

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **OCTOBER 2023 MEETING MATERIALS**

- 1        Itinerary
- 2        Oct. 23 Meeting Agenda
- 3        Speaker Biographies
- 4        Member Biographies
- 5        Draft Recommendations on Climate Mitigation
- 6        Working Document from Environmental Justice Workgroup
- 7        Draft Charge on Climate Communication
- 8        Draft Charge on Strategy to Reduce Plastic Pollution
- 9        Water Workforce Recommendation Follow-up

## **Trip Itinerary**

*All times in Central Daylight Time*

### **Sunday, October 22**

- **Arrive in Madison, check in to hotel**  
Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club,  
1 W. Dayton St., Madison, WI
- **7:00pm - Optional social gathering**  
Eno Vino Downtown,  
1 N. Webster St., Madison, WI

### **Monday, October 23**

- **9:00am - 4:30pm - LGAC Public Meeting**  
Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club,  
1 W. Dayton St., Madison, WI
  - breakfast and lunch served at hotel
- **6:00pm - Optional social gathering**  
Merchant Restaurant  
121 S. Pinckney St., Madison, WI

### **Tuesday, October 24**

- **8:30am - Pickup from Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club**
- **9:00am - Tour Fleet Services Building**
  - Built in 2021, the Fleet Services building is a state-of-the-art building with sustainability features that set it apart from any fleet building in the nation. The City's 1,400 municipal vehicles are serviced here, including 63 electric vehicles, 102 gas-electric hybrid vehicles, 6 anti-idling ambulances and an electric fire truck.
  - LGAC members will have an opportunity to tour the building, talk with staff, and kick the tires of some of the most sustainable municipal vehicles in the country.
- **View stormwater projects and other locations of note on drive**
- **11:00am - Return to hotel**

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Public Meeting Agenda  
October 23, 2023

The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club  
1 West Dayton St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Virtual option: email [lgac@epa.gov](mailto:lgac@epa.gov) for details

*All times in Central Daylight Time*

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9:00am

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Paige Lieberman, *EPA Designated Federal Officer*

**Welcoming Remarks**

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, *LGAC Chair*

John Lucey, *EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations*

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9:15am

**Improving EPA Engagement with State Municipal Leagues**, moderated by Jack Bowles,  
*EPA Director of State and Local Government Relations*

- Overview of past recommendations from LGAC and SCAS, Paige Lieberman,  
*Designated Federal Officer (5 minutes)*
- Introductions (*10 minutes*)
  - o Debra Shore, *EPA Region 5 Administrator*
  - o Zach Vruwink, *Chief Operating Officer, Wisconsin League of Municipalities*
  - o Lucy Vinis, *LGAC Vice-Chair and Mayor of Eugene, Oregon*
  - o Maria Redmond, *Director, State of Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy*
- Value of intergovernmental communication and engagement (*20 minutes*)
  - o *What does successful intergovernmental engagement look like for your organization?*
  - o *In what circumstances do you believe effective intergovernmental engagement is most necessary?*
  - o *What information and intergovernmental interactions would be valuable to your stakeholders that you don't already have?*
- Implementing engagement (*20 minutes*)
  - o *What role can each organization and level of government play in improving engagement? What are high-level changes that can occur? What are day-to-day changes that can improve information flow and help us achieve our mutual and complementary goals?*

- *Looking at recent and upcoming regulations, program actions and funding from EPA, what lessons can we learn about intergovernmental communication and engagement?*
  - Open discussion with LGAC members and other invited guests (20 minutes)
    - *How can this information be extrapolated to a national level?*
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10:30am      **Break**

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11:00am      **Climate Mitigation**

- Update on EPA climate programming, Julie Zavala, *EPA Deputy Director, Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*
  - Presentation of recommendations, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, *Workgroup Chair*
  - Response from EPA, Adriana Hochburg, *EPA Deputy Associate Administrator of Policy*
  - Discussion, moderated by Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, *Workgroup Chair*
  - Voting, Councilmember Sarah Fox, *Workgroup Vice-Chair*
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12:00pm      **Environmental Justice**

- Update on workgroup activities, Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham, *Workgroup Chair*
  - Discussion on current recommendations, Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham, *Workgroup Chair*
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12:30pm      **Lunch** (provided by hotel)

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2:00pm      **Charges for 2024**

Climate Communication

- Nick Conger, *EPA Associate Administrator of Public Affairs*
- Discussion, facilitated by Mayor Lucy Vinis, *LGAC Vice-Chair*

2:30pm      EPA National Strategy to Reduce Plastic Pollution

- Dr. Kimberly Cochran and Victoria Gonzalez, *EPA Sustainable Materials Management Division*
  - Discussion, facilitated by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, *LGAC Chair*
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3:00pm      **Public Comment**

Facilitated by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, *LGAC Chair*

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3:15pm      **Break**

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3:30pm      **PFAS Resources for Communities**  
Mimi Johnson, *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

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4:00pm      **Additional Topics in 2024**  
Discussion facilitated by John Lucey, *EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations*, and Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, *LGAC Chair*

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4:25pm      **Next Steps**  
Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, *LGAC Chair*

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4:30pm      **Meeting Closed**

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Panel Speaker Bios  
October 2023*



**Debra Shore**

*EPA Region 5 Administrator*

Debra Shore is the regional administrator for U.S. EPA Region 5. Her responsibilities include overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal nations. One of her roles is manager of EPA's Great Lakes National Program, in which she leads restoration and protection of the largest freshwater system in the world. Prior to joining EPA, Shore was an elected member of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, a \$1 billion agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management for more than five million people. She is a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of renewable energy. Shore is a past chair and board member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and served as board member and chair of the LGBTQ Victory Institute. An award-winning author, Shore founded Chicago Wilderness magazine, was a leader in the regional conservation consortium Chicago Wilderness and founded Friends of the Forest Preserves. Shore has been an active habitat restoration volunteer in oak woods and savannas, prairies and wetlands of local forest preserves for more than 25 years. Shore was born in Chicago. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College in Baltimore with a degree in philosophy and visual arts. She earned master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Columbia College (Chicago). Shore lives with her spouse, Kathleen Gillespie, in Evanston, Illinois. She has climbed 42 of the 58 mountains in Colorado more than 14,000' high. Her son, Ben, is an architect in Seattle.



