

West Virginia Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: County & Municipal Governments (2024-01-08 18:00 GMT-5) - Public Transcript

Sarah E Messbauer: Thank you for joining everyone. We're going to take just another minute or two to let people trickle in and then we'll go ahead and get started. Thank you for your patience. And we appreciate you joining us this evening.

Nicholas S Preservati: Sarah why don't we go ahead and get started. Are you there?

Sarah E Messbauer: Yes, go ahead.

Nicholas S Preservati: Alright good evening everyone. I'm Nick Preservati, Director of the West Virginia Office of Energy. With me is Sarah Messbauer, Deputy Director of the West Virginia Office of Energy, but thank everybody for attending tonight for the inflation reduction act This is the public meeting for County and Municipal governments. As we get started, I want to go through a couple of housekeeping items.

Nicholas S Preservati: First all team microphones will be indeed muted during the Department of Energy presentation. We also have a small presentation from the National Renewable Energy Lab for some services and opportunities. They can provide to the local Municipal County and Municipal governments after that. We're going to open up suggestions of public comments to the public. Each attendees will be given a maximum of three minutes to suggest Greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Comments should be limited to topics affecting the County Municipal governments and we just ask that all comments remain civil and not derogatory in nature.

Nicholas S Preservati: At this time there will be no question and answer session and there is the address that attendees submit written questions to and you will be able to provide additional written comments to jackson.r.igo@wv.gov. You can provide the written comments until January 31st, and you can provide written questions through January 12th. Again to jackson.r.igo@wv.gov and we'll have that information at the end of the presentation as well.

Nicholas S Preservati: A couple of I'll give you an overview of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant and what this means in the purposes of this meeting. The Office of Energy is required by the EPA. In order to retain funds to submit a priority energy action plan. We call that a PEAP with strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in six key sectors that PEAP is due to the EPA on March 1st 2024. And then we will provide a more comprehensive energy plan that is sent to the EPA. and mid 2025 It's part of this process after we submit our PEAP identifying strategies that we participate in to reduce emissions throughout the state.

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Nicholas S Preservati: the Office of Energy will be soliciting Grant's and ideas and topics. In accordance with those strategies from the public or an application that we will submit to the EPA on April 1st 2024 as part of an implementation Grant. So for example, if we are going to reduce strategies, have reduction strategies in the transportation sector and we identify certain strategies then Public private Enterprise

nonprofits State Municipal governments can submit a recommendation for a grant or project that they would fund it to reduce emissions and transportation sector.

Nicholas S Preservati: Some of those projects that will be vetted by our office. Some will be included in our implementation application. Some will not, it's a competitive process through the 4.3 billion dollars total available award ranges from two million to 500 million. They are anticipating approximately a hundred Grant's will be awarded across the country in various amounts.

Nicholas S Preservati: As we said, this is our third and final stakeholder meeting. After this meeting, we will anticipate announcing the strategies in the six sectors to reduce emissions on January 15th. So the public will know by that time anticipated strategies, they'll be able to determine roughly any potential projects that may be interested in proposing to us. Those dates we will then have grant writing application Workshops. The four dates listed here. We've seen Will they be virtual like this Sarah? Will it be in person?

Nicholas S Preservati: Great, so there'll be four opportunities and what these application workshops are we will be providing guidance on the types of projects that we will be requesting to be up for consideration to be included in our implementation Grant application. We will advise you of the strategies going forward benchmarking the missions calculations and in the criteria that we will be looking at and considering and determining any project you might submit to us for consideration for funding. Again, as we said the priority action plan is March 1st any submission that you provide to us for consideration in the March for the April one deadline has to be submitted To Us by March 5th. We will then have approximately 26 days to vet all of the project proposals. We receive and determine which ones are going to be included in our application to the EPA.

Nicholas S Preservati: So the six sectors that we are to consider and to develop emission strategies for power generation sector the industrial sector Transportation buildings Agriculture and waste management. Now I recognize the Municipal County governments. Are not listed here. but several of these sectors that you guys across in different ways commercial buildings include government buildings according to the NOFO for the grant applications. So County buildings municipal government buildings University buildings colleges all are considered commercial buildings. So those are part of the process and applicable projects to reduce emissions in those The three largest power generation is the largest.

