

Securing Environmental Justice for All

How the Biden Administration Is Fighting for Clean Air and Water, Climate Protection, and Healthy Communities for Every American

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TABLE 1

The Inflation Reduction Act invests \$55 billion for clean air and water, climate protection, access to clean affordable energy, and healthy communities for all

Program/administrator*	Description	Funding and type	Who is eligible to apply
Ensuring clean air, safe water, and a healthy climate			
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: National Clean Investment Fund (EPA)	Mobilizes financing for clean energy and climate projects that reduce local pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilience	\$14 billion in competitive grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance	"National nonprofit clean financing institutions" that will then deliver funds to clean energy projects
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (EPA)	Delivers funding and technical assistance to community lenders in low-income and disadvantaged communities	\$6 billion in competitive grants to eligible entities, which will then distribute funding and technical assistance to community lenders	Hub nonprofits that will then deliver funding and technical assistance to build the clean financing capacity of local community lenders working in low-income and disadvantaged communities
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Solar for All program (EPA)	Expands residential solar investments in low-income and disadvantaged communities	\$7 billion in competitive grants to eligible entities, which will then use grant funds to create residential solar programs	States, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities, and eligible nonprofit recipients
Clean Ports Program (EPA)	Funds zero-emissions port equipment and infrastructure as well as climate and air quality planning at U.S. ports	\$3 billion in rebates and competitive grants, with \$750 million for ports in areas where air quality does not meet national standards	Port authorities; state, regional, local, or Tribal agencies that have jurisdiction over a port authority or a port; air pollution control agencies; certain private or nonprofit entities
Environmental and Climate Justice grant program (EPA)	Funds community-driven projects to reduce pollution and climate threats tied to racial injustice and environmental hazards in overburdened communities	\$3 billion in competitive grants, including \$200 million for technical assistance	Community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs); partnership of CBOs; partnership between a CBO and a Tribe, local government, or higher education institution
Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Program (EPA)	Supports replacing heavy-duty vehicles with clean, zero-emissions vehicles; zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure; and training and workforce development	\$1 billion in competitive grants and rebates, including \$400 million for communities where air quality does not meet national standards	States, municipalities, Native American Tribes, nonprofit school transportation associations

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Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program (EPA)	Helps identify and reduce the health impacts of diesel emissions from goods movement facilities and vehicles in overburdened communities	\$60 million in grants, rebates, and loans	A regional, state, local, or Tribal agency or port authority with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality; certain nonprofit organizations and institutions
Funding to address air pollution and air pollution monitoring (EPA)	Funds air quality sensors in low-income and disadvantaged communities, multipollutant monitoring stations, fence-line air monitoring, emissions from wood heaters, methane monitoring, and mobile source monitoring	\$235.5 million in grants	State, local, or Tribal air agencies; nonprofit institutions or organizations
Funding to address air pollution at schools (EPA)	Funds efforts to monitor and reduce air and climate-warming pollution at schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities	\$50 million in competitive grants and technical assistance	State, local, or Tribal agencies; nonprofit organizations; others to support schools in low-income and disadvantaged communities
Reinstatement of the Superfund tax on oil and gas production (EPA)	Reinstates the Superfund tax to reduce pollution in low-income and disadvantaged communities	Estimated \$11.7 billion to be used for Superfund site cleanup. According to the EPA, roughly 80 percent of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds for Superfund cleanup have been used for site cleanup in communities "with potential environmental justice concerns."	Industry partners; federal, state, local, and Tribal governments; special districts are eligible to apply to use the funds for Superfund site cleanup once secured through the reinstated tax.
Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program (DOE)	Supports Tribal investments in energy-related projects by providing direct or partial loan guarantees	\$20 billion in loan guarantees and \$75 million to carry out the program	Native American Tribes or entities
Climate Change Technical Assistance for Territories program (Interior Department)	Provides technical assistance to the U.S. insular areas for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience planning	\$15.9 million in grants, interagency agreements, and direct federal spending	Territory governments
Low Emissions Electricity Program (EPA)	Funds activities that support clean electricity generation, including education, technical assistance, and partnerships with low-income and disadvantaged communities	\$17 million in direct federal spending	Direct federal spending
Funding for enforcement technology and public information (EPA)	Upgrades the EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System and improves enforcement of environmental laws	\$25 million in direct federal spending and competitive grants	States and state pollution control agencies
Oversight by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	Supports oversight of Inflation Reduction Act funds; tracks labor, equity, and environmental standards and performance; and assesses the equity of the act's funding impacts and benefits	\$50 million in direct federal spending	Direct federal spending
Environmental reviews by federal agencies (USDA, NOAA, DOE, FERC, Interior Department, EPA, CEQ, DOT)	Supports robust, timely, and efficient environmental reviews across the federal government, including to implement the National Environmental Policy Act	\$655 million in direct federal spending	Direct federal spending