**Maria Redmond**

*Director, Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy*

Maria Redmond serves as the Director of the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy. She is leading the development of a plan that assists the state of Wisconsin in advancing a clean energy economy and fight the effects of climate change. Redmond is working on a comprehensive statewide clean energy plan to actively implement the use of clean energy resources and technology to help the state reach a 100% carbon free electricity by 2050 goal, build the clean energy workforce and foster innovation. Redmond has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 19 years and is accountable for planning, administration and oversight of statewide energy programs and regulatory policies. She has significant experience in directing federally funded grant and loan programs, and ratepayer energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, Certificate of African Studies and is a Certified Public Manager all from UW Madison.



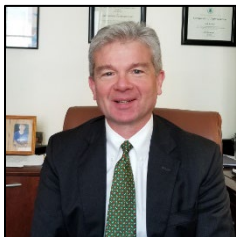
**Zach Vruwink**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Zach Vruwink joined the League in 2022 and serves as Chief Operating Officer. Zach's responsibilities are to lead the operations with a member-focused municipal mindset. Zach is passionate about government, entrepreneurship, community engagement, the creative economy and public service. Prior to joining the League, Zach was elected Mayor of Wisconsin Rapids from 2012 to 2020. He began serving as Rhinelander's City Administrator in April 2020. Zach serves on many boards and committees including Director on Create Wisconsin's (formerly Arts Wisconsin) Board of Directors, Steering Committee Member of the Mayor's Innovation Project.



**John D. Lucey**  
*EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations*

John D. Lucey serves as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. John joined EPA from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, starting as a Legislative Analyst in 2016. He has served since 2019 as the Chief Strategy Officer, helping create and manage the strategic implementation of both North Carolina's Clean Energy Plan and Risk and Resiliency Plan. He also provided guidance to the Department on significant State initiatives including the Duke Energy Coal Ash Settlement, the creation of the North Carolina Environmental Justice and Equity Board and the Chemours Consent Order. John holds a B.A. in Political Science from North Carolina State University and an Associate of Arts degree from Central Piedmont Community College and is currently enrolled at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University.



**Jack Bowles**  
*EPA Director of State and Local Government Relations*

Jack has been in public service for 35 years, with 30 of those at EPA. He has served as the EPA Region 8 (Rocky Mountain) Director of State Programs, and for the last 14 years as EPA's national director of state and local government relations. He has spent much of his career at the nexus of federal and state environmental policymaking and government relations, including shorter term stints at the White House Office of Management & Budget, on Capitol Hill, at the White House Council on Environmental Quality as the Deputy Executive Director of the President's Council on Sustainable Development and then as the Deputy Director of the White House Task Force on Livable Communities. Jack received his B.A. in International Political Economy and his M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Virginia, where he completed his thesis on "Regulatory Federalism under President Reagan." Jack lives in Great Falls, Virginia, with his two sons and dog, where he has served on the Boards of the Great Falls Citizen's Association and the Friends of Riverbend Park, in addition to being active in Great Falls sports, scouting and church. He also currently serves as Board Secretary for the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### *Member Biographies*

*September 2023*



#### **Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair**

*Mayor, Lincoln, NE*

Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected Mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska in 2019, after serving two terms on the City Council. The mayor's vision of leading Lincoln toward a more successful, secure, and shared future drives her administration's agenda. Upon taking office, she launched the Resilient Lincoln initiative and commissioned the development of a Climate Action Plan – a first of its kind in the state of Nebraska. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as Chair of their Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force. Mayor Gaylor Baird has been Chair of the LGAC since 2021.



#### **Lucy Vinis, Vice Chair**

*Mayor, Eugene, OR*

Lucy Vinis has served as Mayor of Eugene, Oregon for 5 years. She has worked across the government and non-profit sectors to address equity, land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. She previously worked as a consultant in Washington, DC, and co-authored studies on sustainable farming, land use, and development impacts on ground and surface water in the Chesapeake Bay. Vinis is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a Climate Mayor, bringing Eugene's leadership and experience into the national discussion about the role of cities in responding to climate change. Vinis is the Vice Chair of the LGAC.



#### **Ras Baraka**

*Mayor, Newark, NJ*

Ras J. Baraka is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. A Newark native, he has received accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House, for his ability to reduce crime to its lowest levels in five decades, address affordability while maintaining growth, lower unemployment, and nearly complete the replacement of all 23,000-plus lead service lines in the city. As the President and Chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, and through his involvement in the New Jersey DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, he is addressing climate change and environmental justice inequities.



#### **Sharon Broome**

*Mayor-President, Baton Rouge, LA*

Sharon Broome was sworn in as the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2017, but has a long history of public service and leadership. She is the first female to hold her position and was also the first female to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the Louisiana State House and President Pro Tempore in the State Senate. Broome is focused on uniting her city around the common goals of equality in education, economic development, justice, housing, and other quality ways of life.



**Luke Bronin**

*Mayor, Hartford, CT*

Mayor Bronin has worked to establish Hartford, Connecticut as a leader in environmental stewardship, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility. He is an advocate for cleaning up PFAS and other hazardous chemicals, as well as carbon-friendly mass transit. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served as general counsel for the Connecticut Governor's office, and two senior posts at the U.S. Department of Treasury. While serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan he was a member of the anti-corruption task force.



