

Nebraska Climate Pollution Reduction Program

Nov. 2023

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) is using funds from an EPA planning grant to develop and implement climate action plans to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Nebraska. The department will encourage public participation from a variety of stakeholders across the state in developing voluntary measures that will have environmental and economic benefits across the state, including low-income and underserved communities.

PHASE 1: PLANNING

SPRING
2023

Program Opened

- EPA launched program March 1.
- NDEE developed workplan and submitted it to EPA April 28.

MARCH
2024

Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)

- Develop greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory.
- Identify and quantify priority measures to reduce GHG and other air pollutant emissions.
- Analyze emissions reductions to be achieved through implementation
- Analyze benefits to underserved communities.

AUGUST
2025

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

- Develop inventory of all GHG sources and sinks.
- Project GHG emissions and set reduction targets.
- Identify reduction measures in all sectors.
- Analyze benefits statewide and for underserved communities.

PHASE 2: IMPLEMENTATION

- ◆ Competitive Implementation Grants can fund measures proposed in the PCAP.
- ◆ EPA anticipates awarding grants for \$2 million to \$500 million dollars to states and municipalities.
- ◆ The application deadline is April 1, 2024.
- ◆ The PCAP and CCAP must also identify other potential federal and state funding sources for implementing measures.

ABOUT EPA'S CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS (CPRG) PROGRAM

EPA's CPRG program provides grants to states and larger metropolitan areas to develop and implement plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This \$5 billion program established by the Inflation Reduction Act is providing \$250 million for non-competitive planning grants and \$4.3 billion for competitive implementation grants.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- ⇒ Kickoff webinar held Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2:00 to 3:00 pm
- ⇒ Join the Climate Pollution email listserv
- ⇒ NDEE will hold virtual meetings with stakeholder work groups in November & December 2023
- ⇒ NDEE plans in-person public meetings around the state in January 2024
- ⇒ NDEE is coordinating with MAPA and the City of Omaha as they develop plans for the Omaha metro area



More info:

ndee.climatepollution@nebraska.gov

<http://dee.ne.gov/ndeqprog.nsf/onweb/cprg>

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

NEBRASKA

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Nebraska Climate Pollution Reduction Program – Stakeholder Participation Guidelines

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) invites stakeholders to join one or more sector-based workgroups to discuss, evaluate, and propose potential GHG emission reduction measures that can be incorporated in the planning documents. The proposed workgroup list includes:

- Agriculture / Natural and Working Lands
- Buildings, Housing, and Communities
- Energy-Intensive Industries / Waste Management (may be split if sufficient interest)
- Energy Production
- Transportation

NDEE’s intention is to focus on voluntary measures with financial incentives that could be funded through a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant or through other federal, state, or private sources.

Who is a Stakeholder?

NDEE invites individuals and organizations with interest in any of these areas to participate in one or more stakeholder workgroups. The Department is not setting any qualifying requirements, but experience and expertise in the selected sector are especially welcome.

What is NDEE’s Role?

NDEE is responsible for developing and writing the Priority Climate Action Plan (due March 1, 2024) and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (due August 2025). These plans must propose measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase carbon storage. The plans must include quantitative estimates of the amount of greenhouse gas reduction to be achieved for each proposed measure if it were adopted. NDEE will conduct the stakeholder working group sessions and propose potential measures for each sector as a starting point for discussion. Most stakeholder working group sessions will be conducted online to enable broad geographic participation.

What is a Stakeholder’s Role?

The Department needs the help and guidance of stakeholders to develop meaningful, feasible, and measurable greenhouse gas reduction measures in each of these sectors. The task of the stakeholder working group sessions is to evaluate the measures proposed by NDEE and bring forward additional measures for discussion. For each proposed measure, the working group will need to determine:

- Is it practical and feasible?
- Can the GHG benefits be quantified?
- What are the benefits to low-income and underserved communities?
- Prioritize measures and identify high-priority, easily implemented measures for the PCAP
- What is the appropriate scale and scope?
- Would there be buy-in and participation?

Given the breadth of each sector, a working group may decide to divide into subgroups to consider and refine related groups of measures.

