

# West Virginia Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Electric Generation (2024-01-03 18:06 GMT-5) - Public Transcript

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Projects and Grants proposed to us and submitted to us from the public sector from nonprofits and those will be submitted to us on March 5th. And then we are going to vet those projects and determine which ones will be submitted in our competitive Grant to the EPA. For example, assuming that in the power sector, we develop a strategy to reduce emissions in the power sector by using carbon capture sequestration.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** We include that strategy in our PEAP that is filed March 1st. We will accept project proposals from Private Industry where they will propose a carbon capture sequestration project with a certain amount and once that's vetted if it's approved by the Office of Energy that project would be included in the application filed on April 1st 2024. If the EPA granted that award to West Virginia, we would administer that Grant to the individual entity for that strategy. We would receive the grant as the Office of Energy and then provide those funds to the private entity to carry on their project as approved by the EPA.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Again, it's a competitive process West Virginia's not entitled to any funding of its implementation Grant. But we are going to submit a grant for all the major sectors in West Virginia. It's 4.3 billion dollars total available with the ranges of two million to 500 million. Couple of important dates we're having these stakeholder meetings. The first one is today for the power sector. The second one is tomorrow for the industrial and transportation sectors. And then on January 8th, we have another one for the community, local and County governments.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** As I said, we are looking to determine the strategies that we are going to adopt to meet those reduction goals by 2035 and 2050. The determination of those reduction strategies have not been formalized that we're tentatively looking at January 15th. So we hope to have those strategies identified and released to the public by January 15th so that the public can start considering the types of projects proposals that they would like to submit to us to be included in the implementation Grant on April 1st.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** To assist the public and nonprofits Etc, we're going to have four separate grant writing application workshops where we will work with each of the entities explaining our strategies again going over our strategies helping them determine what information needs to be in their submittal to us or consideration and along the process updating them on the strategies and the admission benchmarks as those are determined. Again, the priority action plan is March first in the submissions to us for consideration for projects, March 5th 2024 last day April 1st when we submit to the EPA.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** So the six sectors for consideration are again electricity generation is one tonight and tomorrow is industrial and transportation. The other three are buildings, Agricultural, and waste management sectors. We're not primarily focusing on sectors four, five, and six because of the amount of their emissions compared to the grand total in West Virginia, Sarah if you can take us to the next page.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** You can see here West Virginia's. This is a list of their greenhouse gas emissions and on the right you can see the electric sector is the one in the dark, ones on the bottom currently account for over 51% of greenhouse gas emissions in the state of West Virginia. If you add that industrial is 38.7% and then transportation is almost 12% the remaining sectors of agriculture and commercial waste account for approximately I believe it's about six percent of the emissions in the state. So our focus is primarily on power generation, industrial and transportation sectors.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** just as an overview to provide an idea for people to be able to understand the location of the power generation facilities as well as the industrial sector facilities. Have a better understanding of how proposals are made. We thought this information might be helpful.

00:05:00

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Okay, and then Sarah as we said they're the six sectors the electricity generation sector is this evening. So what we are going to do is to start opening this up for public comment. Sarah is going to call on the individual speakers to be provided three minutes if you so choose and she will let you know when that three minutes is up again, please no questions directed to us. We want to be careful Some people's questions not be able to answer other people's questions, but we will stay on the line tonight as long as we need to make sure that every individual has the opportunity to speak to submit your comments and at the end we have a slide that will provide the information for additional comments and questions to our office. So with that Sarah I am going to turn it over to you and to let the public comment section begin.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thanks, So how we're going to proceed with this is that if you would like to speak during the public comment period I'm going to ask you to look at the bottom of your screen. You will see a small hand and if you put your mouse over it says raise hand. You can also press the buttons Control Alt H that will also do the raise hand feature. And if you click on that just like I did it will raise your hand that will cause the raise hand feature and that lets me know that you're interested in speaking during tonight's open Forum. So if that applies to you and you would like to share some input about the power sector for tonight, please go ahead and select that and I will make note of who is interested in speaking tonight.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** And this is not a commitment that you have to make right now. If you would like to make comments as the night progresses, you're welcome to but you are not allowed to make additional comments once your one three-minute slot has passed. So we'll go ahead and start with Brandon Dennison. I will give you signals. So you will fix my blurriness here, but you will have three minutes signs to let you know when you have three minutes you will be then given a 30 second sign and then a 10 second sign to wrap up using our very high tech sources here. So green, orange and red. I will start your clock. We are recording your remarks so that we can better take them into account. So, please keep that in mind and you are welcome to begin whenever you would go ahead Brandon.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** That one second Brandon. It looks like you're still muted. Just give me one second.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Alright, try and unmute yourself There we go.