**Gary Brown**

*Water and Sewerage Department Director, Detroit, MI*

Gary Brown is Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), which is the largest water and sewerage system in the United States. Service has been a constant in Brown's life, starting with the U.S. Marines, and including 26 years in the Detroit Police Department as a patrol officer, precinct commander and deputy chief. Since taking the helm of DWSD in 2016, Brown has transformed its operation by focusing on compassionate customer care and addressing the evolving needs of the community.



**Darcy M. Burke**

*Board of Directors, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, CA*

Darcy M. Burke was elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, California in 2018 and then re-elected in 2022. Her professional career has focused on water quality and small water system assistance. Since joining the Board, she has led a five-year strategic planning effort which included creating a cohesive regional water resiliency planning group, focusing on securing new long-term water supplies for fast-growing Southwest Riverside County. She currently serves on the Urban Water Institute's Board of Directors, the California Nevada Section, American Water Works Association's Communications and Customer Service Committee, and Associated California Water Agencies Water Quality PFOS Working Group.



**José Aponte Dalmau**

*Mayor, Carolina, Puerto Rico*

José Aponte Dalmau has served as Mayor of Carolina, Puerto Rico, since 2007. He successfully navigated his community through the recovery of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and has developed innovative solid waste management solutions for his community. Prior to serving as Mayor, he had a successful career as an engineer. He has served on the LGAC and SCAS since 2015.





**Kimberly du Buclet**

*State Representative, State of Illinois*

Representative Kimberly Du Buclet was elected to her current position in 2023. Prior to this role she was a Commissioner for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, she was inspired to run for after repeated flooding in her childhood home on Chicago's south side was met with inaction from the local government. Prior to this position she was a state-elected legislator and Chicago Park District Director of Legislative and Community Affairs. She has experience working on green infrastructure, water supply, water quality, and flood damage protection, as well as turning vacant space into green spaces.



**Miki Esposito**

*Los Angeles County Public Works Department Assistant Director, Los Angeles County, CA*

Miki Esposito is the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, which serves nearly 10 million people. Esposito began her career as an attorney for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She also worked in the Lincoln City Attorney's Office on civil litigation, contract negotiation and legislation, and as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln, where she supported a range of policy issues.



**Jacob Frey**

*Mayor, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Jacob Frey was elected Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2017 and has championed an agenda during his tenure centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. He has successfully secured record-setting investments for the city's affordable housing work, boosting efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served on Minneapolis City Council Member from 2014 to 2018. As an employment and civil rights attorney, Frey became an active community organizer, including fighting for gay rights and supporting those experiencing homelessness.



**Sarah Fox**

*Council Member, Vancouver Washington*

*Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Program Manager*

Sarah Fox was elected to Vancouver, Washington's City Council in 2019. She is also a Climate Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce, where she guides local governments in planning for climate change impacts. She has more than 18 years of experience in long-range and current planning, including advocating for urban development and affordable housing, land use, transportation, fossil fuel regulations, and climate action policies.



**Katherine Gilmore Richardson**

*Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia, PA*

Katherine Gilmore Richardson is serving her first term as Councilmember At-Large for the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A lifelong Philadelphian, Gilmore Richardson is the youngest woman ever elected Citywide and the youngest African-American woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. She is focused on upskilling and reskilling the local workforce, supporting local, small, and minority-owned businesses, and addressing climate change and environmental justice. Gilmore Richardson previously served for 11 years as a staff member for Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown in roles ranging from Constituent Services to Chief of Staff.



**Nick Gradisar**

*Mayor, Pueblo, CO*

Nick Gradisar was elected as Mayor of Pueblo, Colorado in 2019. For 65 years the town of 110,000 had no head of government, but Gradisar fought for years to change the system, accomplished it in a referendum, and then ran for the newly created position. Gradisar has been engaged in public service for many years and spent 40 years in the private practice of law. As mayor he is working to address housing, transportation, economic development, education, and neighborhood revitalization within Pueblo.



**Jonathan Grieder**

*Councilmember, Waterloo, IA*

As a Councilmember for Waterloo, Iowa, Jonathan Grieder is focused on addressing the affordability and accessibility of childcare, raising wages to a livable level, investing in Waterloo's infrastructure, ensuring quality city services, addressing the spike in gun violence, and fighting to ensure equitable economic development that lifts all his constituents. Grieder has also made tangible progress on addressing climate change in his city and bringing other communities along. Outside of elected office Grieder is a high school social studies teacher.



**Evan Hansen**

*West Virginia House of Delegates Member, WV*

Evan Hansen is serving his third term in the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Monongalia County. Hansen owns an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities. Before his election, Evan worked with legislators to respond to the Freedom Industries chemical leak and provided testimony regarding attempts to increase the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in the state's rivers. Hansen's work has also included consulting on water and energy issues across Sub-Sahara Africa, and in China and Egypt.



**Brenda Howerton**

*Durham County Commissioner, NC*

Commissioner Howerton is the first African American commissioner in Durham County. She has focused her four terms on the initiative “100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive.” She has a history of demonstrated advocacy for disadvantaged communities and public health, including addressing juvenile crime prevention, workforce development, and public health issues. Outside of elected office she owns a consulting firm that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries.



**Deana Holiday Ingraham**

*Mayor, East Point, GA*

During her first term as mayor of East Point, Georgia, Deana Holiday Ingraham has championed implementation of livable wages for City employees, financial literacy for youth, developing public arts and agricultural master plans, and using Brownfields grant funding to develop unused land. Prior to her role as mayor, she had a successful legal career, including serving as a trial court law clerk, managing member of her own law firm, and an advocate for senior citizens. Ingraham serves on several organizations, including as a board member for the National League of Cities (NLC) and Georgia Municipal Association.



