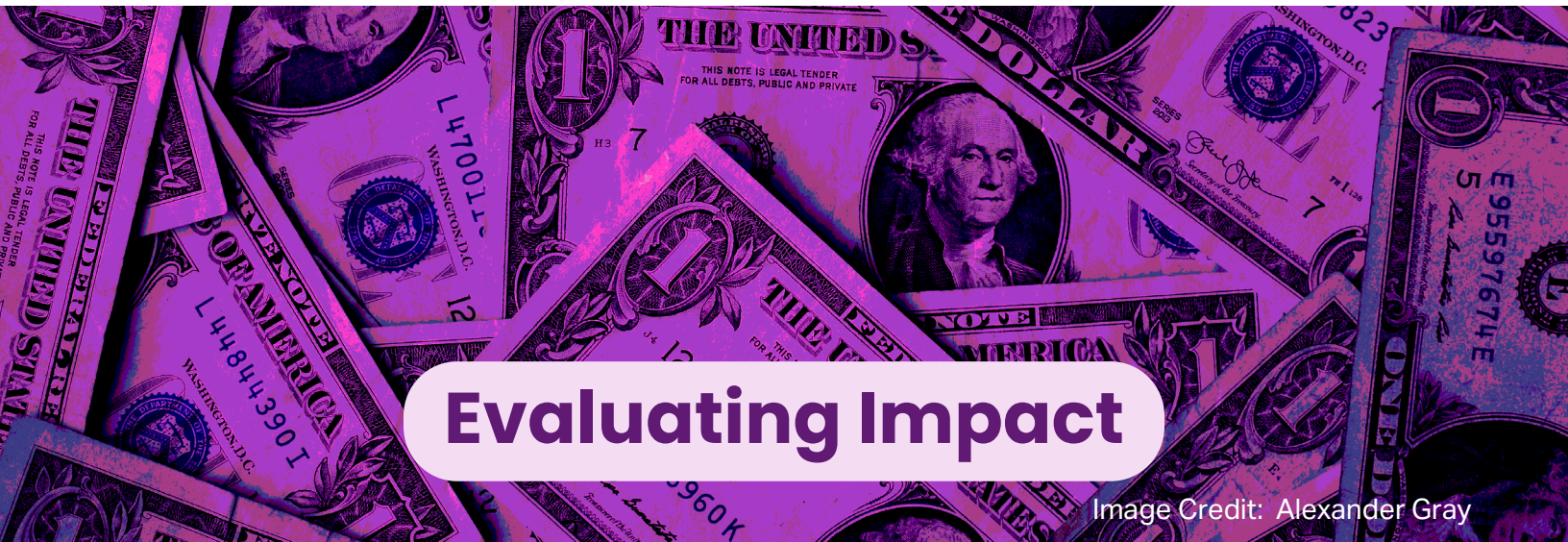


Select Nonprofit Technical Assistance Providers

<u>Environmental Protection Network</u>	<p>EPN is a network of pro bono experts with EPA experience. EPN is a grantee on many of EPA's technical assistance programs and provides updates, technical assistance, and other advice to all types of prospective grant applicants.</p>
<u>Grant Application Bootcamp</u> (run by <u>Local Infrastructure Hub</u>)	<p>The Local Infrastructure Hub hosts bootcamps focused on BIL funding opportunities, intended to help small and mid-sized municipalities to receive pro bono technical training to develop competitive grant applications.</p>
<u>Invest in Our Future</u>	<p>Invest in Our Future has committed \$180 million over three years to fund organizations that provide support to communities for clean energy projects and accessing federal grants, and has committed to use philanthropic coordination to mobilize federal and private funding for clean energy investments.</p>
<u>Just Transition Fund Federal Access Center</u>	<p>This Center provides grants and technical assistance to nonprofits and local governments serving coal-impacted communities. Their grants support costs associated with developing applications, such as hiring grant writers.</p>



<u>Lawyers for Good Government's Free Federal Funding Legal Resources</u>	This program provides legal resources to states, local governments, NGOs, and frontline communities to help expedite a just transition and includes fact sheets, webinars, and links to partnering organizations.
<u>Southeast Sustainability Directors Network's Southeast Regional Infrastructure Hub</u>	This Hub accepts applications from local governments and community organizations in the Southeast. Its services include support with grant development and capacity building.
<u>Southern Economic Advancement Program</u>	SEAP is currently working to support and provide pro bono technical assistance to Southern-based 501c3s and local governments who want to apply for federal grants.
<u>State Funding Readiness Project</u>	The SFRP, an initiative led by Hua Nani Partners and the US Climate Alliance, provides free rapid response technical assistance to states, territories, Tribes, and local governments implementing funding from the BIL and IRA.



Evaluating Impact

Image Credit: Alexander Gray

The political landscape around the IRA, BIL, and Justice40 is dynamic, so being aware of possible changes on the horizon and debates in Congress that could affect them is important for understanding how the funding for these programs and initiatives may change in the coming years. Ongoing federal regulatory decisions, as well as litigation through the courts, also have the potential to affect the scope of programs. With 2024 being a

presidential election year, a potential shift in federal priorities away from climate justice could significantly impact how federal funding is rolled out, and to whom. This section outlines some of the recent regulatory decisions and policies affecting the IRA, BIL, and Justice40 and raises awareness of how the 2024 elections might fundamentally change the landscape of climate funding and program implementation.

The IRA: Jobs, EVs, and Electrification

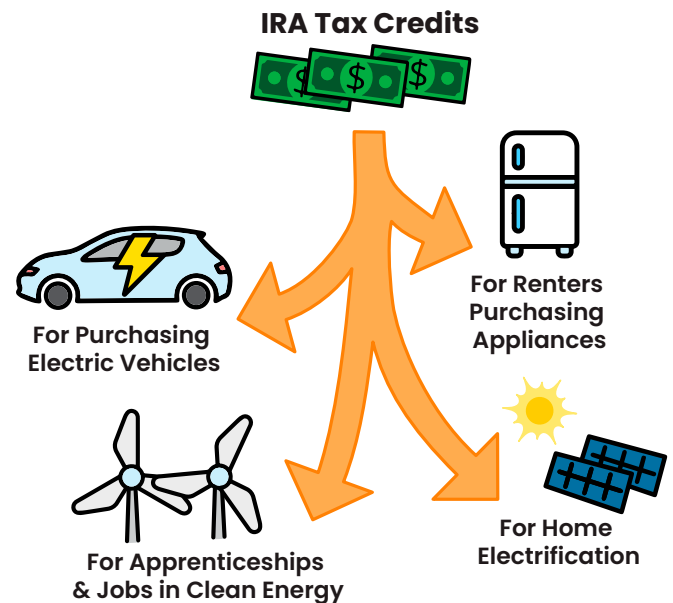
Economic Justice. Under the IRA, businesses are eligible to receive more tax credits for clean energy construction projects as long as they follow new prevailing wage and apprenticeship stipulations [outlined](#) by the Department of Labor. These rules incentivize businesses to ensure that their labor force is paid fairly for work on qualified facilities. Those who fail to meet these regulations will face monetary [penalties](#) and could lose their eligibility for tax credits.

