

INVESTING IN AMERICA CLIMATE ACTION FUNDING FAIR

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

August 8, 2023



Housekeeping



Q & A

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Q&A



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Interpretation



Reactions

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Housekeeping



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- All participants are muted.
- Please be respectful as we are all here to learn and take away valuable insights about these funding opportunities.



Agriculture and Working Lands Agenda

1. Introduction

2. Panel Discussion

3. Agency Presentations

4. Questions

5. Closing

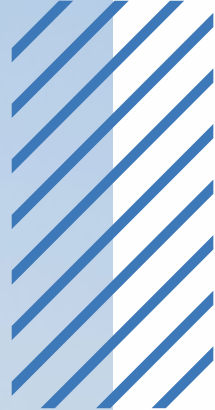




Why We Are Here

What are the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) and how do they relate to why we're here today?





Panel Discussion

Moderated by Rod Snyder

EPA, Agriculture Advisor





Meet Our Panelists



Rod Snyder
EPA

Sr. Advisor for Agriculture



Greg Thoma
Colorado State

*Director of Agricultural
Modeling and Lifecycle
Assessment, Colorado
State University*



Maggie Monast
EDF

*Sr. Director of Climate-
Smart Agriculture,
Environmental Defense
Fund*



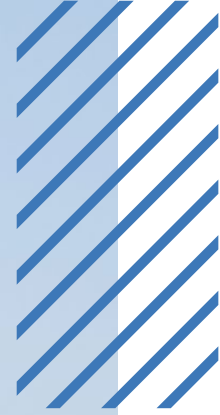
Louis Aspey
USDA

*Associate Chief, USDA
NRCS*



Dr. Raymon Shange
Tuskegee University

*Assistant Professor of
Environmental Science, Tuskegee
University*



Federal Agency Presentations

USDA: Aliza Drewes, Clare Sierawski, Gayle Barry, Troy Daniell
EPA: Megan Brachtl



Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Overview

Megan Brachtl, Associate Director

Air Quality Policy Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

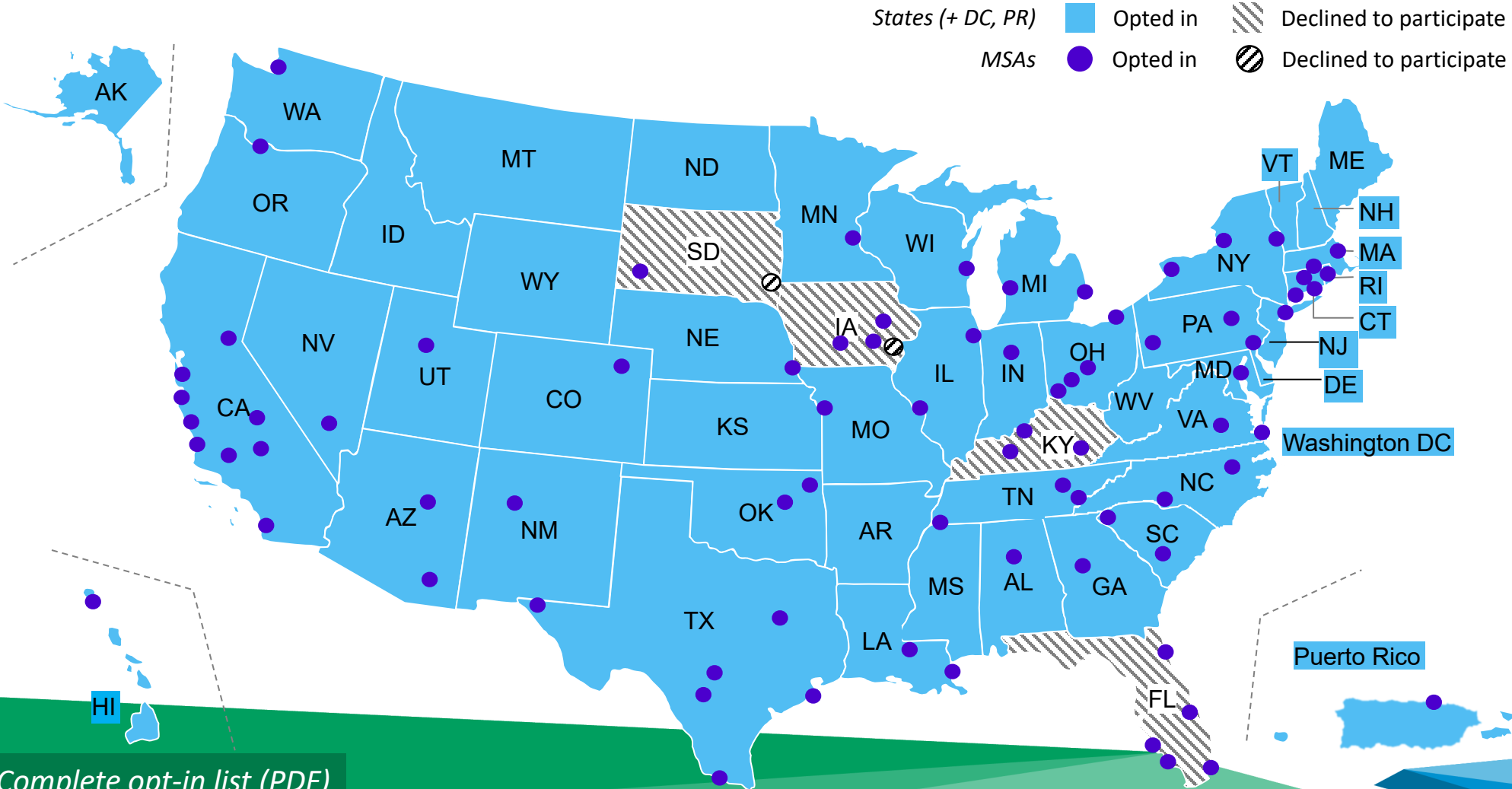
U.S. EPA

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program

2022 Inflation Reduction Act authorized creation of new, two-phase \$5 billion program:

- 1. Planning grants** to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies (\$250 M)
 - Program guidance for noncompetitive grants issued March 2023
- 2. Competitive implementation grants** to help put plans into action (\$4.6 B)
 - Notice of funding opportunity anticipated September 2023

Planning Grants: Final Distribution



- 46 States + DC and Puerto Rico
- 79 MSAs
- 90 tribal grants (~225 tribes)

[Complete opt-in list \(PDF\)](#)

One planning grant, three deliverables over 4 years



Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)

- States/MSAs: due **March 1, 2024**
- Tribe/territory: due **April 1, 2024**
- Near-term, implementation-ready, **priority greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures**
- **Prerequisite** for eligible entities in the area covered by the plan to apply for implementation grants



Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

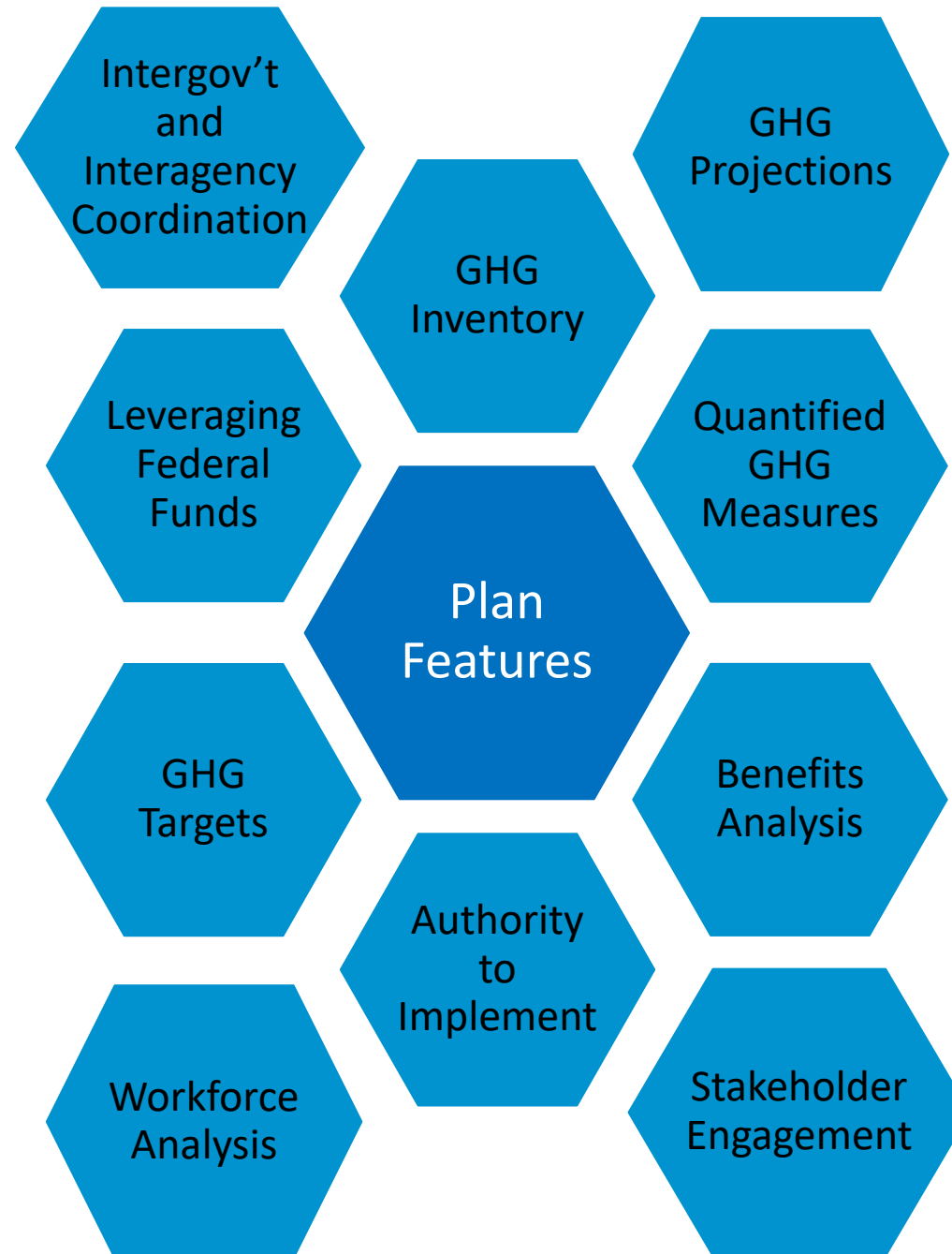
- Due in **2025, 2 years after award** (later for tribes and territories)
- **Address all sectors** and significant GHG sources/sinks
- **Near- and long-term** GHG emission reduction goals and **strategies**



Status Report

- Due in **2027** (N/A for tribes or territories)
- **Updated** analyses and plans
- **Progress and next steps** for key metrics


Features of CPRG Climate Action Plans



- Consider GHG reduction measures across **all significant sources/sinks and sectors**
- Establish near-term **and long-term** GHG emission reduction targets
- Maximize benefits from measures, especially for **low-income and disadvantaged communities**

An oval-shaped image showing a landscape with a field of yellow flowers in the foreground and several high-voltage power line towers stretching into the distance under a clear blue sky.

Electricity
Generation

An oval-shaped image showing a white electric car parked at a charging station with a charging cable plugged into its side. A yellow and black striped caution cone is visible in the foreground.

Transportation

An oval-shaped image showing a mix of urban architecture, including multi-story brick buildings and modern commercial structures, with some greenery in the foreground.