**Ella Jones**

*Mayor, Ferguson, MO*

Ella Jones was elected as Ferguson, Missouri’s first African-American and female mayor in 2020, having served on the City Council for one term. During her tenure she has championed public safety, neighborhood stabilization (including funding for first-time homeownership), and engaging Ferguson’s youth with more job opportunities. Prior to public service, Jones was a trained chemist, working for the Washington University School of Medicine and KV Pharmaceutical before becoming a Sales Director with Mary Kay for 30 years.



**Heather Kimball**

*Hawai'i County Commissioner, HI*

Heather Kimball is in her second term as Commissioner, representing the rural and economically disadvantaged district of Hawai'i County. During her tenure she has supported legislative projects on affordable housing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and climate change targets. Outside of elected office Kimball manages a consulting firm focused on environmentally sensitive land management planning and creating public communication materials and policy support tools. She has technical expertise in the zero-waste movement, Extended Producer Responsibility, and has written for several relevant academic publications.





**Christine Lowery**

*Cibola County Commissioner, NM*

Christine Lowery, a second term Commissioner in Cibola County, New Mexico, views her role on the Committee as spiritual, personal, and purposeful for the people she serves. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and post-retirement, has lived on her ancestral land at the Pueblo of Laguna for over 20 years. Her village of Paguete is also home to the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine, once the world's largest open-pit mine, and now, a Superfund site. Lowery had a successful career as a social worker and finally, an associate professor at the University of

Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Work. Lowery is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



**Ann Mallek**

*Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Member, VA*

Ann Mallek was first elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in November 2008. She has over 40 years of experience in public service, including Committees on tourism, agriculture, forestry and historic preservation. She is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board of Directors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment and Land

Use Committee. In 13 of her 14 years on the Board of Supervisors, she has held 6 town halls annually to meet with constituents, going online with Covid. Mallek is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



**Rachel May**

*New York State Senator, NY*

Fresh off a career in sustainability education at Syracuse University, Senator May brought a whole systems approach to New York state government when she was elected in 2018. She helped negotiate the nation's strongest climate law in 2019, making sure that upstate forests and farms were considered in crafting solutions. In her approach to the state budget, she has sought holistic decision-making, promoting measures like soil health policies to prevent flooding downstream, or home care investments to help seniors and the state avoid the high costs of

nursing home care.



**Christian Menefee**

*Harris County Attorney, TX*

Christian Menefee was reared in an environmental justice community, living near the largest petrochemical company in the world. In 2020 he was elected as Harris County Attorney, as the youngest person and first African American to hold the position. During his tenure he has engaged in legal action against the Texas highway agency for infrastructure projects with detrimental impacts on underserved neighborhoods, as well as with Texas environmental regulators

failing to follow permit laws, and a company responsible for creosote contamination in a predominantly Black neighborhood that resulted in cancer clusters.



**Douglas Nicholls**

*Mayor, Yuma, Arizona*

Currently in his third term as Mayor of Yuma, Arizona, Nicholls believes that quality communities provide opportunities for success to all residents through jobs, superior education, and a robust quality of life. His vision to make higher education more accessible culminates in plans for the Yuma Multiversity Campus (YMC), a brownfields redevelopment project that will utilize the academic programs and specialties offered by state universities and local community colleges. Nicholls has also spearheaded efforts to enhance and grow the Yuma community, including founding 4FrontED, an economic development-focused governing board of mayors from binational locations near the U.S.-Mexico border.



**Ron Nirenberg**

*Mayor, San Antonio, TX*

Ron Nirenberg is currently serving his third term as the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, which has the 7th largest population in the United States and is one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Through his personal experiences, Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality.



**Neil O'Leary**

*Mayor, Waterbury, CT*

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary has dedicated over 40 years to the people of Waterbury, Connecticut. He joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks to Chief. As Mayor, O'Leary revitalized the city's former brass manufacturing industry in a way that not only kept the metal industry, but also used Brownfield programs and other funding sources to remediate contaminated properties and create new opportunities. He believes that a team-centric approach predicated on input from the community is critically important to successful government and has used this approach to lead multiple regional government coalitions.



**David Painter**

*Clermont County Board of Commissioners, OH*

David Painter is currently serving his second term on the Clermont County Board of Commissioners and is a strong advocate for market competition and government efficiency. Painter is committed to reducing the impacts resulting from the Ohio opiate crisis. He represents the people of Ohio on several regional and national organizations, including the National Association of County's (NACo) Energy, Environmental and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo Board of Directors.



**Mary Lou Pauly**  
*Mayor, Issaquah, WA*

Mary Lou Pauly has served as Mayor of Issaquah, Washington since 2017, following 19 years on the City's Development Commission and four years on City Council. During her time as a public servant, she has implemented a City Climate Action Plan, provided electrification incentives, and worked with regional partners to evaluate PFAS contamination and remediation. She is an active member on several national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Mayors Water Council, and the National League of Cities. Prior to elected office she worked in environmental consulting and civil engineering.



**Whitford Remer**  
*Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL*

As the first Sustainability and Resilience Officer for the City of Tampa, Whitford Remer is guided by three core principles: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Remer is responsible for developing the Resilient Tampa Roadmap and secured major financial commitment in his first few months on the job to develop the city's first Climate Action and Equity Plan to reach 100% renewable energy. His drive towards equity and inclusion comes from living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



**Satya Rhodes-Conway**  
*Mayor, Madison, WI*

Elected in 2019, Satya Rhodes-Conway is the second female and first out LGBTQ person to serve as mayor of Madison, Wisconsin. She has extensive experience in local policy and practice, having served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and worked with mayors and organizations across the country to implement innovative policy that promote environmental economic sustainability and build democratically accountable communities. As co-chair of the Climate Mayors, Rhodes-Conway recognizes the need for whole-of-government approach to climate change, including public budgets, capital investments, and a focus on equity.