Nicholas S Preservati: Sector for missions in West Virginia approximately 51% of our emissions come from the power generation sector. The industrial sector is second and I believe it's about 38%. Transportation is third at 12% and then the remaining three have a very small percentage of emissions relatively speaking. So those are the sectors that we are considering projects and there's where our strategies have to bit under Sarah if you have the next

Nicholas S Preservati: Here's a brief overview. Just providing where the greenhouse gas emission at tensity comes from in West Virginia. You can see on the There's a graph showing those six sectors with the actual missions. Through 2020 so you don't have to write this down and you can see it there again. electrical power sectors about 51% it's Sarah and then we've listed the identified the power generation facilities as well as the in Pattern so these in West Virginia just to get a better idea of where they're located to the extent. That's helpful to anyone here.

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Nicholas S Preservati: And one thing that we wanted to do that's a unique opportunity is the US Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Lab has asked to present today. They have a

specific program that is available not to the state government not to the West Virginia Office of Energy but to County and Municipal governments their CTC expert match program, and we're going to allow our turnover to NREL for a few minutes to go through this program and explain the services that they can provide to you guys. So Jonathan morgenstein Sharon Smith from National energy renewable lab Jonathan. I'm not sure who's going to present but we will turn it over to you at this point.

Sarah Inskip: Thanks Nicholas. So, my name is Sarah inskeep. I'll be the one presenting for this program today. So good evening everybody. It's great to be here with you as Nicholas mentioned. I'm here with Jonathan morgenstein. Sharon isn't able to make it today and we're just here to share a bit about the clean energy to communities expert match program. Next slide please. So to get us started, I'll provide a brief overview of the CTC program. So CTC has run through a collaboration of five Department of Energy National Labs shown here on this map NREL based in Colorado is the one that houses and manages the program overall, but our team includes researchers from Pacific Northwest National Lab in Washington state Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in California Argonne National Lab in Illinois, as well as Oak Ridge National Lab and Tennessee next slide.

Sarah Inskip: So the overall goal of the CTC program is to provide Innovative cross-cutting Technical Solutions to municipalities, tribes, utilities and community-based organizations around the United States to help them identify and Implement Clean Energy Solutions across clean power. So grid related stuff Mobility buildings and then transmission distribution sort of things so next slide. There are three program offerings. I was a part of CTC. They are in-depth Partnerships if you're learning cohorts and expert matches. I'll just focus on the Expert match here, but you can find more information about the other offerings on our website. So expert match is the most accessible point of entry to this program by submitting a short and simple application form. It takes most folks only 10 to 15 minutes. Communities can receive 40 to 60 hours of technical assistance from National Lab experts to help them overcome oppressing challenges or to tackle linear term opportunity.

Sarah Inskip: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. So most stakeholder types are eligible, that includes County and Municipal governments, nonprofits, community colleges and local utilities. Technical assistance through the program is tailored to the needs of a community. So if you're early in the planning process and just need somebody to help figure out database goals or action steps we can help you with that. If you're already pretty Advanced and just need a specific analysis to inform an upcoming decision. We can work with that too. So to give you an idea of what this can look like I have some examples from some other projects. We've supported the next slide.

Sarah Inskip: Our first example here looks like the picture got rotated. Our first example is for Cohoes, New York is a small working class community in Cohoes, New York with limited resources and energy related expertise and expert match supported the community and retrofitting historic buildings for Energy Efficiency this includes Reviewing proposals for energy emission reductions as well as evaluating technology options that would be effective and suitable to the local context and then the team also provided guidance on developing a 3.2 megawatt floating solar project on the municipal water reservoir to generate electricity for municipal buildings as well as for other organizations. next slide

Sarah Inskip: And then at a higher level here are some other examples of expert match projects across different sectors Belkin refers back to after the call, but I'll just highlight a few here. So in Durham North Carolina the expert team provided modeling and Analysis to inform an EV charging infrastructure strategy. In Billings Montana, the expert teams analysis supported plans to replace backup diesel generators for a wastewater treatment plant with on-site solar Plus Storage and then Bealsville Florida experts supported

analysis to understand installation cost energy outputs and crop production with Agrivoltaics, which is pairing solar energy with farming as well as analysis of rooftop solar potential on houses of worship. next slide

Sarah Inskip: So to wrap up if you have any questions in mind right now, you can go to our website and find the expert match application there and go ahead and submit. Like I said, they're open on a rolling basis. So we're happy to hear from you whenever you're ready. And if you're interested in a particular topic, but you're not sure it's a good fit for this program. Please do still go ahead and reach out to us. We're happy to discuss other options with you. Even if it's not a good fit for this program Jonathan and I are aware of a lot of other stuff On at NREL so there's lots of ways to engage and we'd be more than happy to support you all. However, we can yeah and all this is a free program. So it's no cost to share everything. You just have to submit the application before the 60 hours are free. So we'd love to be able to work with some of you and I guess I said feel free to reach out afterward. And thank you for your time.