Inclusive Green Jobs

There will be thousands of emergent jobs in the clean energy sector. For these jobs to attract and retain dedicated workers – as the movement so badly needs – workplace norms must embrace economic justice through higher wages, better benefits, and more inclusive workspaces. It is important to have sustainable jobs that are competitive with other industries to encourage people of all ages to join the green energy and construction sectors.

A robust quantity of high-quality jobs must be accompanied with protections for the right to organize and the strengthening of labor unions. Justice-centered workforce development, funded by the federal government, should be linked to decarbonization projects to ensure that high-quality low-carbon jobs are also available to workers historically excluded from the fossil fuel-based economy.

EV Tax Credits. To incentivize the electrification of personal transportation under the IRA, buyers of new EVs could be eligible for a nonrefundable tax credit up to \$7,500 (buyers of used EVs can qualify for up to [\\$4,000](#)). This credit can be claimed on 2024 tax returns or, starting in January 2024, it can be transferred directly to the car dealership to lower the price of the car upon purchase, adding flexibility to the tax incentive. These tax benefits are for the years 2023 through 2032.



However, this incentive comes with a wrinkle: the US Treasury and IRS [announced](#) that starting in 2024, for an EV to be eligible for tax benefits, it is not allowed to contain battery components that were manufactured by a “foreign entity of concern,” such as China. In 2025, this will expand to include any critical minerals that were extracted, processed, or recycled by a foreign entity of concern. These restrictions seek to stimulate the national automotive supply chain, but they will make it [difficult](#) for automakers in the next couple years to meet these battery content requirements. Buyers of EVs will need to ensure that their purchases actually qualify them for the IRA EV tax credits under these new rules.

Electrification Expansion

The IRA also includes tax credits for [home electrification](#). While landlords and homeowners are primarily responsible for home electrification, and therefore have the most to gain from IRA tax incentives, [renters](#) can still receive some tax benefits for buying electric appliances to make their homes more energy efficient. Tax credits for rooftop solar and weatherization are only available for homeowners right now, but starting in 2024, renters will be able to get [electrification rebates](#) for heat pump air conditioners and heaters, electric stoves, and heat pump clothes dryers. Additional regulatory and programmatic adjustments, stipulations, and expansions of program eligibility when it comes to these electrification incentives will continue to be rolled out in the coming years at both the federal and state levels, so it is important to review both federal- and state-level program updates.

The BIL: Utility Modernization and Transit Investments

Climate Investments. The BIL is directing significant new investments towards badly needed public infrastructure improvements and modernization. The major investment pools by sector are listed on this [fact sheet](#) from the White House. Some of the BIL's investments that can be directed towards building that delivers concrete environmental, climate and economic justice benefits to affected communities include:

- \$90 billion for public transit
- \$66 billion for rail improvements
- \$65 billion for increased high-speed internet access
- \$62 billion for clean energy projects and grid improvements

- \$50 billion for upgrading water infrastructure
- \$50 billion for infrastructure resilience
- \$17 billion for port and waterway upgrades
- \$7.5 billion for EV charging
- \$5 billion for Superfund and Brownfield projects
- \$729 million for remediating abandoned mine lands
- \$700 million for plugging orphaned wells

Skilled Workers Needed. There are hundreds of thousands of new, green infrastructure positions for work on projects funded by the BIL, but there is currently a shortage of trained workers. This is especially true for physically challenging jobs, [such as](#) climbing 150-foot cell phone towers to install new broadband internet equipment. Training pathways for skilled workers will be essential to seeing the BIL's infrastructure goals through to fruition. With the help of municipalities and workforce development nonprofits, they are taking shape all across the country. One example is the [Sustainability Hub](#), a new job training facility in Chicago created by Power52's Ecademy and 548 Enterprise that capitalizes on the IRA's Energy Communities Tax Credit Bonus. The facility offers clean energy job training for local residents, particularly underserved community members, veterans, and returning citizens.

Materials Delays. Along with the range of new infrastructure projects, the BIL also includes new stipulations for how these projects must be conducted. In August 2023, the Office of Management and Budget released [guidance](#) on what the Build America, Buy America Act ([BABAA](#)) means for federally funded infrastructure projects. BABAA imposes a preference for materials manufactured in the US, and the IRA and BIL have [expanded](#) these "buy American" rules. The rules are now stalling important infrastructure projects by forcing communities to

obtain materials from more expensive domestic suppliers. It can also be hard to source certain materials within the US that are usually produced abroad. The BIL includes funding to encourage the domestic production of materials like steel and iron, but it could be years until this happens, causing delays for pressing construction projects. Temporary waivers exist to give local governments extra time to adjust to these stricter rules.

BABAA In Brief:

Established a domestic content procurement preference for all federally funded infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022.

This preference requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in covered infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.



Potential Unintended Impacts:

- Delay of important infrastructure projects
- Can make projects more expensive
- Can be hard to source materials in U.S.

Highway-Heavy Investments. The majority of BIL funds are for transportation infrastructure. In February 2023, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also [clarified](#) that each state is responsible for deciding how they will use the billions of dollars allocated by the BIL for roads and bridges. The FHWA's guidance released in 2021 [received flak](#) by congressional critics for over-emphasizing using BIL funds for road and bridge maintenance and under-emphasizing projects like building new roads or additional lanes. The agency's more recent update highlights states' individual power and flexibility in using BIL funding.

One quarter of the law's formula investments up to this point have funded highway expansion projects

A recent analysis by Transportation for America revealed that [one quarter](#) of the law's formula investments up to this point have funded highway expansion projects that will significantly increase transportation emissions. The analysis also found states and transit authorities slow to designate funds for public transit improvements and emissions-reducing BIL projects.

Roadway Safety

A focus on roadways has been coupled with an increased focus on road safety. Senators Ed Markey and Richard Blumenthal have written a [letter](#) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) asking for an update on various safety provisions included in the BIL.