**Michael Scuse**  
*Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, DE*

Michael T. Scuse is in his second term as Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, having previously held several leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he oversaw USDA's Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Foreign Agricultural Services. He led initiatives to improve the competitiveness of American products in the global marketplace, created new markets to increase rural economic opportunity, and delivered assistance that helped to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business. He has experience working on a range of water issues and is a lifelong farmer of corn, soybean, and wheat.



**Jeff Witte**

*New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture, NM*

Jeff Witte has served with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture since 1994, and as Secretary since 2011. He has been a member of both the LGAC and SCAS since 2015, including serving as Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure he created the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, represented New Mexico ranchers and farmers on state legislation, and started the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico State University, which brings together law enforcement and the agricultural industry to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy.



**Lisa Wong**

*Town Manager, South Hadley, MA*

Lisa Wong is the Town Manager of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Prior to this position she served four terms as Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where she was elected as the youngest female and the first Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Mayor, Wong restored fiscal stability to Fitchburg, notably by increasing the stabilization fund, increasing the bond rating several times, reorganizing city departments, reducing health care costs, and instituting energy efficiency projects throughout the city. Wong was a member of the LGAC under Administrator Lisa Jackson, during which she chaired the Environmental Justice workgroup.

## LGAC RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

The objectives of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) are clear: reduce greenhouse gas emissions, deliver the benefits of this reduction to American communities -- particularly low-income and disadvantaged communities, and mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment of the projects that accomplish these goals. There is a myriad of ways that could be accomplished. As leaders of local governments across the nation, we see an untapped opportunity that can not only accomplish all the stated program objectives, but also revitalize our communities.

Across the nation there is a shortage of affordable housing. As local governments respond to this need, they are also looking to lower their GHG emissions and tackle the climate crisis. To many these are opposing goals, but the LGAC sees a path forward that synergizes the two. While EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment has historically been limited to regulating water, air, and waste, in the face of climate change and IRA, we ask the EPA to use the GGRF to delve into urban policy. Through land-use policies and efficiencies in the built environment, the GGRF can support the construction of sustainable, affordable housing and the development of interconnected communities that ultimately lower GHG emissions.

Compact development such as in-fill development, adaptive reuse, preserving green spaces and creating walkable communities can reduce vehicle miles traveled by 20 to 40 percent compared to conventional development, as shown in an EPA-funded [study by the Urban Land Institute](#).

According to an April 2022, *Harvard Law Review* article, [“State Preemption of Local Zoning Laws as Intersectional Climate Policy,”](#):

*“In areas with single-family housing and large yards, there are higher total vehicle miles traveled (VMT), a key determinant of GHG emissions from transportation. Dispersed housing also requires the construction of more municipal infrastructure, like streets and sewers, and encourages the construction of larger houses with correspondingly larger energy demands. Furthermore, sprawling housing patterns reduce the benefits of constructing low-carbon public transport. Today, due in part to widespread sprawl, transportation accounts for 29% of America’s emissions, more than any other sector. One literature review finds that smart city design can reduce VMT by between 3% and 25%. A different analysis finds that, compared to denser development, urban sprawl is associated with 20% to 60% more VMT.”<sup>[1]</sup>*

The Brookings Institution recently expanded on the research behind these trends:

*Households living near multiple activity centers consistently travel shorter distances, often cutting annual miles traveled by more than half. Since transportation is the number two household expense and one of the largest sources of household GHG emissions, these findings translate into real benefits for people and the planet. For the average driver, living closer to multiple activity centers can save around \$920 to \$1,200 in annual transportation expenses and*

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://harvardlawreview.org/print/vol-135/state-preemption-of-local-zoning-laws-as-intersectional-climate-policy/>



*reduce their carbon footprint by 2,455 to 3,020 pounds of carbon dioxide. These findings underscore just how powerful proximity can be—and just how little U.S. metro areas are designed to leverage the opportunities proximity creates.<sup>1</sup>*

While short-term projects like electrifying sanitation trucks that will be used for ten years are valuable and necessary in the transformation to a clean energy economy, there are projects that can go even further. For example, in the 1870s the City of Newark used a large amount of capital and smart design to build reservoirs and an aqueduct system that uses gravity to feed the municipal water systems and is still efficiently serving the city.

The challenge is that a series of barriers is keeping this change from occurring organically. On their own, local governments lack the resources and tools to make this transformation happen, and we look to the GGRF to be the catalyst. We know the power that an investment from the federal government can have at the community level. It can be negative, as seen in the 1930s with redlining and disinvestment of certain communities, but it can also be positive. Drawing from a series of conversations with developers, researchers, and environmental advocates, as well as our own experience as local elected and appointed government officials, we identified a series of barriers that are impeding the pursuit of sustainable, economically thriving communities, and tangible solutions that EPA can pursue.

The LGAC recommends that EPA take a series of actions under the categories of supporting implementation and using its convening power to support cross-sector and cross-Agency projects designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. First, the Committee offers specific recommendations on funding requirements for the GGRF.

The Committee looks forward to an iterative conversation with the EPA on this topic as the IRA investment is implemented.

### **GGRF Funding**

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) has the power to ensure the transition to a clean economy envisioned in the IRA is fair and equitable by investing in a way that empowers communities and the people who live in them.

As the Agency reviews applications and develops cooperative agreements with GGRF recipients, the LGAC recommends that **EPA encourage GGRF grants to non-profit financial institutions who:**

- **Employ subject matter experts** that can act in a role similar to an ombudsman, to navigate the web of federal funding availability, stacking capital funds, and compliance reporting, and offer these services for any project it supports. Developers and other public and nonprofit organizations are interested in projects that support the goals of the IRA, but they often don't apply due to the required grant management.
- **Support workforce development programs**, either directly or through allocating some of its funding to a partner organization. Such programs have the potential for two gains. First, they

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/building-for-proximity-the-role-of-activity-centers-in-reducing-total-miles-traveled/>

can develop a regional workforce of construction and utility practitioners that understand green technology and sustainable building techniques, which can be used now, and in the future, to further lower emissions reductions. Second, by allowing this as an expense, GGRF recipients can invest in communities by providing career paths that will ultimately lift the local economy at large.