**Brandon Dennison:** Better, okay.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yep. Go ahead.

**Brandon Dennison:** All Thanks for the opportunity to two specific ideas that I like to put forward, the first it's maybe not directly related to electricity generation. But I think it could have a big carbon reduction impact if we looked at our college and university campuses across the state and prioritize Efficiency energy auditing energy retrofits and solarization or other clean energy implementation on college campuses. I think we could have a big impact.

**Brandon Dennison:** Site control is less of a challenge and I just want to put that forward. The other idea relates to former mine land, especially former mountaintop removal sites. Those are really some unique sites for utility scale commercial scale solar projects and they are a little bit complicated sometimes from a construction or a site planning processive or from a regulatory perspective. But with the right incentives, the right planning process and the right stakeholders, it could really be transformational for our Energy Systems. And so I'd like to state to look at former mountaintop removal sites for large commercial scale utility scale solar projects and other renewable energy projects that might be viable. So those are the two ideas that I wanted to put forward.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Great, anything else to add with the time that you have?

**Brandon Dennison:** Nope, that's all. Thank you for the opportunity.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thank you so much, Brandon. Next on our list we have Mr. Heskett. Stevie you will have three minutes to share your thoughts with the group. And you are welcome to begin whenever you Please make sure that you unmute Yourself by clicking your little microphone down at the bottom of the screen.

00:10:00

**Stevie Heskett:** Have a comment at this time. I don't know how I got there, but I don't have a comment at this time. So just wait a little later.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** All That was the end of the folks that we had listed. Is there anyone else who would like to make a comment?

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Perry Bryant you are welcome to unmute yourself and begin commenting. I will start the clock whenever you again.

**Perry Bryant:** But thank you Sarah appreciate the opportunity to make comments. I would hope that they would not solely focus on carbon capture and sequestration. I think a proposal that is limited as that would not be well received by the US Department of energy. I think if you expanded that to include Community solar, or as Brandon Dennison mentioned putting solar on abandoned mine land programs, though, those kinds of initiatives I think but much more closely with a carbon reduction grant program and one that you see much more likely to receive funding from USDOE so, I'd hope for you to expand this initiative and not simply focused on carbon capture. Thank you.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thank you, Perry, anyone else who would like to make a comment? And Nick it looks like you have comments so you can go ahead.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** But yes, I want to make it clear and Perry thank you very much for that comment. The reference to carbon sequestration was for reference only to give an example of how the implementation Grant would work for the Office of Energy. It would be very clear that this has made no determination of what strategies are going to be submitted to the EPA. We are not limited in any capacity

and in true fashion. we're sincere in our solicitation of ideas from the public and I will say I'm hoping that there will be more hands raised here for ideas on reducing emissions in the generation sector.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** This is the opportunity for the public to speak. Every single idea will be put down. And again, we are not limited. If it's a new source of generation, if it's Wind, part of the Office of Energy's new energy policy that we have adopted is the West Virginia REAL energy policy. It's R, E, A, L all of our policies are focused on producing energy that's Reliable, Efficient, Affordable and Local that includes new sources and it includes existing sources. So all ideas are on the table and that's what we were hoping for tonight to get a plethora of ideas from the public for ideas that maybe we didn't quite think of in the same way or a different perspective. So again, there is no limitation whatsoever and I will encourage as many people as possible to raise their hand and submit comments because that's a very important part of this process. This is not preordained. There are no strategies already. We are seriously requesting input from the public. So I will lower my hand Sarah and turn it back to you.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thanks, And it looks like we have Scott Pritchard who'd like to make comments. Get your welcome to start whenever you like.

**Scot Pritchard:** All Thank you, Sarah and appreciate Nick that clarification just on the CC US versus the other ideas that wrote up on solar and so I think just one of the ideas that would put forth as well as you mentioned on existing existing assets and making them more reliable or efficient, especially in the context of the energy transition that we're embarking on as a society here. And so this kind of comes up on the coal fired assets that are within West Virginia and making them more efficient and different strategies and Technologies to make those more efficient not to extend their life forever. It's not the point but to make them a critical part of the reliability and a more efficient part of that reliability program as we transition to the other Technologies. So I just put that out there as one of the ideas and Concepts

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thank you Anybody else who would like to make a comment?

00:15:00

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Go ahead Perry.

**Perry Bryant:** Thanks that I won't use up just a little bit of my three minutes from previously but I appreciate that clarification from the director. I would like to propose that you work with Forum energy to develop the new types of battery storage for our power plants so that they can store energy up to 100 hours and discharge that at a fractional cost of what for lithium ion batteries. Nicholas has some great potential and one that could benefit the right players and the utilities and make sure that we have affordable reliable energy. Thank you.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thanks, Any other comments?