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Environmental and Climate Data Improvement (CEQ)	Improves the quality, availability, and use of data to support the federal government's efforts to address environmental injustice and to better protect all communities from environmental and climate impacts	\$32.5 million in direct federal spending	Direct federal spending
Permanent extension of coal excise tax to fund Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (DOL)	Permanently extends funds and other benefits to miners with black lung disease and their families and eliminates funding uncertainty and stress tied to short-term extensions	"Benefit payments and administrative expenses are expected to total \$1.1 billion from FY2021 to FY2025."	Current and former coal miners affected by black lung disease and their surviving dependents
Lowering household energy costs and providing access to clean, renewable energy			
Home Efficiency Rebates program (DOE)	Supports energy savings programs to distribute rebates to homeowners to improve home and multifamily building energy efficiency and lower electricity bills. Covers more than half of project costs and more than 80 percent of the cost for low- or moderate-income households	\$4.3 billion in grants	Grants to state energy offices, which will distribute rebates to homeowners and aggregators
Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program (DOE)	Supports high-efficiency electric home rebate programs, with a focus on helping low-income consumers switch to efficient electric appliances and cut energy costs, covering 50 percent to 100 percent of the cost for low- to moderate-income households	\$4.5 billion in grants	Grants to state energy offices and Tribal entities, which will distribute rebates to homeowners
Green and Resilient Retrofit Program (HUD)	Funds projects that improve energy or water efficiency, enhance indoor air quality, install clean electricity or building materials, or strengthen climate resilience of multifamily properties that receive assistance from HUD	\$1 billion in competitive grants and direct loans	HUD-assisted multifamily properties
Tribal Electrification Program (Interior Department)	Expands Tribal community access to electricity, and transitions Tribal homes with electricity to clean renewable energy systems	\$150 million for financial and technical assistance	Tribes
Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program (DOE)	10 percent bonus credit for projects built in low-income communities or on Native American land, or 20 percent bonus credit for low-income residential building projects or economic benefit projects	Tax credit, with allocations capped at 1.8 gigawatts of energy capacity annually	Clean-energy project owners
Energy Community Tax Credit Bonus program (IRS)	10 percent bonus credit for projects built in communities historically reliant on the fossil fuel industry for jobs and tax revenues	Tax credit, with total funding amount based on credit demand	Clean-energy project owners
Improving community climate resilience, transportation, and access to living-wage jobs			
Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program (DOT)	"Provides grants to reconnect communities; remediate negative impacts of transportation infrastructure; and improve walkability, safety, and affordable transportation access"	\$3.205 billion in competitive grants	States and territories, local governments and political subdivisions, Tribal governments, public transit authorities, nonprofits, or higher education institutions that partner with other described entities

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Urban and Community Forestry Program (USDA)	Expands tree cover and parks in cities and communities vulnerable to extreme heat to reduce extreme heat risks and create jobs	\$1.5 billion in grants	State agencies, local governmental entities, Tribes, nonprofit organizations
Tribal Climate Resilience Program (Interior Department)	Supports climate resilience planning to help sustain Tribal ecosystems and natural and cultural resources, economies, infrastructure, human health, and safety	\$235 million in direct federal spending and grants	Tribes
Kapapahulau Climate Resilience Program (USBR)	Helps Native Hawaiian communities build resilience to climate change effects	\$25 million in direct federal spending and grants or cooperative agreements	State or local governments, Native Hawaiian community representatives, universities, and nongovernmental organizations
Emergency drought relief for Tribes (USBR)	Funds near-term drought relief, builds drought resilience, and mitigates drought impacts in Tribal communities	\$12.5 million in grants or cooperative agreements	Tribes
Domestic water supply projects (USBR)	Improves water supplies for disadvantaged communities and households without reliable access to water	\$550 million in grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements	Disadvantaged communities in states covered by the Bureau of Reclamation
Assistance for distressed borrowers (USDA)	Provides assistance payments to distressed borrowers of loans from the USDA's Farm Service Agency	\$3.1 billion in direct federal spending	Direct federal spending
Assistance and support for underserved farmers, ranchers, and foresters (USDA)	Provides financial assistance to producers that have experienced discrimination in the USDA's farm lending programs	\$2.2 billion in financial assistance, cooperative agreements, grants, and direct federal spending	Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in the USDA's farm loan programs
Used electric vehicle tax credit (IRS)	Provides a \$4,000 tax credit for low- and moderate-income individuals purchasing used electric vehicles	Tax credit, with total funding amount based on credit demand	Individuals purchasing a used electric vehicle, limited for those with income below \$75,000; \$150,000 if married filing jointly; or \$112,500 for heads of household

* The full names of program administrators are: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of the Interior, Government Accountability Office (GAO), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Note: Most of these funding opportunities are available for several years, disbursed in annual funding tranches. Methodology: The programs funded by the Inflation Reduction Act that are listed in this table are designed to deliver federal funding and/or benefits to disadvantaged communities, communities of color, low-income communities, and communities overburdened by pollution—also known as environmental justice communities. Many programs listed aim to reduce environmental harms that disproportionately affect communities of color and low-income areas and were supported by the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform co-authors as programs that advance environmental justice priorities and are in need of additional federal funding. Almost all of the programs listed are also officially covered by the Biden administration's Justice40 Initiative and are required to deliver at least 40 percent of program investment benefits to disadvantaged communities. This is not an exhaustive list of Inflation Reduction Act programs that have the potential to benefit disadvantaged communities. A full list of programs can be found in the "Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook." To calculate the "total" amount of Inflation Reduction Act funding that will benefit disadvantaged communities, the authors adjusted the act's program funding amounts identified as benefiting disadvantaged communities based on program specifications in the Inflation Reduction Act or by the agency administering the program. For example, the authors assumed that 100 percent of investments in programs designed to reduce pollution or other environmental hazards that disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income areas would go to disadvantaged communities. For investments in programs that benefit all communities, the authors assumed that 40 percent of the investment would benefit disadvantaged communities, consistent with the Biden administration's Justice40 commitment, unless otherwise specified by the Inflation Reduction Act or by the administering agency. Tax credits designed to benefit disadvantaged communities were not included in the total funding amount because it is difficult to estimate the total amount of tax credits that will be delivered to residents in disadvantaged communities.

Source: The White House, "Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook," available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/inflation-reduction-act-guidebook/> (last accessed March 2024).