Stakeholder Session Timelines

Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP: Mar. 1, 2024)

NDEE expects to hold at least two to three online sessions for each stakeholder workgroup between November 1 and December 31. NDEE would then hold in-person public meetings during January 2024 at various locations around the state to present the outlines of the plan and receive broader public input on the proposed measures.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP: Aug. 2025)

Stakeholder workgroup sessions would resume in mid-summer 2024 and likely be held quarterly through the spring of 2025. The CCAP must include emission reduction measures in all sectors.

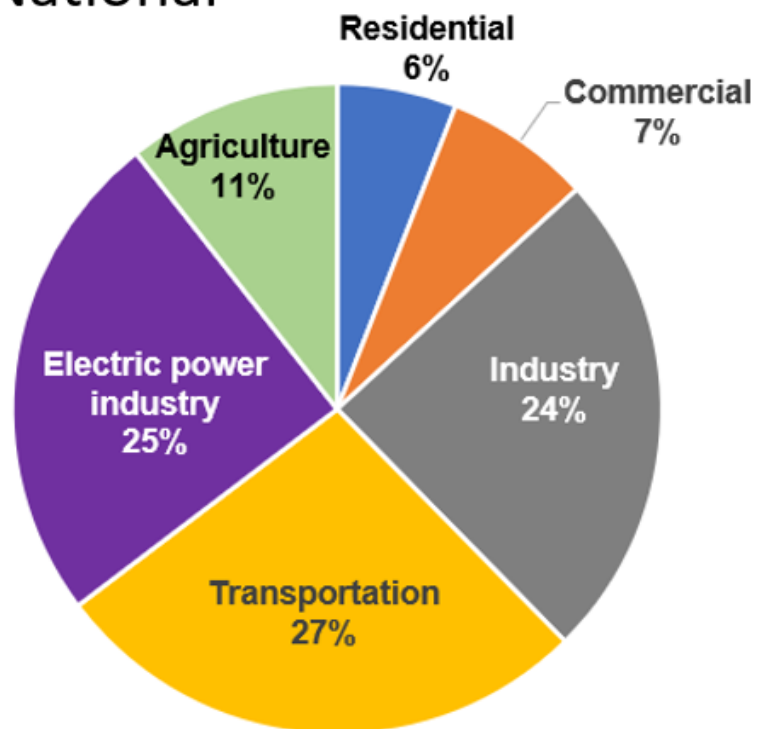


KEY SECTORS

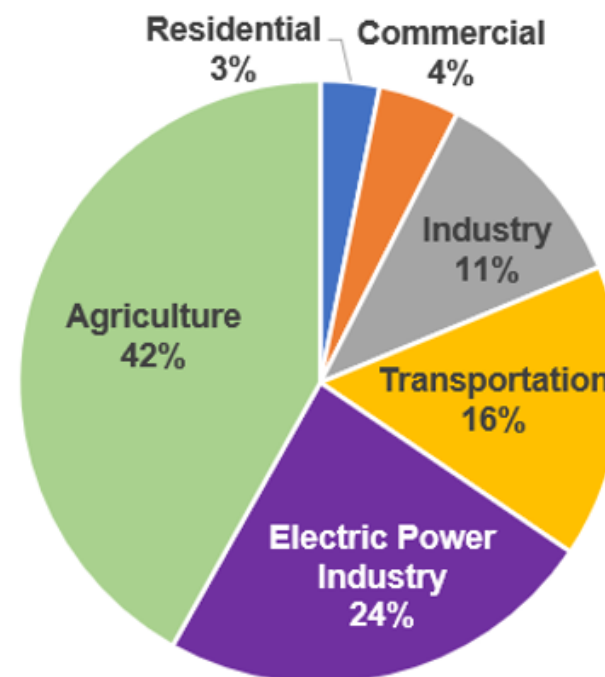


EPA GHG Emission Inventories by Sector, 2020

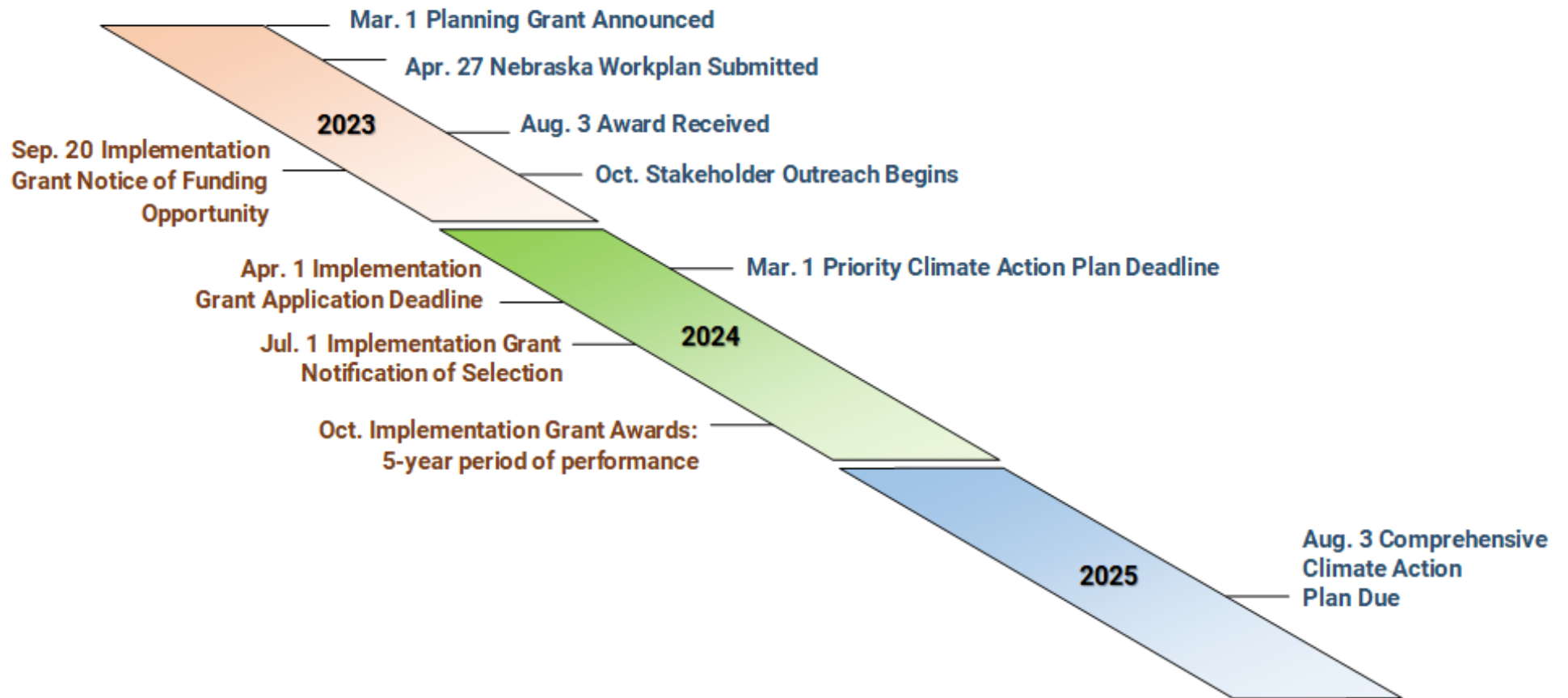
National



Nebraska



Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Timeline



Criteria for Evaluating Nebraska Greenhouse Gas Reduction Measures

NDEE will evaluate greenhouse gas reduction measures proposed during the stakeholder outreach phase to determine which measures to include in Nebraska’s Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant application.

EPA has developed a scoring system that will be used to judge implementation grant applications. The table below lists the EPA scoring criteria that relate to proposed greenhouse gas reduction measures. NDEE will consider these criteria and their relative importance in assessing proposed greenhouse gas reduction measures for inclusion in the PCAP and an implementation grant application.

Criterion	Implementation Grant Application Points
Magnitude of GHG Reductions 2025-2030	20
Magnitude of GHG Reductions 2025-2050	10
Cost-Effectiveness of Measure	15
Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions	15
Transformative Impact (pioneering scalable program, hard-to-abate sector, or accelerating adoption of emerging technologies).	15
Reductions in criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants 2025-2030	10
Benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities (quantitative & qualitative, e.g. co-pollutant reduction, improved public health, decreased energy costs).	25
Demonstration of funding need. (Availability of other grants, tax credits, etc. and why they are not sufficient.)	10
TOTAL	120