**Sarah E Messbauer:** If you have questions you would like to submit now that we would answer later during the question and answer document that we're planning to release. This would be a good time to submit those questions as well.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Scott you can use some of those three minutes you have left to go ahead.

**Scot Pritchard:** Thank And it's a question on how you do the questions so I know no questions. But just that something we send you emails or there's a section in here that we provide that on is instructions that you're gonna forward on.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yes, and so that is actually the next slide that we have up Nick. I don't know...

**Scot Pritchard:** No, okay.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** if you want us to share that information now.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** I'm still going to Badger people to provide more comments and information here in just a minute. I will say again guys. This is an opportunity that we have for West Virginia to go forward on this process and open it up to the public. We get calls all the time with ideas from people and it's saying Virginia Why doesn't West Virginia do that. And now this is the opportunity to actually bring those ideas to the Forefront. So again, I will encourage people if you don't know how to use the hand raise function and you want to speak, just turn your camera on and raise your hand and we'll get to you. I just want to make sure that everybody has the opportunity.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** I'm not gonna beg but I'm gonna get close to the line of begging. So this is our opportunity. We're all here. So if you have comments, please provide them and if not, we will provide you the information on how to submit questions and written comments. So That's the last time I promise you so. Thank you, Sarah.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Scot go ahead.

**Scot Pritchard:** Thanks Sarah. I appreciate the comments. It's just that. When you say there's a question and comment thing, I mean additionally we can provide additional comments and ideas in that Forum as well. if we come up with one, midnight tonight we go. Hey, Nick wants the stuff, I want to get it to them. We just submit it in that Fashion Is it correct?

**Nicholas S Preservati:** We will have an email address provided to you as well as the mailing address of some people who have something on the computer. They want to print off anything they can or there's an email address that we provided as well you can submit.

**Scot Pritchard:** Okay. And do you generally favor consortiums within West Virginia, utilities and those types of things that's a question. Never mind, don't strike that.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Email comments. Yeah, that's all right. That's And then ultimately we are going to try to answer the questions. But we also are putting out questions and answered documents so that these questions come out. We'll put them in a formal document and provide them to everybody who's registered as well as placing it on our website. So that not only you will see the answer to your question but to other questions as well. All right, Sarah back to you.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Okay, thanks for that and I say that Stevie Heskett has your hand raised so you can go ahead and make sure that you unmute Yourself by clicking that little microphone down the bottom and then you're welcome to start speaking at any time.

**Stevie Heskett:** Am I on? We are going to present a proposal.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yes, you are. Go ahead.

**Stevie Heskett:** Who are folks there on a process that we have? developed over a 20 years span of time and we have brought it to the place where 8% of all pollution just captured and brought to the Earth or can be dealt with and we will be presenting this proposal. To you in writing and what have you? But we have

something that works and works well. And we deeply appreciate the opportunity to speak to you folks and bring it forth. Obviously I cannot. Tell you about what it does. Tonight. I could but I don't think it'd be wise to do so we have something it works. that will save the whole planet for many years to come. Thank you.

00:20:00

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thank you so much. Appreciate your comments. Any other additions?

**Stevie Heskett:** Not at this time.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Okay. Thank you.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** anyone else

**Brandon Dennison:** since my full three minutes,...

**Nicholas S Preservati:** All right.

**Brandon Dennison:** I might add Just a little bit of detail on the idea for energy auditing especially on college campuses. But also for the solar installation, I think a Workforce Development aspect the more we can do to hire and train local West Virginia workers to learn these skills and benefit from these projects. The better off will be

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Thank you, Brandon.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Brandon, thank you for that. I'm gonna do one different approach here Sarah given the time now that there's no other hands raised perhaps if there are suggestions in regards to these sources of generation in West Virginia or Commerce regarding solar wind geothermal or any other renewable, that'll be a great time to raise those comments under the few seconds to see anybody wants to raise their hands on proposals strategies involving those types of generation.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Perry go ahead.

**Perry Bryant:** Not just that. I appreciate that I would like to see the development of all of those. I think solar gets a lot of attention, but geothermal does not get the amount of attention that it deserves, in particularly Advanced geothermal and WVU is leading the way there but there are other places in the state that are doing some Innovative things. So I personally would very much like to see solar and geothermal energy storage and produce a lot of jobs here in West Virginia. I think that would be highly beneficial here.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** great. Thank you. And any other comments or suggestions on strategies that we may implement utilizing those sources of generation?