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Nicholas S Preservati: Thank Sarah. That was very helpful. And we've had multiple meetings with NREL and Jonathan and his team and they are a tremendous resource that we highly encourage everyone on this call to take advantage of this free resource. They are a tremendous resource looking for the next slide, please.

Nicholas S Preservati: All right. So now's the time we're going to open this up to public comment. Here come suggestions from the group on Mission reduction strategies. And we realized from other public meetings that sometimes it's a little bit difficult for people to suggest outright strategies on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and that might be somewhat of a technical or intimidating Endeavor for people. So along those lines. We also encourage people in the call. If there are challenges in the energy sector that you want to bring to our attention that you're not sure what strategy would be there to either reduce emissions or to reduce energy use which would then have a corresponding reduction in emissions. And by all means, please feel free just to mention those challenges that you have operating either your local County governments, whether it's from building perspective Energy Efficiency retrofits, it's Transportation issue, whatever those issues.

Nicholas S Preservati: there's no issue that's off the table here as long as it relates to energy either efficiency using energy use or emissions. So Sarah, do you want to go ahead? I'll turn it over to Sarah. She will give the instructions on how we're going to go forward and how you can submit your comments to Sarah back to you.

Sarah E Messbauer: Sure, so I just want to note that Sarah Inskip from NREL has posted some information in the comments about how to connect with them if you would like to get more information. and about their CTC match program and as far as the open comment period, what we're going to do is if you're interested in making a comment today, I'd like to ask that. I'm going to stop sharing for a second. I'd like to ask that you look at the bottom of your screen. And if you look at the bottom of your screen, you will see a little hand icon. So if you go ahead and click that, let me know that you're interested in speaking and I will just call people in the order that they raise their hand. So I am looking at my list here and I'm seeing Renner. So Doug if you can go ahead and unmute yourself.

Sarah E Messbauer: You will have three minutes to speak and I will let you know when you hit 30 seconds left and go ahead.

Doug Renner: Thanks, I'm very sorry that I clicked the hand. I wasn't very sorry. I apologize.

Sarah E Messbauer: That is more than okay. Would you like to share anything while you have the floor?

Doug Renner: I'm not at this moment. still learning

Sarah E Messbauer: All No problem. And so is there anybody who would like to share any comments, suggestions, brainstorming ideas, anything of that nature about any of the emissions sectors that we are focusing on or any problems or challenges that they're facing in their area that they would like us to consider?

Sarah E Messbauer: Next go ahead.

Nicholas S Preservati: I'm just in order to maybe facilitate conversation to some degree one suggestion that has already been made to us.

Sarah E Messbauer: Sure.

Nicholas S Preservati: Are County and Municipal governments having a very difficult time? With the energy use at the various buildings. They have many buildings spread out throughout the city whether it's throughout the county and that they lost some degree on how they can reduce that energy use in those buildings. So one recommendation that we've been given that we are exploring is creating a program for not just state buildings, but a program that the County's municipalities can opt into That would allow for the buildings to be entered into a portfolio manager that tracks the building usage. Once that information is entered into portfolio manager square footage Etc the building characteristics then the energy

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Nicholas S Preservati: Usage can be tracked in that process to determine what your average energy use is once those buildings are tracked and benchmarked. We can conduct energy audits that we've through different entities. We have different estimates, but one of the estimates we have seen is that for every dollar spent on an energy audit results in 17 dollars of Energy savings.

Nicholas S Preservati: And we're looking at a program where we can hopefully be able to provide access to the benchmarking and energy audits in some fashion to counties, entities, municipalities within they would get a recommendation on action to be taken whether it's changing of light bulbs upgrading of electrical systems Etc retrofits that would be at the discretion of that County or local government to pursue but that's one factor suggestion that we've been given and I don't know if there's anyone from County or municipal government that has any input on that thoughts or suggestions on that or an expression of interest, but those are the kinds that ideas or challenges we're looking at don't know what other challenges there may be in transportation sector with fleets Etc. But again, encourage comments, you don't have to have an articulated strategy. You can just raise an issue of something. That's a concern.

Nicholas S Preservati: We'll keep track of it. And then we will try to develop our own strategies if need be so with that. I will open it back up to the group and hopefully that's solicited at least one or two comments.

Sarah E Messbauer: Go ahead Perry.

Sarah E Messbauer: Perry go ahead.

Sarah E Messbauer: Seems like you might be having audio trouble. We can't hear you.

Sarah E Messbauer: Perry maybe if you try and leave the meeting and rejoin that might fix the issue.

Sarah E Messbauer: All right. Let's try that again. Just go ahead and unmute yourself and give it a try. It did.

