



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) What are the challenges for local governments to communicate the benefits of addressing climate change? 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? Is EPA the best messenger? If not, who is?
- 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.