Commercial &
Residential
Buildings

A central, dark blue oval containing the text "KEY SECTORS" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

KEY SECTORS

An oval-shaped image showing an industrial facility with several tall smokestacks emitting white plumes of smoke, situated near a body of water under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Industry

An oval-shaped image showing aerial views of agricultural fields with distinct patterns of green and brown, indicating different crops or stages of land use.

Agriculture/
Natural &
Working Lands

An oval-shaped image showing a large pile of garbage and debris in the foreground, with an orange garbage truck partially visible on the right side.

Waste & Materials
Management

CPRG Technical Assistance Forums (TAFs)

- Opportunity for ongoing **peer-to-peer technical assistance**, collaboration, and mentoring.
- Sharing of **case studies, best practices, and lessons learned**
- Forums will focus on **key sectors for GHG reductions, climate planning process, and analytics**
- Facilitated and led by **EPA staff and other subject matter experts**
- **Will be launched early fall** via Microsoft Teams platform

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair (Aug. 7-11):

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/investing-america-climate-action-funding-fair>

Access recordings of training webinars:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-training-webinars>

Newsletter:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/forms/stay-connected-climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

Questions: cprg@epa.gov



Empowering Rural America (New ERA)

Who is Eligible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural electric cooperatives (generation, transmission or distribution coops)
What Does Program Do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expands clean energy & zero-emission systems, including refinancing stranded assets at 0%• Competitive scoring based on GHG reductions achieved
Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LOI deadline: September 15, 2023• Select: December 2023• Award: Q1 2024
Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program size: \$9.7 billion• Award size: Up to \$970 million
Eligible Projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renewable energy, nuclear, carbon capture and storage systems, transmission
Type of Funding Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants up to 25 percent of the total project cost• Loans for two percent, or Treasury rate• Loans as low as zero percent for refinancing stranded assets to invest in eligible projects;• Loans as low as zero percent for distressed, disadvantaged or energy dependent communities
More Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowering Rural America New ERA Program Rural Development (usda.gov)• Contact your State & Local USDA Rural Development Office



Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE)

Who is Eligible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any entity (not individuals)
What Does Program Do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funds clean energy that is resold into the electric system in rural communities
Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• **LOI portal opened July 2023**• First-come, first-served
Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program size: \$1 billion• Awards: \$1 million to \$100 million
Eligible Projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renewable power generation from: wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower, or biomass• Storage supporting renewable energy• Producing for resale and serve at least 50 percent rural customers
Type of Funding Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 percent loan forgiveness for all• Up to 40 percent loan forgiveness for Energy Communities; or Distressed or Disadvantaged Communities.• Up to 60 percent total loan forgiveness if in <u>Tribal</u>, US territories or compact states
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act• Pocket Guide of Rural Clean Energy Funding Opportunities Across Federal Agencies - rd.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act