These provisions request that the NHTSA require new vehicles to have enhanced safety features such as collision warnings, emergency braking, and lane departure warnings; publish an annual list of recall completion rates; conduct research on how to reduce driver distraction; and other badly needed provisions to increase road safety. As of early April, the NHTSA has [not yet](#) shared their proposals for enhanced safety features.

Justice40: Expanded Reach, Addressing Barriers

Expanding Justice40. Since its issuance three years ago, the Justice40 Initiative has [expanded](#) from 24 pilot programs at nine agencies to now include over 500 programs across 19 federal agencies. In October 2023, the Biden administration announced a [\\$3.46 billion](#) investment for 58 projects across 44 states to strengthen electric grid resilience, funded by the BIL. All of these projects will support Justice40 communities, and 86 percent have either labor union partnerships, or will involve collective bargaining agreements. A [fact sheet](#) published by the White House in November 2023 states that over 180 programs funded by the BIL have been included in the Justice40 Initiative, and many have surpassed Justice40’s goal of delivering 40 percent of benefits of certain climate-related investments to disadvantaged communities.

Tool Updates. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool ([CEJST](#)) was designed to help agencies identify communities to prioritize in order to meet Justice40 objectives. The White House has said that CEJST will be updated every year, but there is no information on when these updates will occur. News about the tool and trainings for how to use it will be posted [here](#). This tool is critical for understanding Justice40’s potential impact, so its evolution will affect how the Initiative evolves. It is actively being [used](#) by numerous federal agencies to designate hundreds of census tracts for priority investments.

Addressing Barriers. As the money has started rolling out, federal agencies have likewise begun to identify the barriers to funding and grant eligibility that have come to light. In

October 2023, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a [proposed revision](#) to its guidance for grants to make the application rules more flexible and easy to follow so that agencies have less of an administrative review burden, and potential grant recipients have less of an application burden. Alongside this important revision, both the federal agencies administering BIL and IRA grants and independent nonprofits have staffed up technical assistance hubs to close the gap between eligible entities and acquiring funding.

Identifying Distributional Injustices

Like other agencies, FEMA is using the CEJST Tool to evaluate its progress in meeting Justice40 goals. And it has already helped identify and address distributional justice concerns. For instance, FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program found that there was still [disproportionately](#) greater funding in higher-capacity communities. Less than a fifth of its funding went to low capacity communities – which tend to be rural – that don’t have the time, staff, or knowledge to successfully apply for complicated federal grants.

In response to this discrepancy, FEMA has been providing direct technical assistance to a cohort of eligible communities to guide them through project application, development, and implementation. In BRIC’s first year, there were eight communities chosen for this technical assistance, but in the coming year, there will be at least [80](#).

Politics, the 2024 Elections, and Beyond

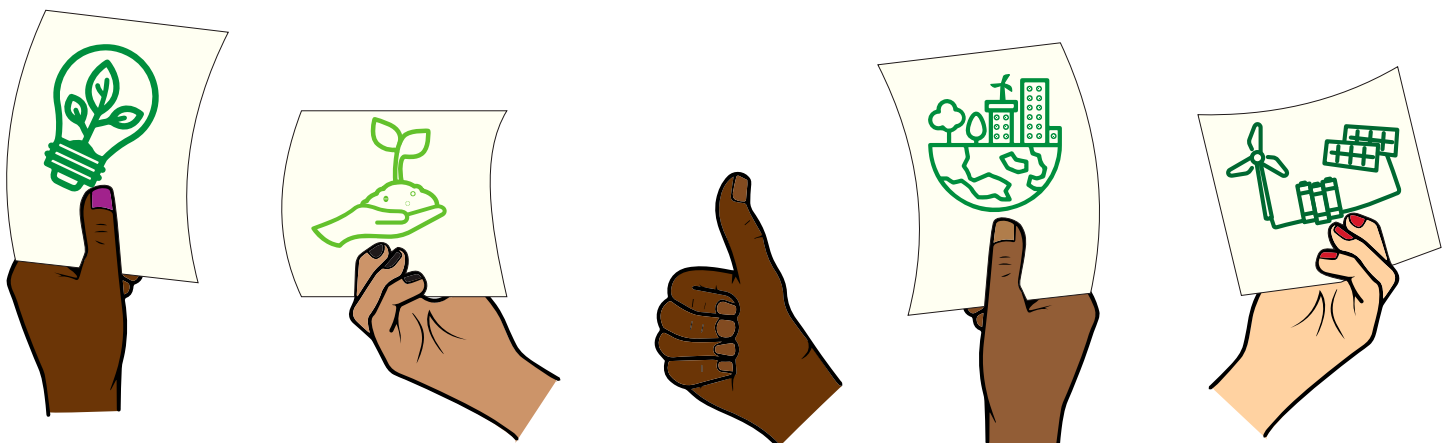
The IRA, BIL, and Justice40 are not immune from the impacts of future legislation, the 2024 presidential elections, and constantly changing political tides. Representative Mike Johnson's election as the new House Speaker in October 2023 has implications for all climate-related legislation, as he has [openly questioned](#) climate science and lauded the use of fossil fuels, and supports [cutting](#) funding from the IRS's budget. Given Johnson's leadership, any proposed climate legislation brought before the House is worth watching closely.

The 2024 [presidential election](#) will doubtlessly have impacts on these programs as well. Under a different administration's leadership, the IRS and the Treasury could reinterpret provisions in climate laws, limit tax credits, and hold back loans and grants. By 2024, many programs funded by the IRA will be in the middle of implementation, which will make it more difficult for them to be dismantled. This is a likely driver behind why vast BIL and IRA investments are being rapidly rolled out before November. That being said, with a

swing in the presidency to a conservative, the Biden administration will be unable to see programs through implementation. Any programs in development or not yet launched would be at risk of revision.

Another political issue that could slim down program benefits is the never-ending debt ceiling debate. The debt ceiling is currently [suspended](#) until January 2025; this means that the next presidential administration will be responsible for negotiating the next debt ceiling crisis. Debates over how to deal with the debt crisis affect the allocation of government funds. The [Limit, Save, Grow Act](#) of 2023, for example, is a bill that originally sought to curb federal spending by slashing much of the IRA's energy and climate tax credit expansion provisions. At the last minute, these measures were [eliminated](#) from the bill, but future legislation seeking to address the debt crisis might contain similar rollbacks to IRA and BIL funding.

It is imperative that the environmental and climate justice movements participate in the November 2024 elections.





