



Fact Sheet: Draft 2024 Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments

California Climate Investments is a statewide initiative that puts billions of dollars of Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, improving public health and the environment, and providing meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities and households.

What are the Funding Guidelines?

California Climate Investments comprises a portfolio of programs funded by appropriations from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) develops and maintains [Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments](#) (Funding Guidelines), which provide guidance for administering agencies on program design and implementation to:

- Facilitate greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
- Meet statutory requirements;
- Maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities;
- Target investments to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households to help ensure statutory investment minimums are met or exceeded;
- Provide accountability and transparency; and
- Support consistency across programs.

The Funding Guidelines apply across all California Climate Investments programs and provide guidance to administering agencies on developing their own guidelines and solicitations, estimating greenhouse gas emissions reductions and other project goals, and tracking and reporting achievements, including benefits to priority populations.

Key Terms

Term	Description
Administering agency	A State agency that has been appropriated moneys from the GGRF for California Climate Investments. The term “agency” may refer to an agency, authority, board, commission, department, office, university, or other unit of State government.
Funding Guidelines	CARB-developed guidance that applies to administering agencies in their implementation of California Climate Investments programs.
Program guidelines	Guidelines specific to individual programs, developed by administering agencies, that provide detailed requirements for applicants.
Priority populations	Priority populations include: disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households as defined in California Health and Safety Code §39711 and §39713(d).

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Funding Guidelines Update

Scope of Funding Guidelines Update

CARB released the initial Funding Guidelines in 2015 and first revised them in 2018. CARB is now updating the Funding Guidelines again to address recent legislation and incorporate lessons learned from program implementation since the last update. Updates fall into these areas:

1. **General Improvements:** In addition to implementing mandatory updates related to recent legislation, CARB updated the Funding Guidelines to clarify existing guidance, incorporate best practices and lessons learned from the 2018 Funding Guidelines, and support broader programmatic goals.
2. **Community Engagement:** The draft Funding Guidelines bolsters current recommendations to maximize benefits to priority populations and conduct direct, meaningful community engagement wherever possible.
3. **Expenditure Record Process:** The draft Funding Guidelines updates the expenditure record process to require administering agencies to post the expenditure records on their public website. CARB is also removing the attestation memo requirement.
4. **Tribal Engagement:** The draft Funding Guidelines contains new guidance for serving Tribes and Tribal communities through California Climate Investments.
5. **Workforce Development:** CARB, in coordination with the California Workforce Development Board, updated the Funding Guidelines to provide guidance on the inclusion of certain workforce standards pursuant to [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 680 \(Burke, Chapter 746, Statutes of 2021\)](#). The draft Funding Guidelines provide recommended guidance to uplift job quality in California Climate Investments, wherever possible.
6. **Reporting Timing and Frequency:** CARB requires administering agencies to report data related to California Climate Investments projects in order to track progress towards program goals and statutory requirements. The draft Funding Guidelines contain improvements to the reporting process to increase efficiency.
7. **Program and Project Evaluations:** CARB requires administering agencies to report on outcomes to support transparency goals. The draft Funding Guidelines bolster outcome reporting through the new program and project evaluation process.
8. **Appendices:** The draft Funding Guidelines includes three appendices that incorporate existing guidance related to CARB and CalEPA's updated priority populations designations, the [Senate Bill \(SB\) 27 \(Skinner, Chapter 237, Statutes of 2021\)](#) California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry, and reporting for programs that are no longer GGRF funded but whose projects otherwise meet GGRF requirements.

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In addition to these updates, California Climate Investments will launch online [Resource Portal](#) to house existing and new resources and tools to complement the Funding Guidelines. Designed with an array of audiences in mind, example resources may include promising practices guides or checklists, additional guidance on collecting and reporting project information, supporting materials for project design and implementation, project case studies, and more.

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