United States Department of Agriculture

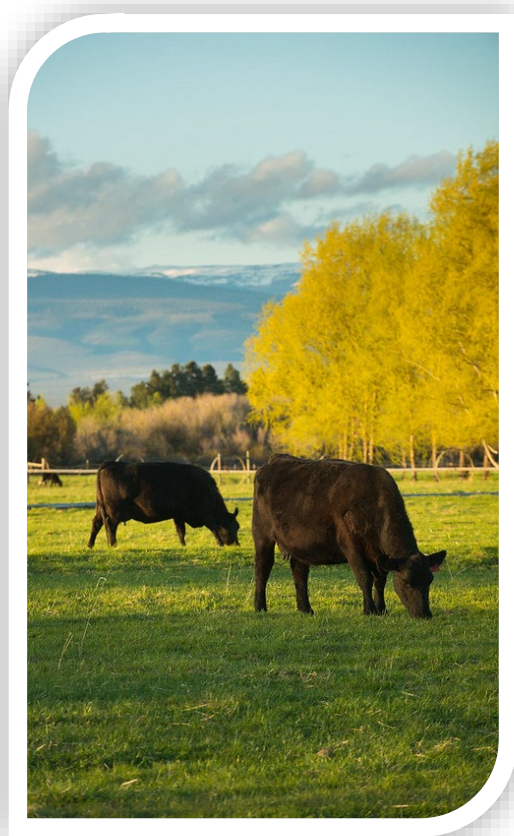


NRCS, Climate and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

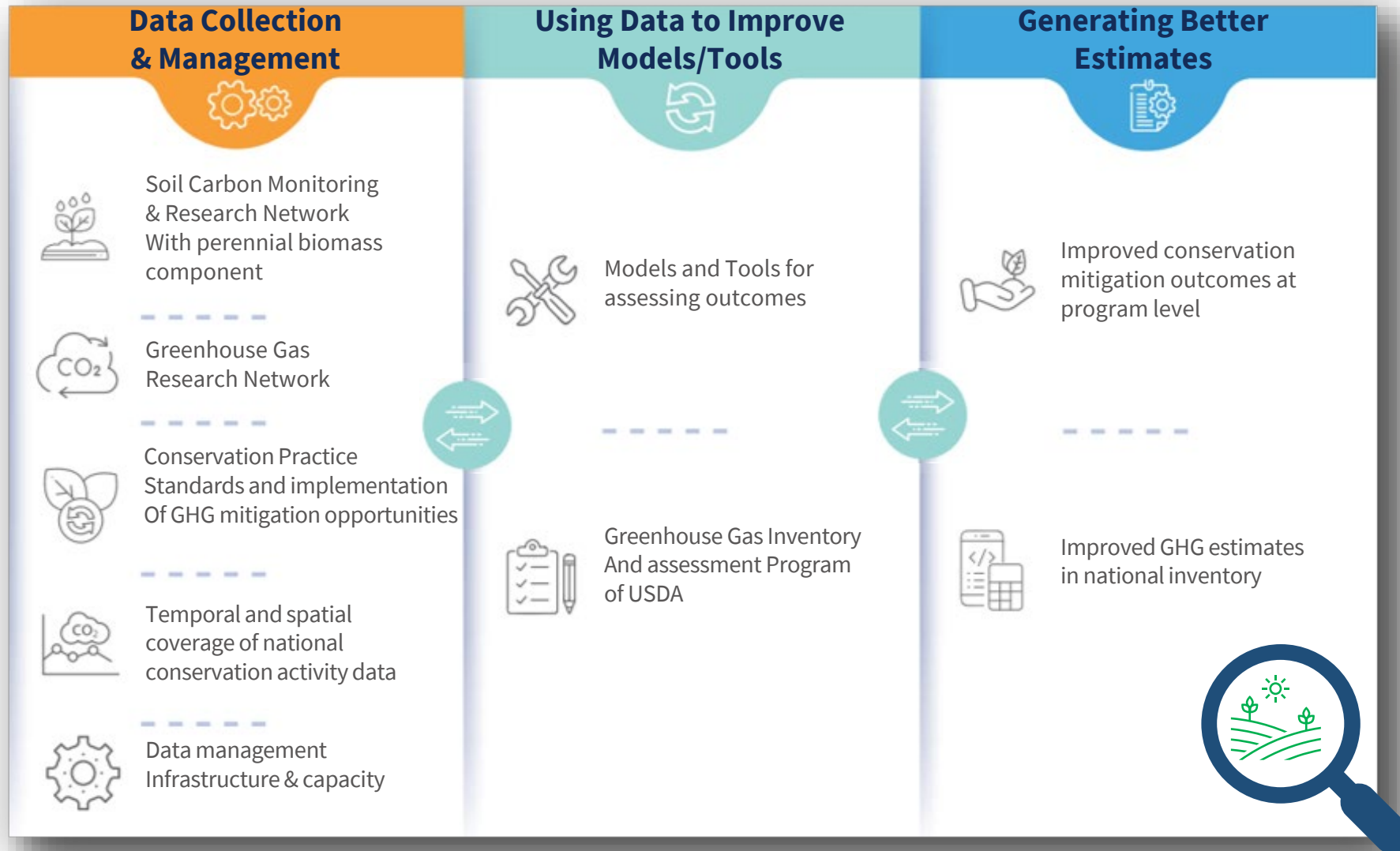
nrcs.usda.gov/

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



- The IRA provides NRCS with \$19.5 billion in **additional** funds for its **existing** conservation programs:
 - \$8.45 billion Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - \$4.95 billion Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - \$3.25 billion Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - \$1.4 billion Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - \$1 billion Conservation Technical Assistance
- **The IRA does not create any new programs** – it gives NRCS additional funds to **expand its existing climate efforts** and satisfy unmet demand
- **The IRA accelerates NRCS’ ability to deliver voluntary, locally led conservation assistance to America’s farmers and producers.**
- IRA funds begin in **fiscal year 2023**; all IRA funds must be spent by **September 30, 2031**

GHG MMRV through IRA Work Stream



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

<p>Timing Considerations</p>	<p>Annual notice(s) of funding opportunity (NFO) Timing and details vary annually, but generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Development: 45-90 days to submit proposals. Partners encouraged to initiate proposal development earlier. • Evaluations and selections: up to 3-6 months • Project negotiations best minimized via <u>pre-proposal coordination</u> with NRCS (to minimize post selection changes to proposed project design).
<p>Amount</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Bill funding: \$300 M annually • IRA Funding: \$250M (2023) to \$2.4B (2025)
<p>What does the program do or fund?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and Technical Assistance to help Farm Bill eligible producers address resource concerns on eligible lands. • Eligible Activities generally limited to those available in covered programs (EQIP, CSP, ACEP, etc.) with some added flexibilities.

RCPP– Continued

<p>GHG reduction eligible activities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG reduction measures are eligible, but not necessarily required (details in NFO). • Work typically based on specific NRCS conservation practices to facilitate NEPA compliance and outcome reporting, but partner defined activities consistent with covered program authorities also potentially available.