We would be remiss not to mention another potential threat to these pots of federal funding: [Project 2025](#). Officially titled “Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,” the Heritage Foundation and 100 partnering organizations crafted this 900-page playbook that outlines specific policy recommendations for an assumed right-wing presidency, whenever that may be. The first such sweeping proposal, or “mandate for leadership”, was released in 1981 and shaped many of Reagan’s policies.

Project 2025 is the latest iteration of a scheme to centralize power in the Executive branch, deregulate industry, and dismantle the federal government. Rolling back climate policy and environmental regulations are key to the plan, as is a rapid disassembling of the EPA. Specific climate policy [recommendations](#) include withdrawing the US from the Paris Climate Agreement and from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; expanding fossil fuel production and consumption; eliminating energy efficiency standards; removing federal subsidies for public transit; [eliminating](#) the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights; and removing IRA provisions on tax credits for electric vehicles and clean power projects.

Needless to say, Project 2025 in practice would be [disastrous](#) for the climate. For this and numerous reasons besides, it is imperative that the environmental and climate justice movements participate in the November 2024 elections. Much more than just our program funding will be at stake.

Final Thoughts

The success of the BIL, IRA, and Justice40 covered programs will come down to how they are implemented at the state and local level. Protecting these funding sources must continue to be prioritized at the federal level, and all of us in the climate justice and allied movements must make it clear to our representatives that this funding is vital to our work. We are very hopeful about the potential of these federal dollars to bend the arc of government priorities toward justice. But this hope is contingent on how committed the federal government is to prioritizing justice, how rapidly and effectively access to these programs can be shared with the movement, and whether our movements will rally to protect our hard-fought wins this fall at the polls. Put soberly, these programs will not work without a functioning federal democracy. These laws are not perfect – and justice concerns, barriers to access, and rollout speed still need to be addressed – but they are also unprecedented opportunities to fund essential climate justice projects that must be embraced, now more than ever.



Appendices

Image Credit: Alexander Gray

Appendix A: A Note on Facts and Figures

To write this report, we relied primarily on official government resources and reputable nonprofit reports and websites. We have verified this information to the best of our ability close to the time of publication. The information we provide in this report reflects constantly updated programs and therefore there may be errors or omissions. Nothing in this report is intended to provide legal advice or direction and is provided solely for educational purposes. We encourage readers to use the government websites linked throughout the report for the most up-to-date information.

All of our sources have been hyperlinked directly into the text so interested readers can click the source for further information and details. Please note that this means that if this report is printed, these sources will no longer be accessible.

The data for the infographic titled “Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) by Bureau: total \$145.9 Billion” came from the downloadable dataset

at the bottom of the White House’s [Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#). The dataset we downloaded was last updated on November 28, 2023. This is a “living” dataset, so future White House updates to the data could explain discrepancies between our totals and future totals. Moreover, our IRA funding total is less than the commonly touted total of \$369 billion over the next decade. We believe that this discrepancy is due to the fact that a large percentage of IRA funding comes in the form of tax credits for consumers and businesses. The estimated value of these tax credits are not listed in the dataset with which we calculated our totals.

The data for the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) by Bureau: total \$839.6 Billion” infographic came from the downloadable spreadsheet at the bottom of the White House’s [A Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). The data we used was last updated in January, 2024. These totals and line item program funding amounts are continuously updated by the White House. We encourage our readers to check back with the White House Guidebook and data sheets for updates and to clarify to which programs and agencies the remaining BIL investments will be directed.



Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

Affordable Care Act (ACA): A comprehensive health care reform law enacted in 2010 that aims to make affordable health insurance available to more people, expand the Medicaid program, and support innovative medical care delivery methods.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): An act passed in 2021 that delivered immediate relief for workers in the face of COVID-19 and helped to stabilize the economic recovery from the pandemic. Approximately \$350 billion of the act's funding went to state, local, and tribal governments.

Block grant: A mandatory grant awarded to a government entity by a larger government entity (usually from the federal government to state governments) to fulfill broad government functions. Block grants provide recipients with some discretion in allocating and spending the funds.

Bonds: Securities issued in exchange for loans to raise money for a government.

Broadband: High-speed internet connection.

Brownfield: A site impacted by the presence of a hazardous substance or pollutant from past industrial or commercial activity. According to the EPA, there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the US that have yet to be cleaned up.

Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA): A federal act that requires iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials

used in federally funded infrastructure projects to be produced in the United States.

Build Back Better (BBB): A legislative program introduced by President Biden that aimed to invest in programs that create new jobs, retain Americans in the labor force, and meet climate goals. BBB failed to pass and parts of it were integrated into the Inflation Reduction Act.

Carbon capture: The process of trapping and storing carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels. It is often criticized by environmentalists as a false solution to climate change.

Categorical grant: A highly specific grant that funds designated programs and activities, provided by the federal government to state and local governments with specific requirements. It can be mandatory or discretionary and is mutually exclusive with block grants.

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST): A tool that aggregates various datasets to identify disadvantaged communities, meaning those that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Competitive / Discretionary grant: A grant awarded through a competitive process based on fixed criteria and subjective judgment. Eligible applicants can include government agencies, nonprofits, and private companies.

Community Based Organization (CBO): Nonprofits that represent a community, a subset of a community, or a specific community interest. It can also refer to a grassroots organization.

Cooperative agreements: Agreements facilitating the transfer of value for a public

purpose or benefit from a federal agency to local governments or private recipients.

Cost share requirements: When a portion of a project's cost is not covered by federal funds.

Cumulative burdens: The total impacts on human health and wellbeing experienced by a community resulting from pollution and other poor environmental conditions over time.

Debt ceiling: The maximum amount of money that the US Treasury can borrow to pay its bills by issuing bonds.

Direct pay: A process that allows non tax-paying entities such as governments and nonprofits to receive a direct payment from the IRS which is equivalent to what they would have received as a tax credit.

Disadvantaged communities (DACs): In the context of climate justice, communities that are marginalized or overburdened by environmental, climate, economic, racial, or other types of injustices. It also includes communities that have been underrepresented in or marginalized by the government.

Energy communities: A community that has been historically reliant on jobs in the extraction, processing, transportation, or storage of coal, oil, or natural gas.

Energy resilience: The ability of power grids and buildings to withstand power outages and to reliably provide energy in any conditions.

Environmental justice: A concept that encompasses the equitable treatment and active participation of individuals, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, income, or nationality, concerning the formulation, execution, and enforcement of environmental regulations, laws, and policies.

Equity: A concept centered around fairness which considers the distribution of historic inequities as a basis to provide more representative opportunities and resources to all.