The GGRF will provide grants to a handful of non-profit financial institutions, who will ultimately be responsible for funding a range of community projects. These secondary recipients are critical to achieving the greenhouse gas reduction goals and co-benefits envisioned by Congress, and EPA should exercise oversight of the programs ultimately funded on the ground. To accomplish that, the LGAC recommends that EPA include language in the agreements negotiated with the nonprofit financial institutions funded by GGRF that **encourages their prioritization of land use and built environment projects, specifically ones that:**

- **Move the needle forward on sustainability practices** within a given market, recognizing the regional differences (i.e., in some locations installing solar panels or building a triplex is a success, in other locations building a 15-story building on a geothermal microgrid is a success)
- **Develop pathways to achieving net zero emissions where possible**, including energy usage, embodied carbon in building materials, and efficiency in water delivery and wastewater collection, understanding that communities will be on different trajectories and need different interventions to lower emissions
- **Support community sustainability goals that may not otherwise be funded**, based on location or a lack of nearby comparable projects
- **Have high upfront capitalization costs or don't provide a typical market-oriented return on investment**, but result in significant public health and climate benefits
- **Demonstrate community engagement**, including stipends to pay community members for their time spent providing input, and evidence that project priorities are supported by, and will benefit, the community
- **Support the funding of related infrastructure** (e.g. drinking water and wastewater) that is necessary to realize any development in a way that promotes innovation and GHG emission reductions

As with most recommendations from the LGAC, we encourage the support and engagement of local governments whenever possible. In this instance, there is great variability in capacity among governments across the country. The LGAC recommends that EPA enable local governments who are ready and willing to take bold climate action to do so.

#### DISCUSSION POINT FOR 10/23 –

- **Should EPA include a requirement or incentive to include local governments in the development of any projects within their jurisdiction?**

- Should EPA take any action to level the playing field between private sector applications and public/nonprofit applicants?

### Supporting Implementation

Once funding is awarded, there will be significant work remaining for EPA to ensure successful implementation. It will take a coalition of developers, investors, community organizations, technical sustainability experts, local governments, and elected officials to ensure successful land use and built environment projects are implemented under IRA, particularly for GGRF-funded projects.

#### *Supporting Developers*

When discussing IRA with external partners the LGAC heard several perceived barriers to accessing federal funding, including:

- Arduous reporting requirements that will necessitate additional staff
- Severe restrictions on how the money can be used, which will leave critical elements of a project unfunded
- Unrealistic timelines for expending funds, which may not align with the infrastructure or real estate development process, especially if funds are stacked
- Limited funding to cover various municipal costs related to development
- Concern that the ultimate needs of communities will not be met

To counter these concerns, the LGAC recommends that **EPA host a launch event for each GGRF recipient that convenes all the relevant federal, state, and local stakeholders, as well as developers and community organizations, and explains the value of working with recipients on dynamic projects.** The audience for these events would be potential sub/secondary recipients, and the goal of the events would be to drive collaboration and innovation. Relying on webinars and publicly posted funding opportunities will not be sufficient. **The LGAC recommends that these events should also highlight available technical assistance,** to quell concerns about workload. As noted above, the LGAC recommends that recipients of the GGRF funding be required to employ subject matter experts or an ombudsman that can offer this assistance. **If not, EPA should provide this assistance in another way.** While the stated mission of the new TCTACs seems to address this need, the LGAC understands that the work of expected GGRF projects is highly technical, and that TCTAC staff may not have enough expertise to connect various elements of GHG emission reduction efforts.

**DISCUSSION POINT FOR 10/23 - Who should provide this technical assistance? What national standardization needs to be in place?**

Separately, **the LGAC recommends that EPA allow developers to use GGRF funding to cover a range of municipal costs** – the incremental costs of infill development (as opposed to green field development) - including but not limited to the upfront costs for related sewer development, area infrastructure plans, and capital development.

#### *Supporting Local Governments*

Across the country, community push-back on density often stems from a perceived lack of amenities or positive impacts for existing residents. EPA can help by **making low and no-carbon transportation, green space, and other amenities that provide environmental benefits to existing residents an eligible**



**expense for IRA funding and providing tools and resources for overcoming this barrier.** EPA can also support local governments by **highlighting urban planning policies, zoning changes, and permitting processes that make it easier to adopt climate-smart land use and development patterns.**

Another challenge is a lack of support from local building owners and the business community for energy and water use efficiency measures and retrofits. Their voices and actions are critical to the success of scaling up and normalizing building energy efficiency and decarbonization work. **The LGAC recommends that EPA work to build a network of national and local leaders in this arena and supporting them to tell their stories.**

#### *Tools for Measuring GHG Emission Reduction*

Notably, any project funded by the GGRF must quantify its GHG emissions reductions. While there are many tools available for measuring GHG emission reductions in various sectors, there are notable limitations, which naturally limit the scope of projects. One limitation is access to affordable and easy-to-use greenhouse gas emissions data that can be tailored to a specific location and proposed project. Consultants have much of the needed data, but it's expensive, especially for disadvantaged communities, which EPA is directed to target with the GGRF. Other tools, including the U.S. Department of Energy's State and Local Planning Energy platform (SLOPE), lack the granular detail needed for local governments or a developer to apply when considering a specific project, instead offering state or county level data. In other instances, data are specific to a certain application, such as transportation-related emissions. The ultimate goal would be a tool where anyone interested can input certain project information and generate a spatially explicit, easy-to-use dashboard that measures per unit GHG emissions for baseline emissions and a range of future scenarios. The State of Washington is trying to do this for its jurisdictions, and many organizations would be supportive of a broader tool. **The LGAC recommends that EPA support the development of such a tool, through interagency MOUs and interested stakeholders – to provide this kind of analysis at no cost.** The LGAC would be happy to discuss this in more detail as EPA explores the feasibility.