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Okay, if not any comments or suggestions on strategies regarding potential I'll stop there and let care of a Chad.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yep, Chad, go ahead.

**Chad Francis:** Yes, I just wanted to mention getting a phone call Omnis Fuel Technologies. They've recently started a project up the old Pleasant's power plants and they're supposed to extract hydrogen from cold. My understanding is basically by microwaving it and it would be zero emission Coal fired

power plants. I'm sure that's on your radar, but that's something that seems it could be very beneficial to keep coal in the mix and keep it as a zero emission energy.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Thank you Chad for those comments. We'll note any other comments in regards to strategies for cold generation. And that's including an Atco or either natural gas generation.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Scott go ahead.

**Scot Pritchard:** Yeah, I think it just goes back to the CC US topic that was talking about earlier. But does this also cover the sequestration assessments for the state and the integration with any? Pipeline requirements or capturing it as the one thing it's where to put it as the other. So just the combination of both the capture and the infrastructure needed for sequestration would be another item that would need to be addressed.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Thank you for the last topic. Are there any suggestions, proposals or strategies for nuclear or small modular reactors as a strategy going forward?

00:25:00

**Nicholas S Preservati:** All I appreciate every once in attendance. I think that that was shorter than expected but there were some very good comments Sarah if you will share the next screen.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yes, one moment, please.

**Elizabeth Claire Johnston:** Would it be okay to provide a comment about renewable energy? I'm sorry.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Absolutely.

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Yes, absolutely.

**Elizabeth Claire Johnston:** Yeah, I just wondered. If anyone had thought about the potential for expanding electricity generation through hydropower, I know that it has a long history in West Virginia and provides already 2% of the energy portfolio and given the vast network of rivers in West Virginia. I wondered if that would be of interest to West Virginia's to expand that resource and already West Virginia is a leader in hydropower and that could be a great way to increase domestically generated energy resources and decrease our reliance on foreign energy sources.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Thank you. That's a good comment. And yes, we have considered. So our office is considering all sources of generation and different strategies under each source of generation. And so if you have a suggested strategy regarding specifically whether it's converting a construction of new dams or new-dean specific rivers or non-powered dams being powered for Generation, if that's something you want to think about some written comments on we welcome any comments in that regard.

**Elizabeth Claire Johnston:** Yeah, I should have mentioned that I recently became a science and technology policy fellow at the University of West Virginia. And this is a topic that I'm interested in expanding. I want to delve a little bit more into how the strategies behind how that resource could be developed. One idea that I had was to do something similar to existing solar programs in West Virginia. Where consumers can buy credits and that could be used to fund the expansion or development of hydropower plants and I do want to mention that it's possible for hydropower to be generated without

building a dam. But rigorous geologic research would have to be conducted first to see which sites are feasible and I do have a geology background. So I'd be happy to collaborate with your department to the extent possible to

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Thank you. If there's no other comments Sarah, I guess we can go to the next slide

**Nicholas S Preservati:** If you have again that this is going to be recorded. If you want to go back it will be posted on our website at [energywv.gov](http://energywv.gov). That will be there under the CPRG label at the top of the page for more specific information or general information regarding the CPRG in general. Site, there's [epa.gov](http://epa.gov) inflation reduction at climate pollution reduction Grant's if you go to [epa.gov](http://epa.gov), it will be easily found on our website. Specific questions that you have regarding either the CPRG, PEAP, the implementation Grant process in general, or anything of countering or dates questions can be sent to [jackson.r.igo@wv.gov](mailto:jackson.r.igo@wv.gov).

**Nicholas S Preservati:** Also written comments can be submitted to the same address. I'll say it again [jackson.r.igo@wv.gov](mailto:jackson.r.igo@wv.gov), or they can be mailed to the West Virginia office of energy 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 3, Suite 600, Charleston, WV 25305

00:30:00

**Nicholas S Preservati:** I appreciate everyone's participation in comments tonight, and again encourage you if you did not speak tonight, and you have a thought or an idea or question. Please reach out to us. We'll be happy to hear. So with that I thank you Sarah for anything else?

**Sarah E Messbauer:** Just that if you are interested in submitting question for the upcoming Q&A document that you please do so, I know later than next Friday January 12th, and we are going to be completing and uploading the recording and other documents from today's session tomorrow session and Monday session quite soon after the session are completed. So if you were planning to attend more than one of these and miss them, please do check out that CPRG section of the office of energy website. We'll also be posting additional information and resources about how the project progresses on that site. So it'll be a great place to stay informed.

**Nicholas S Preservati:** That's great. Thank you everyone. Have a good night.

Meeting ended after 00:31:33 🙌