EVs: A common shorthand for electric vehicles.

Federal deficit: When the federal government's spending exceeds its revenues.

Formula funding: A type of mandatory grant that automatically provides funds to eligible entities based on a "formula", a predetermined criteria outlined in the enabling legislation. These grants are commonly awarded to state or local governments, particularly in large federal spending programs.

Grants: Monetary awards distributed by the government to individuals, institutions, or communities that strive to stimulate the economy and protect public services.

Green bank: An entity that specifically funds investments in low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure to help finance a green transition.

Green New Deal: A congressional resolution that aims to achieve environmental justice through investing in and creating jobs in renewable energy and to invest in solutions that mitigate climate change.

IAC: The White House Interagency Council is an advisory council established along with Justice40 that works with WHEJAC and the Climate Policy Office to help agencies implement Justice40.

Legacy pollution: Contaminants that linger in an environment and continue to have negative impacts caused by polluting industrial sources that are no longer active.



Loans: Financial resources provided by the government that are expected to be repaid. Loans can either be interest-bearing or be interest-free.

Mandatory grant: A grant that is automatically given to all eligible state or local governments, excluding private organizations or individuals. Block grants and formula grants are often considered types of mandatory grants, and discretionary grants are separate from mandatory grants.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): A formal announcement of the availability of state or federal funding.

Oil and gas lease: A document allowing a company or an individual to extract oil or gas from beneath a designated piece of land.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB): The OMB oversees the federal budget and federal agencies, and helps govern federal grant programs.

PFA: PFAs, or polyfluoroalkyl substances, are prevalent and persistent chemicals that break down very slowly over time, if at all.

Prevailing wage: Pay rate set by law for work on public works projects.

Project grant: Grants awarded for specific projects, initiatives, or services through a competitive process for government agencies, nonprofits, or private companies.

Rebates: Partial reimbursements provided to individuals who have overpaid their taxes, rent, or utility expenses. Rebates are often offered as incentives for the purchase of new equipment.

Reparative justice: A holistic approach to justice that centers repairing past harms,

stopping harms in the present, and preventing future harms.

Smart surfaces: Green infrastructure, clean energy, and reflectivity solutions that help cities better manage sun and rain. They include cool/reflective roofs and pavements, green roofs and green spaces, trees, porous pavements, and solar photovoltaics.

Stakeholders: Members of a community in which a project is taking place who have a stake in the project's outcome.

State Revolving Fund (SRF): A program that provides grants and low-interest loans for water infrastructure. Congress appropriates funding and the EPA grants capitalization funds to states, which then issue loans to applicants and recycle repayments for future loans.

Superfund: Superfund is a federal program created in 1980 in response to the environmental activism surrounding toxic waste dump sites. Superfund – formally called the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) – allows the EPA to clean up sites that are contaminated with hazardous waste.

Tax incentives: Policies designed to encourage a particular behavior or activity by lowering taxes owed through deductions, exemptions, and credits.

Tax credits: Provisions where a taxpayer can deduct directly from the amount of income tax they owe.

Technical assistance: Targeted support provided to organizations for specific development needs or problems, such as assistance in understanding the parameters of a grant.

Transit-oriented development: An urban planning strategy that designs compact, walkable, and mixed-use spaces that prioritize access to public transit and pedestrian/bicycle safety over cars.

WHEJAC: The White House Environmental Advisement Council is a federal advisory committee operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, providing advisory recommendations to the CEQ and other federal offices and agencies as they work on policies and programs related to environmental justice.

45Q: An incentive tax credit for carbon capture and storage introduced in 2008.

Appendix C: Library of Federal Funding Resources

This primer is intended to be a one stop shop for information on the IRA, BIL, and Justice40. With many organizations working to provide support and resources in this space, the amount of information can be overwhelming. This section provides a jumping-off point to explore other efforts that are helping to ensure federal funding is accessible and used effectively and justly.

Federal Sites

The most up-to-date information on new programs and grants is spread across multiple government websites. Some of the most important are gathered here.

[Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)

From: *US Council on Environmental Quality*
The US government created this mapping tool to designate communities that are considered to be disadvantaged under the Justice40 initiative.

[Key Notices of Funding Opportunity](#)

From: *US Department of Transportation*
The DOT updates this site with upcoming IRA and BIL funding opportunities. It includes opening dates, closing dates, name of the opportunity, and operating administration/office.

[EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#)

From: *EPA*
EPA has chosen 16 EJ TCTACs that will receive \$177 million to help remove barriers for overburdened communities to address EJ concerns. These centers will provide technical assistance for navigating federal grant writing processes, facilitating meetings and community engagement, and providing translation and interpretation services.

[Energy Communities Funding Tracker](#)

From: *The Interagency Working Group on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization*
This federal site tracks investments through the IRA and BIL, with pages on competitive funding, formula funding, tax credits, and an overall funding clearinghouse.

[Environmental Justice Scorecard](#)

From: *Council on Environmental Quality*
The Environmental Justice Scorecard created by the Biden administration assesses the progress of 24 federal agencies in their progress towards prioritizing environmental justice in order to increase transparency. It includes information on each agency's progress on implementing Justice40, protecting

environmental and civil rights, and institutionalizing environmental justice.

[Guidebook to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

From: *The White House*

This website can be used to navigate the Biden administration's guidebook intended to provide the necessary information needed on how to apply for BIL funding. It breaks down descriptions of the programs provided under the law by issue area, as well as providing the existing government resources and current deadlines for each area. The bottom of the webpage can be used to search for the most up to date information on each program, including the status of funding allocation and a link to find each program's government contact. The bottom of the guide [PDF](#) (starting at page 450) provides tailored advice for underserved communities, governors, and mayors.

[Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#)

From: *The White House*

The Biden administration's IRA guidebook intends to provide the necessary information about IRA funding, how to apply for it, and what programs are being funded. The PDF version breaks down descriptions of the programs by issue area, provides the existing government resources, and lists current deadlines for each area. The bottom of the webpage can be used to search for the status of funding and a link to find each program's government contact. You can also download a live .csv file for the most updated and most detailed funding information by agency and program.

[Investing in America](#)

From: *The White House*

This is the main website for all information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Along with the BIL guidebook above, it contains guides for specific interest areas, such as

information for rural communities, tribes, and state-by-state updates under "Resources."

[Maps of Progress](#)

From: *The White House*

This map shows announced and selected awarded funding locations using BIL dollars. It has different pages depicting public and private investments, and some real-life stories of who the projects are benefiting.