At the same time, many municipalities are developing this data for their own use and would be willing to share it further. EPA, along with its federal partners, could play a role in **setting parameters for collecting and validating data related to GHG emissions**, so that everyone is working within the same framework, and towards the same goal.

When it comes to measuring greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved through land use policies, tools are especially limited. Yet the research is clear that land use drives emissions, as noted above. What is more, the data shows that communities identified by programs like Justice 40 are more likely to live proximate to activity centers, so they can and should be a target for getting the most sustainable benefits from development.

While developing a robust tool for calculating the greenhouse gas emissions reductions from climate-smart land use and urban planning may be a longer-term project, in the immediate term, **the LGAC recommends that EPA develop a free, easy-to-use tool that measures the GHG emission reduction potential of certain land use policies.** Specific functions of the tool should include:

- Estimate how much density a community should target to maximize GHG emission reductions from transportation and buildings
- Estimate cost savings (including avoided costs) for a municipality that makes proactive – rather than reactive – land use, development and transportation policies
- Estimate GHG emission reductions of different land use policies, including zoning, design requirements, and rules regarding occupancy and parking
- Explicitly identifying avoided costs through taking action

#### *Additional Tools Needed*

Beyond measurement tools, **the LGAC recommends that EPA curate a repository of tools needed to support GHG emission reduction work and broadly distribute it to partners.** Specific tools should include:

- Templates for local reform of zoning ordinances and land use policies that support climate-friendly development patterns
- Guidance for communities decommissioning fossil fuel infrastructure and looking for new uses that utilize existing electric grid or water system connectivity
- Case studies and best practices (e.g. Atlantic Station in Atlanta, City of Fresno, Minneapolis), and toolkits that support replication
- Pro forma for developers to use in making the economic case for climate-smart development

All relevant tools should be **explicitly highlighted in any Notice of Funding Opportunity so that eligible entities are starting from a similar playing field**, as the U.S. Department of Transportation has done with its recent CFI application and is a tool for calculating the GHG emission reductions from installing different types of EV chargers.

#### **Using EPA's Convening Power**

To ensure the intent of the IRA is achieved, the EPA must think about greenhouse gas emissions holistically. What EPA lacks in statutory authority, it can make up for through strategic partnerships.

#### *Working within the Federal Family*

Within the federal family, EPA should pursue a range of actions to ensure the GGRF is used in ways that help reduce GHG emissions across all sectors, including joint rulemaking where appropriate. First, the LGAC recommends that **EPA work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct outreach and engagement to address the perceived dichotomy of sustainability and affordability and effective leveraging of existing programs for public/private partnerships.** Time and again, the U.S. government has proven to be an economic catalyst, and it can do that for sustainability by **requiring all federal housing funding and financing to meet certain standards such as the most up to date International Energy Conservation Code, the State of California building code, BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), Water Sense/Water Smart, or other equivalent standard including a pathway to net zero emissions.** Aside from the environmental benefits, an economic benefit of this action will be lower utility costs and increased purchasing power for residents of federally funded

housing. The EPA should also work across the federal family align how other federal funding/financing can support highly efficient buildings of all types.

Efficiencies can also be made with federal coordination to leverage programs related to land use, including the various benefits of infill and transit-oriented development over greenfield development. Related, there is a need for federal leadership in the realm of housing ownership models for multifamily housing. Developers noted the lack of alignment in federal programs as a barrier, and the need for a smoother pathway for those wishing to bring these types of projects to market.

The LGAC understands this is a complex issue that won't be solved quickly but **calls on EPA to begin work to organize a summit focused on identifying underlying policy barriers to climate-forward development, available resources to address them, and gaps that need to be filled.** Invitees would include any federal agency with equities, as well as housing developers, investors and advocates (Habitat for Humanity, National Association of Homebuilders, Local Initiatives Support Corporation), environmental and urban policy organizations (Natural Resource Defense Council, the Brookings Institute, Urban Land Institute, Smart Growth Network, American Planning Association and Enterprise Community Partners), and local government organizations (U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties).

#### *Working with States*

While the above recommendations will be helpful in many parts of the country, it is important for EPA to understand that in some regions they are a nonstarter. Some state legislatures prevent local governments from implementing stricter legislation than the state's current standard, including building codes and zoning. While the LGAC understands the role that these laws play, it also sees the value in providing additional autonomy for local jurisdictions to support the fight against climate change. **Given their strong relationship with state partners like the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the National Governors Association, and the US Climate Alliance, the LGAC recommends that EPA facilitate regular discussions with these partners regarding paths to overcoming the barriers noted above.** This should include working with regional governing bodies such as Metropolitan Planning Organizations who are required to deploy federal funds to states, including EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. The LGAC would be happy to join these discussions as appropriate.

## **LGAC Environmental Justice and Equity Workgroup Cumulative Impacts DRAFT Overarching Recommendations**

### **1. How can EPA better address factors, such as land use planning or infrastructure investment, that contribute to concentration of environmental burden through federal policy?**

- Not all state and local jurisdictions have zoning laws, especially in places like Houston Tx. Jurisdictions with no zoning laws allow industries the flexibility to build and expand facilities in locations that are experiencing environmental burdens.
- Baseline federal policies can reduce over concentration of industrial sites.
- Enforcement of existing federal regulations.

