

8. CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

BACKGROUND

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act provided an investment of \$5 billion to support efforts by states and governmental entities to develop and implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies. On March 1, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. The primary goal of the program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting the creation of jobs, delivering cleaner air, and lowering energy costs for families.

The CPRG is a two-phase grant program. The first phase of the CPRG provided \$250 million nationally in non-competitive grants to develop plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The second phase of the program will provide \$4.6 billion through a competitive grant process to implement strategies in the plan. The 13-county H-GAC region received a \$1 million planning grant to support this first phase. The work on this first phase is ongoing.

CURRENT SITUATION

As part of H-GAC's participation in the CPRG program, staff has been working with regional partners to develop the first project deliverable: a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for our region. This plan includes a regional greenhouse gas inventory and outlines a broad suite of emission reduction strategies that can address greenhouse gases as well as associated criteria pollutants such as ozone, particulate matter, and toxic air pollution to amplify existing regional planning efforts and move the region towards meeting its air quality improvement goals. The development of this PCAP is nearly complete and the final document will be delivered to EPA no later than March 1st. Following the fulfillment of this deliverable, staff will pivot towards the development of an application for the second phase of the CPRG program, which will apply for funds for a variety of implementation projects to improve air quality throughout our region.

ACTION REQUESTED

For Discussion and Possible Action. [No Action Requested]