[OEJECR Grants News and Updates](#)

From: *EPA*

The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) will update this page with grantee success stories, program deadline updates and reminders, and other helpful information for grantees.

[Justice40](#)

From: *The White House*

The official government website for Justice40 explains the Initiative in detail. It also links information from each agency that has released covered programs and the CEJST screening tool. A list of all J40 covered programs as of November 2023 can be found [here](#).

[State and Local Solution Center](#)

From: *Office of State and Community Energy Programs*

This hub compiles information on BIL and IRA funding, lists hundreds of technical assistance tools and resources for reaching clean energy goals, and shares information on upcoming events for state and community energy programs.

[White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council](#) and [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#)

From: *The White House*

Along with Justice40, Executive Order 14008 also created two advisory councils. The EJ Interagency Council helps coordinate

agencies to reflect the entire government's commitment to environmental justice, and the EJ Advisory Council is made up of environmental justice advocates that make recommendations to the Interagency Council. These official websites provide a more detailed summary and a list of council members.

Technical Resources

Many entities are willing to provide individual support to organizations or local governments in order to assist them in implementing the kind of projects that this new legislation could support, sometimes offering these services pro bono. The kinds of services available vary, ranging from targeted support for accessing federal funding to coaching on all phases of the project creation process. Some of these organizations are listed below.

[Anthropocene Alliance](#)

The Anthropocene Alliance's "Frontline 360" program provides pro-bono technical support to community organizing in places impacted by climate change and environmental abuse. They will connect members to relevant experts and make needed connections with federal agencies. A form to access the grant writing support they provide can be found [here](#).

[Environmental Policy Innovation Center](#)

A plethora of maps, tools, and databases have been published to visualize and measure complex EJ data. It can be overwhelming for users to know which tool is best to use for a specific purpose. EPIC built an [EJ Tool Inventory](#) to help funding applicants, advocates, policy makers, and developers navigate the vast landscape of EJ tools. EPIC hopes its tool is used for users to compare and discover EJ tools, as well as to help groups collaborate across tools.

[ICF](#)

ICF provides assistance to state and local governments to move their programs from idea to implementation. [Grant management](#) is one of their specialities, which could help communities take advantage of these new pieces of legislation.

[Just Transition Fund](#)

The Just Transition Fund Federal Access Center provides grants and technical assistance to help organizations and local governments serving coal communities prepare to apply for federal funding. It was established by the Rockefeller Family Fund and the Appalachia Funders Network. They also provide resources on some federal funding opportunities.

[Local Infrastructure Hub](#)

The Local Infrastructure Hub shares the best resources available to help small towns and communities make the most of all types of federal funding. It has a grant search tool, hosts webinars, and will be providing boot-camps on funding categories over the next two years for local governments with 150,000 or fewer residents.

[State Funding Readiness Project](#)

This organization provides free technical support to states around both the BIL and the IRA. Consulting is individualized, and support for local governments working in coordination with state government offices is also possible. Their website also organizes third-party guides, federal updates, and existing data analysis on the programs.

[Sutherland and Associates](#)

Sutherland & Associates works with entities like local governments and community-based organizations developing climate solutions and provides a broad range of technical assistance, including around [financing](#).



[EPIC, Beech Hill, Climate XChange](#)

Many NGOs and federal agencies have programs providing technical assistance for accessing federal funding for community based organizations and local governments. This list summarizes and links out to each of these resources, and provides contact information where applicable.

Databases

With hundreds of programs funded by the IRA and BIL and falling under Justice40, knowing what opportunities are available or being implemented, their timelines, and how to access them can be overwhelming. These resources track and compile program updates and grant deadlines. Some also offer collections of resources similar to this section of our guide.

[America's Federal Funding Opportunities and Resources for Decarbonization](#)

From: *American Cities Climate Challenge*

This searchable database is designed to help nonprofits and communities identify, compare, and prioritize federal funding, tax credits, and other incentives. It is intended to help people understand available funding and incentives that are relevant to their goals and projects.

[Climate Program Portal](#)

From: *Atlas Public Policy*

The Climate Program Portal is a resource for organizations and public agencies to track federal investments in climate initiatives. The portal tracks investments from the BIL and the IRA, compiles technical assistance resources, and includes a calendar of upcoming informational events. You must sign up to access the portal, and it is available to advocates and public officials.

[Federal Environmental Justice Tracker](#)

From: *Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program*

Sign up for this tracker to receive updates on Justice40, the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, and the IRA. It also breaks down an implementation timeline of Justice40 and agency equity plans.

[IIJA Implementation Resources](#)

From: *National Governors Association*

This resource hub breaks down federal resources, provides a calendar for upcoming deadlines, and includes a program tracker for formula and competitive grants. It also shares more general guides for subject areas covered by the bill.

[IIJA Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) Tracker](#)

From: *Government Finance Officers Association*

This database contains information about current programs and funding opportunities through the IIJA. It includes information about eligible uses, types of funding available, application links, and deadlines.

[IRA Tracker & IRA Database](#)

From: *Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law & Environmental Defense Fund*

This tracker records actions taken by different federal agencies to implement climate-change related provisions of the IRA.

[Justice40 Accelerator](#)

The Justice40 Accelerator shares information and resources with different cohorts of frontline community organizations to support them as they formulate projects and successfully apply to the federal funding opportunities presented by the Justice40 Initiative. Applications for climate and environmental justice organizations to apply for and participate in the accelerator are currently closed, but may reopen in the future. They provide

a tracker of some current federal funding opportunities here as well as a collection of related resources.

[Local Infrastructure Hub](#)

From: *US Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, Partners*

The Local Infrastructure Hub shares the best resources available to help local towns and communities make the most of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It has a grant search tool, holds webinars, and will be providing boot-camps around funding categories over the next two years for local governments with 150,000 or fewer residents.

[Rebuilding America Dashboard](#)

From: *National League of Cities*

This interactive map shows which cities, towns, and villages have successfully received direct federal grants from the BIL.

Reports

For more resources providing an introduction to the IRA, the BIL, and Justice40, this collection of reports draw on the expertise of the different organizations and individuals advocating for greater access to funding. They may go deeper into each piece of legislation or focus on the needs of specific recipients or issue areas that could receive funding.

[Delivering a Green New Deal](#)

From: *The Offices of Senator Markey and Representative Ocasio-Cortez*

The original Congressmembers who sponsored the Green New Deal reintroduced the resolution along with this guide on the resolution's fourth anniversary. This guide highlights how some new federal investments through the BIL and IRA are aligned with – and can get us closer to achieving – 12 original goals of the Green New Deal.