### **2. How can local governments partner with EPA and states in addressing cumulative impacts through better coordination, planning, working with communities, and other actions?**

- EPA making a national commitment to address cumulative impacts.
- EPA setting legal frameworks for cumulative impacts.
- EPA establishing research standards to help guide local government action.
- EPA to help local governments analyze and contextualize data around cumulative impacts.
- Regional partnerships within EPA to provide technical assistance and consultation in the design of Environmental Justice indexes and EPA being thought partners for local governments.
- EPA to help promote and strengthen partnerships and coordination between local and state governments for a unified cumulative impacts regulation and enforcement scheme.
- Federal framework because state legislative process is unhurried.
- EPA to help develop community impact guidance.
- Technical assistance is key.
- Federal funding provided directly to local governments for remediation and mitigation

### **3. Based on an overview of existing EPA authorities to address cumulative impacts in the permitting context, (a) where is the great need, from a local perspective, to consider cumulative impacts, and (b) which statutory authorities may present the greatest opportunities for addressing those needs?**

- Decisions are made at the federal/state level for private companies/industries that have negative environmental impacts without communicating with local governments causing negative environmental impacts and not allowing local governments to be involved in the decision-making process
- Needs to be a partnership that has municipal and community buy-in well in advance (residents blame local government officials when the locality had no knowledge), not just a regulatory I supersede you approach (decisions are made, local/community forced to deal with it, local government blamed) very hierarchical and not a partnership
- Cohesive and collaborative permitting process approach with municipal and community buy-in is desperately needed (all stakeholders within a 100miles radius)

- Stakeholder Engagement & Advisory Process – once application is submitted to state/federal notify local government and start 6 months engagement processes with municipality, local community and stakeholders
- Greatest need: air, water and soil pollution (concentrated in minority, low-income communities)
- Community doesn't understand federal and state role, community looks to and blames municipality – need a procedure/process to breakdown and explain to residents (need a wholistic approach with stakeholder buy-in instead of the silo approach)



## Climate Communications

### Client Office: Office of Public Affairs

The LGAC will interface with the Offices of Public Affairs, Air and Radiation, and subject matter staff from other parts of the Agency, as needed.

### Background

Communicating on climate change is about educating and mobilizing audiences to take action to urgently cut greenhouse gas emissions while also addressing the impacts of a changing climate. Often the work to mitigate and adapt to climate change depends on leadership at the state and local government levels. However, between limited resources and messaging challenges surrounding the issue, working at all levels of government to tackle the climate crisis faces real difficulties. Under its statutory authorities (Inflation Reduction Act, Clean Air Act and others), EPA can support local government efforts to explain the benefits of action at a community level, with a strong focus on the opportunity to create healthy and thriving communities for future generations.

### Charge

- 1) Are there specific climate change impacts and/or interventions that local governments need support in communicating?
- 2) Are there specific programs within the Administration's climate agenda that appeal to specific states or regions of the country?
- 3) What formats are most helpful for local governments to utilize?
- 4) How can EPA distribute tools in an efficient and effective way?
- 5) Are there specific regional or urban/rural contexts that should be considered?
- 6) Are there lessons learned from related efforts in the past, including other public health issues like COVID-19, that EPA should know about?

### Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will engage the Climate Workgroup to research this charge and develop recommendations. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting as soon as November.

The Workgroup will report out on its progress at a public meeting in Spring 2024; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

### Deliverables

The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document.



**DRAFT Developed by OLEM/ORCR – For Discussion Purposes**

## **Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution**

### **U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)**

*October 2023*

#### **Purpose**

The LGAC is an independent, policy-oriented advisory committee of locally elected and appointed officials that provides advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator. The LGAC is tasked with assisting the agency by ensuring that EPA's regulations, policies, guidance, and technical assistance supports and improves the capacity of local governments that implements and carries out these programs.

#### **Client Office**

EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR), within the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

#### **Background**

The *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, which is part of EPA's Series of Strategies on Building a Circular Economy for All, was released for public comment in April 2023. The Strategy provides voluntary actions that can be implemented in the United States aimed at eliminating the release of plastic waste from land-based sources into the environment by 2040. EPA endeavors to provide an innovative, equitable approach to reduce and recover plastic and other waste, as well as prevent plastic pollution from harming human health and the environment, particularly for communities already overburdened by pollution. Plastic pollution has accumulated over time and will continue to grow as plastic production increases. Therefore, the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, together with EPA's *National Recycling Strategy*, identifies how EPA can work collaboratively with the interested parties to prevent plastic pollution and reduce, reuse, recycle, collect, and capture plastic and other waste from land-based sources.

With input from the public, EPA identified three draft objectives for the strategy:

- Reduce pollution during plastic production
- Improve post-use materials management
- Prevent trash and micro/nanoplastics from entering waterways and remove escaped trash from the environment

The proposed actions under each objective support United States' shift to a circular approach that is restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims to eliminate waste in the management of plastic products.



The draft strategy comment period ended on July 31, 2023. As EPA reviews the 91,000+ comments received and works to finalize the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*, we welcome feedback on how the final strategy and its implementation can be most useful to local governments.

### Potential Charge Questions

1. How can the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* better address local government concerns?
2. How can local governments partner with EPA and states in addressing environmental and social impacts of plastic pollution through better coordination, planning, working with communities, and other actions?
3. Are there specific plastic pollution impacts and/or interventions that local governments need federal support and engagement to address?
4. Are there specific actions within the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* that appeal to individual states or regions of the country?
5. How are local governments measuring (e.g. through litter clean-up costs, etc.) the impacts of plastic pollution on their communities?

### Details of LGAC Action

EPA and LGAC will discuss the charge questions and the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution* at the October 23, 2023 LGAC meeting.

### Deliverables

Meeting notes from LGAC's discussion with EPA on the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.