<p>How will the programs fund GHG reduction measures?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding potentially available for up to 100% of eligible costs, commonly “actual costs to partners” (TA) or “typical costs to producers” (FA). • Partner administrative expenses are NOT eligible for re-imbusement.
<p>Type of program (grant etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program funds managed via partnership agreements (with eligible partners) or program contracts (with eligible producers).
<p>Who can apply?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of entities meeting statutory definition of a “partner” can submit project proposals. • Financial assistance must benefit farm bill eligible producers and lands.
<p>For more information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program

IRA Conservation Innovation Grants for On-Farm Conservation Trials (CIG-OFT)

<p>What does the program do or fund?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation Innovation Grants On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (CIG-OFT) funds the implementation and evaluation of innovative approaches and practices that provide a known conservation benefit.
<p>GHG reduction eligible activities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS will prioritize proposals that utilize diet and feed management to reduce enteric methane emissions from ruminants as well as other projects that have climate mitigation benefits.
<p>How will the programs fund GHG reduction measures?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding potentially available for up to 100% of eligible costs Indirect costs are NOT eligible for reimbursement
<p>Type of program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is awarded via grant agreements
<p>Who can apply?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRCS is implementing OFT through eligible entities that will work collaboratively with agricultural producers to implement projects. Individuals cannot apply Applicants must have experience with agriculture
<p>For more information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/cig-conservation-innovation-grants



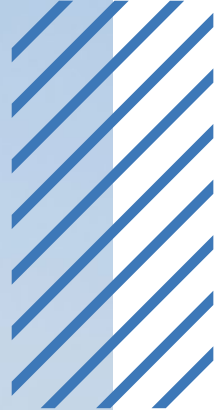
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Thank You! Questions?

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov



Question & Answer Session



Resources



[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

[Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair](#)

[Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Resource Guide](#)



Questions? Please email irastakeholders@epa.gov.



Closing Remarks

Agriculture and
Working Lands



Visit the [CPRG homepage](#) for up-to-date information