Perry Bryant: Did that work this time?

Perry Bryant: No good the value of rebooting and never on estimated.

Sarah E Messbauer: Yeah.

Perry Bryant: Thanks for this question Sarah. I appreciate it.

Sarah E Messbauer: Sure.

Perry Bryant: I'd like to make one suggestion. I don't know if it will work out or not. The Appalachian solar Finance fund helps nonprofits including student governments and County Boards of education and others to adopt solar so they can offer technical expertise particularly in development and RFP to see whether buildings are suitable for solar. They have the appropriate Roofing rather. They have the appropriate location for all those kinds of things they can assist technical expertise in assisting in development RFP. So the City and County Board of Education and other nonprofits can see rather. They are candidates for going solar

Perry Bryant: so they have that technical expertise and then they also have some funding to assist as nonprofits account the county and City governments get direct pay from the IRS for 30% of the cost of going solar but there's a gap in between when they actually finished the project and when they get their money from

Perry Bryant: The IRS and the Appalachian solar Finance fund can help with the zero interest loan to fill in that Gap. So I think they could be enormously helpful in helping city and county governments. Particularly County boards educations for adopting solar which is probably the most effective mechanism that's out there for reducing of their greenhouse gas emissions and I'd recommend that the Office of Energy your work with Appalachian solar Finance fund to see if they see if there's not some way that you all can bring this grant together with assistance that for them to help other counties. And probably used up all my three minutes...

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Sarah E Messbauer: Okay.

Perry Bryant: since the time.

Sarah E Messbauer: you have about 30 seconds left Perry, but thank you very much for your comments.

Nicholas S Preservati: hey, thank you for that and one recommendation in the way that we're hoping this will work is if the Appalachian solar Finance fund does want to participate in this then we would encourage them to submit a proposal to us by the March 5th deadline and be in touch with this before then into it just and to participate in the application workshops so that we can help them develop a

proposal that may be beneficial to as many governments as possible. So to the extent that you can forward all this information to them. We will try as well. But that's the intended purpose of this call is to Potential opportunities like that and it puts us in touch with them or them in touch with us. So again, thanks Perry for that.

Nicholas S Preservati: Any other comments, this is the opportunity. So if you have not. Question or a comment, please. Raise your hand at this time.

Nicholas S Preservati: I was hoping for a little more comments than that, but I think most people maybe just here to listen. Then Sarah we will go ahead to the next slide.

Sarah E Messbauer: Yes, we can do that. So one moment, please.

Nicholas S Preservati: All right, as Sarah said this session has been recorded. you can find the recording that it will be on For any general information about the CPRG you can go to the epa's website listed here. Again, if you have any specific questions about what we discussed today or the program and specifically as it relates to West Virginia, you can reach out to jackson.r.igo@wv.gov by January 12th. Written comments if you have written suggestions that you would like to submit.

Nicholas S Preservati: Again, we're accepting those from now till January 31st again to jackson.r.igo@wv.gov or any written comments or questions can be sent to our office in 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East building 3 Suite 600 Charleston 25305. Trying to see if I still have Jonathan on given that we have gone through this very quickly. I didn't know if there's one last opportunity, maybe Jonathan in case there's any questions than anyone has from local County governments regarding the CTC program. If maybe you have a second or two to address those.

Nicholas S Preservati: So if there's anyone who will open it up to anyone if they have questions about in real programs discussed by any questions for either Sarah or Jonathan at this time, you can raise your hand.

Sarah E Messbauer: Or just unmute yourself.

Sarah E Messbauer: And Jonathan has written in the chat. He just wants to emphasize that this is a free technical assistance program to localities.

Jonathan Morgenstein: so, please feel free to jump on the link that Sarah has posted and the application process is little more than filling out your contact information and writing. a paragraph about what you're concerned is and you're concerned could be that you have applied and received funding through your state government. But you want to make sure that when you're implementing that program that Grant those Grant funds you want to make sure that you're implementing them.

Jonathan Morgenstein: You with the best knowledge of the latest Innovations and technologies that are available. It could be as simple as that and we will be in touch with you within a couple of weeks or less and to get on the phone and talk about how we can help and once again to emphasize this is paid by the department of energy. There's not a penny out of you out of local or state coffers. that's needed.

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Nicholas S Preservati: Jonathan and Sarah. Thank you very much for having no other hands raised. Thank you all for your participation. And if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us as set forth and the last slide. Thank you all, have a good evening.

Sarah Inskeep: Thank you.

Doug Renner: Thank you.

Meeting ended after 00:30:58 🙌