Justice40

[Justice40 Opportunities](#)

From: *The Green New Deal Network*

This guide breaks down some of the programs in the BIL that fall under Justice40. Organizing programs by subject area, it breaks down who can apply, funding type, and timelines.

[Justice40 Resource Guide](#)

From: *Equitable & Just National Climate Platform*

This website provides a thorough summary of Justice40. It outlines the program timeline and links to much of the information spread across federal government websites.

[Justice 40ward](#)

From: *We Act For Environmental Justice*

The Justice40ward campaign is a community-led effort that seeks to ensure people understand these new laws and regulations and ensure transparency and collaboration between elected officials, municipalities, and those who live in a disadvantaged community. They have created multiple resources including a "[Community Engagement Brief](#)" discussing how governments can truly incorporate communities into all aspects of the decision making process

[Making Justice40 a Reality for Frontline Communities](#)

From: *Luskin Center for Innovation at UCLA*

Acknowledging that Justice40 alone will not remedy systemic racism, this report breaks down three opportunity pathways (justice-driven, community-powered, and accountable change) which could allow Justice40 to achieve its full potential to eliminate existing disparities. It provides suggestions of what to do and not do with examples from state and local governments to provide additional guidance.



[6 Takeaways from the CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)

From: *World Resources Institute*

This article analyzes the information provided by the screening tool and provides visualizations that help better understand what kinds of communities are identified as disadvantaged, as well as differences in the burdens faced by communities under this classification.

[Inflation Reduction Act](#)

[A User Guide to the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

From: *Bluegreen Alliance*

This guide and website from the Bluegreen Alliance breaks down how government funding works and summarizes programs by subject area and government agency.

[Clean Energy Provisions and Their Impact on Affordable Housing](#)

From: *Novogradac*

This guide breaks down which provisions of the IRA have implications for affordable housing. It provides visualizations that help break down different aspects of some of the programs.

[Climate and Electrification provisions for Disadvantaged Communities](#)

From: *Rewiring America*

This report summarizes the key provisions of the IRA affecting disadvantaged communities and former fossil fuel workers, including a chart breaking down both its tax and non-tax provisions.

[Environmental Justice Provisions of the 2022 IRA](#)

From: *Harvard Environmental and Energy Law Program*

This table summarizes provisions with the potential to provide federal benefits to communities with environmental justice concerns.

[Guide to Help Cities Make the Most of Billions in Climate Funds](#)

From: *C40 Cities*

This guide provides a robust introduction to what the IRA means for local governments and identifies possible roles for them to play in its implementation. Additionally, it provides easy to understand graphics on how some of the most important sources of funding flow to different entities for important issue areas.

[Campaign Opportunities for State Coalitions to Advance a Green New Deal](#)

From: *Green New Deal Network*

This report is designed to help organizers at the state level navigate the opportunities within the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and inform their strategies and advance wins for climate, jobs and justice. It provides suggestions on how to build power, campaign ideas, and how to overcome the shortcomings that are in the way of this bill supporting transformative change.

[Our Analysis of the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

From: *Just Solutions Collective*

There are many criticisms of the IRA from environmental justice advocates. This report is a detailed analysis of the environmental justice provisions in the IRA including beneficial investments, and also what policymakers and mainstream advocates overreach to suggest are environmental justice investments. The rest of the [Just Solutions Collective's site](#) has other great resources about advancing climate justice, centering BIPOC front-line communities, and uplifting equitable solutions.

[IRA Miniguide](#)

From: *Urban Sustainability Directors Network*

This mini guide provides a pared down list of the programs most relevant to local governments for ease of understanding.



[Unlocking the IRA: Six Key Opportunities for State Policymakers](#)

From: *Evergreen Action and Rocky Mountain Institute*

This fact sheet explores six different programs that expand clean energy and energy efficiency technology: the Green Gas Reduction Fund, Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants, the Home Efficiency and Electrification Rebate Programs, and New Electricity Incentives. This resource breaks down program details and timelines and provides suggestions for state governments.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

[APTA Smart Guide](#)

From: *American Public Transportation Association*

Public transportation is one of the major areas funded by the BIL. This guide breaks down funding opportunities and the resources needed to connect our communities.

[A User Guide to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

From: *Bluegreen Alliance*

This guide from the Bluegreen Alliance breaks down how government funding works and summarizes programs by subject area and government agency. The Bluegreen Alliance's goals are to ensure that funds are maximized to benefit workers and their families and communities.

[Beyond Highways: How States and Cities Can Fund Low-Carbon Transportation](#)

From: *World Resources Institute and Georgetown Climate Center*

Local governments and community organizations must make a concerted effort to ensure that BIL funding does not continue to fortify the highway and car-centric infrastructure

that has long dominated transportation policy. This article discusses how BIL funds can be used for infrastructure that is safer, more equitable, and more beneficial to the climate. It provides suggestions, implementation principles, and examples of existing state and local policies that could guide action.

[Breakdown and Summary for Communities with an Environmental Justice Lens](#)

From: *National Wildlife Federation*

The purpose of this publication is to highlight the investments within BIL that have the potential to aid and lift up environmental justice communities specifically. It serves as a quick reference guide, broken down section-by-section, into what funds are becoming available for specific projects.

[Legislative Analysis for Counties](#)

From: *National Association of Counties*

This guide is oriented towards counties governments, organizing the changes introduced by the BIL by subject area. This includes permit streamlining changes (which have been criticized by the environmental justice movement), and resources on project financing.

Miscellaneous

[Justice40 Analysis](#)

From: *Center for Neighborhood Technology*

This mapping tool visualizes the federal definition of "disadvantaged" under Justice40 and maps the gaps in the White House's CEJST tool by showing census tracts that face significant climate, environmental, and economic challenges but aren't deemed disadvantaged by the federal tool.

[Local Energy Rules: How Cities Can Make the Most of IRA Dollars](#)

From: *Institute for Local Self-Reliance*

A Podcast episode (with transcript available) on how cities can use Inflation Reduction Act



dollars to advance local goals and help their residents do the same. Below, they include other helpful resources.

[Local Energy Rules: Inflation Reduction Act Boosts Local Solar](#)

From: *Institute for Local Self-Reliance*

A Podcast episode (with transcript available) on how the IRA can help support distributed solar through tax credits. Underneath, a chart breaking down the relevant programs and policies under the law and additional resources on solar and other local renewables are available.

[Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data Explorer](#)

From: *EPA*

This interactive data explorer can be used to explore greenhouse gas emissions data over time, by state, and by sector. It can be downloaded and used to create custom charts or maps.

