

# Unanswered Questions from U.S. EPA's Webcast Part 1: Getting Started: Answering Big Picture Funding Questions

May 16, 2012

## General Questions

1. *Are there examples of climate mitigation projects that have looked at climate adaptation benefits as well as other benefits?*

**Answer:** Neelam Patel (EPA): ICLEI developed a document that lists the types of projects that can support both climate mitigation and adaptation - <http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/planning/The%20Mitigation-Adaptation%20Connection.pdf>

Heat island reductions strategies - trees and vegetation, green roofs, cool roofs and cool pavements - can be both climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/heatislands](http://www.epa.gov/heatislands)

The City of Chula Vista, CA has a climate adaptation plan that includes heat island strategies - <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/clean/conservation/Climate/ccwg1.asp>

2. *Any particular advice about funding sources for energy efficiency improvements at water and wastewater infrastructure?*

**Answer:** Alex Ramel (Bellingham): EPA's Office of Water has expertise in this area and offers resources and websites that have good information. The Alliance to Save Energy has a program called Watergy that contains a number of resources. Please see the websites below.

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/waterefficiency.cfm>

<http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/topics/water.html>

<http://watergy.org/resources/publications/>

## Questions for Neelam Patel (EPA)

1. *In 2009 and 2010, EPA awarded \$20 million in competitive grants to help local and tribal governments establish and implement climate change initiatives Do you anticipate future funding from EPA for this initiative?*

**Answer:** EPA does not anticipate issuing future funding solicitations for the Climate Showcase Communities program. The funding describes the Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program which was funded in FY 2009 and FY 2010 by Congress through the appropriations bill. If you are interested in learning more about the projects funded by this program for replication purposes, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/local/showcase/index.html>

2. *The following opportunity was last available in 2010, EPA's Non-Construction Market-Based Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Efficiency in Homes and Buildings RFP# EPA-OAR-CPPD-10-12 -Do you anticipate this funding being available this year?*

**Answer:** This funding opportunity will be not be available this year. At this point, we cannot predict availability for future years.

#### Questions for Shawn Collins and Alex Ramel (Bellingham)

1. *For the average savings of \$450/year, what is the average investment to achieve that savings? What is the average Return on Investment (ROI)?*

**Answer:** The \$450/year is for residential projects. Here is the data concerning these projects:

Median project cost to homeowner:\$5,157

Average out of pocket cost to homeowner (utility rebates reduce cost of project by 7% on average, and program incentives reduce project cost by 25% on average):\$3,507

Average Simple Payback: 8 years

A few things to note here: 1. Whatcom County has a very moderate climate, and Washington state has very inexpensive electricity and has had an aggressive energy code for two decades. So there is less low hanging fruit here than there would likely be in other parts of the country. 2. We don't generally try to sell the project based only on the ROI. These projects make homes more comfortable to live in and more durable for the long term. 3. Where ever possible our intent is to blend projects with a quick payback together with projects with a longer payback to get customers to invest in deeper energy efficiency and still see a good return (e.g. insulating the walls and crawlspace and the attic even though an attic only project has a better ROI).

2. *What has been the average cost of residential retrofits in your program?*

**Answer:** See above answer.

3. *How did you create the graph of GHG emissions in the early slides (from your action plan)? Did you have access to 20 or more years of data to enter into CACP software?*

**Answer:** See above answer. The City of Bellingham had data for 2000 and 2005. Data for 2012 and 2020 was based on estimated forecast. Data for 1990 was estimated from a similar "backcasting" method.

4. *What share of projects have been financed?*

**Answer:** 25% of residential projects have accessed the loan product offered through the program.