[U.S. State Profiles and Energy Estimates](#)

From: *US Energy Information Administration*

This tool allows users to explore energy consumption by state and learn about how much of a states' energy is coming from different energy sources.

[EPA Research Webinar Series](#)

From: *EPA*

EPA hosts free webinars to educate the public on various environmental and public health issues. Information about upcoming webinars and recordings of past webinars can be found on this page.

Appendix D: Select Organizational Catalog

This partial organizational catalog compiles key organizations involved in increasing the accessibility of BIL, IRA, and Justice40 programs. These organizations provide information, research, and analysis so organizations, cities, Tribes, and other entities can take better advantage of federal funding opportunities.

[America Is All In](#) is an expansive coalition of leaders supporting climate action in the US, focusing on a whole-of-society mobilization for a just transition. They have a [Federal Climate Funding Hub](#) with guidance, deadlines, and resources about the IRA and BIL.

[BlueGreen Alliance](#) provides resources on designing public policies, creating new jobs and protecting the environment. They have designed both an [IRA](#) and [BIL](#) user guide.

[Climate Program Portal](#) is a resource for organizations and public agencies tracking federal investments in climate initiatives, and tracks BIL and IRA. It is run by [Atlas Public Policy](#), which provides strategic advising to their clients, research and development, as well as free knowledge hubs like their EV hub and buildings hub.

[Climate XChange](#) strives to implement a rapid and equitable transition towards a zero-emissions economy by advancing state climate policy through their state-based network, legislative research, communications, and advocacy. They host webinars on the IRA, BIL,



and J40 like [this](#), and [this](#).

[Communities First](#) is a rapid-response fund that plays a crucial role in actualizing the racial justice values of Justice40 by creating bridges between communities and governmental planning processes that are often inaccessible to the very people they are meant to serve through advancing investments and partnerships in service of community plans, solutions, priorities, and visions for a thriving future.

[C40](#) is a global network of mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis through reports, analysis, advocacy, solutions for cities, and political work. They have provided an IRA [guidebook](#) for local government leaders.

[Environmental Policy Innovation Center](#) (EPIC) develops policies that expedite conservation efforts and capitalize on private sector funding opportunities. Their work includes a [Funding Navigator](#) that helps connect communities with water infrastructure investments and offers technical assistance.

[Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) is a network of pro bono experts with EPA experience. EPN is a grantee on many of EPA's technical assistance programs and provides updates, technical assistance, and other advice to all types of prospective grant applicants.

[Evergreen Collaborative](#) provides a series of reports on how federal and state policymakers can successfully implement a just transition through actionable climate policies. Their work also includes a [report](#) on IRA opportunities for Tribal governments and indigenous communities.

[Green New Deal Network](#) is a national coa-

lition of grassroots organizations, labor and climate groups working to pass Green New Deal policy at the state and national level. They provide workshops on federal funding [here](#).

[ICF](#) provides assistance to state and local governments to move their programs from idea to implementation. [Grant management](#) is one of their areas of expertise.

[Institute for Local Self-Reliance](#) is a research organization that advocates for local utility and energy self-reliance. They host a podcast where they talk about the IRA, in episodes like [this](#) and [this](#).

[Justice40 Accelerator](#), founded by Elevate, Groundswell, Hummingbird Firm, Partnership for Southern Equity, and The Solutions Project, works to support grassroots organizations' climate projects by helping them access direct investments through Justice40.

[Just Transition Fund](#) provides solutions for those hit hardest by the coal industry's decline by connecting markets, stimulating entrepreneurship, preparing workers, expanding broadband, and advancing policy. They help with federal funding support, grants, and access to resources.

[Lawyers for Good Government](#) (L4GG) is a group of 125,000 lawyers, law students, and activists that provide large scale pro bono programs to enforce equality under the law. They have a [Climate Change and Environmental Justice Program](#) that provides legal resources to state and local governments, NGOs, and frontline communities to help expedite a just transition.

[Local Infrastructure Hub](#) helps local leaders navigate and understand the large quantities

of information from the federal government on the nearly 400 funding opportunities available through the IIJA by helping cities and towns develop competitive funding applications that are most likely to be awarded federal grants. They have a [platform](#) to find funding opportunities and a bootcamp for small municipalities.

[National Association of Counties](#) (NACo) is a coalition of over 3,000 county governments united to advocate for county priorities in federal policymaking, strengthen the leadership and knowledge networks among counties, and optimize county resources. They publish resources and host webinars on opportunities through the IRA and BIL.

[National League of Cities](#) (NLC) is an organization of municipal leaders that are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. They provide [webinars](#), [coverage](#), [fact sheets](#), and more.

[Rewiring America](#) is a national leader in electrification, focused on accessibility, actionable data, and tools. The organization has an IRA savings [calculator](#), [IRA fact sheets](#), a memo on [IRA Investment for Tribal and Indigenous Communities](#), an [IRA brief](#), and an [explainer](#).

[Rocky Mountain Institute](#) (RMI) is a nonprofit that works to decarbonize and transform the global energy system using rapid, market-driven solutions and by working with businesses, policymakers, communities, and other organizations. They have an [IRA Guidebook](#) to increase the ability of users to sort and filter funding sources based on criteria such as sector, topic, funding eligibility, and funding type.

[Roosevelt Institute](#) is a think tank focused on ideas about how to restructure markets,

transform corporations, and strengthen democratic institutions to advance a more equitable and green future. They publish briefs, fact sheets, and reports on a range of topics, including climate and economic transformation.

[Center for Climate Change Law](#) at Columbia Law School works to combat the climate crisis and advance climate justice using legal strategies. Along with various databases, toolkits, and trackers, one of the Sabin Center's helpful resources is an [IRA Tracker](#).

[State Funding Readiness Project](#) provides free technical support to states implementing funding from the BIL and IRA to advance climate equity priorities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They do this through program planning and implementation, technical assistance, budget planning, and designing stakeholder engagement processes for Justice40 communities.

[Sutherland and Associates](#) works with entities like local governments and community based organizations on developing climate solutions and provides a broad range of technical assistance, [including around financing](#). They have also created [a tracker](#) for BIL and IRA funding opportunities that includes up to date information on grant deadlines and program contacts.

[Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#) works to create equitable, resilient, and sustainable communities by advancing the field of local government sustainability and equipping practitioners to be catalysts of transformative change. They have an [Inflation Reduction Act Miniguide](#) and a [Report](#) on increasing access to IRA funding.

