

## NewDEAL Climate Forum:

# How to Get and Use Infrastructure Funds for Climate Impact

Building upon the work of the NewDEAL Forum's Climate Policy Group, the NewDEAL is partnering with Third Way to promote how state and local officials can maximize climate benefits from funds and programs provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In a virtual forum to kick off this initiative, representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and other policy experts emphasized the role of local leaders in the rollout and implementation of the new funding. This document provides an overview of key programs and recommendations covered during the forum.

## Department of Energy Programs

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the most significant investment and expansion of DOE since its founding and will create 60 new programs to impact four key climate change efforts.

### Expand Access to Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy

— around \$5 billion to help states provide clean energy to households and schools while also increasing energy efficiency and ensuring affordability.

### Deliver Reliable, Clean, & Affordable Power

— over \$16 billion to upgrade and modernize the electric grid, making it more resilient to weather events and cyber attacks.

These programs will help communities access clean energy while also maintaining existing energy production efforts.

### Invest in American Manufacturing and Workers

— around \$750 million in workforce development investments to create new green jobs and provide training programs on the latest technology.

These programs will focus on preparing workers to work in domestic battery production and training workers to modernize the country's electric grid.

### Clean Energy Demonstrations

— almost \$22 billion for next-generation technology in clean energy.

The goal is to invest in large-scale demonstrations to help facilitate their advancement to market. There will be specific funding available for carbon capture, advanced nuclear, and investments in rural and economically hard-hit communities.

## Other Federal Funding Programs

Other key emission reduction & climate resilience funding opportunities can be found in the [White House guidebook](#) and include:

- **Carbon Reduction Formula Program** – \$6.42 billion to reduce transportation emissions by funding projects that provide transportation alternatives to single-occupant vehicle trips and requiring states to develop carbon reduction plans.
- **PROTECT Grant Program** - \$8.7 billion in formula and competitive grants for planning, resilience improvement, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.
- **Funds Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants** - \$3.5 billion in competitive grants to provide funding to state and local governments for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage.
- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program** - \$1 billion in funding to states and local governments to enhance the resilience of essential infrastructure.

## Ideas for Maximizing the Impact of Infrastructure Funds

### Look for Multiple Sources of Funding:

- Look across agencies and determine how various agencies can finance a project designed to address multiple issues. For example, layer financing for a road construction project using both transportation and environmental dollars to design the project to also capture stormwater runoff.

“We’ve been in the habit of downsizing projects to match available funds but the moment we’re in requires us to do the exact opposite. We need to stitch together multiple things to do something bigger than we’ve tried before. It takes stepping back, not feeling rushed, and asking who are we trying to serve, and does this add up to where we’re trying to go.”



**Dr. Shalini Vajjhala**

Executive Director, San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center

- Close funding gaps by seeking out other entities such as green banks, community-led banks, and philanthropies to make up the difference.

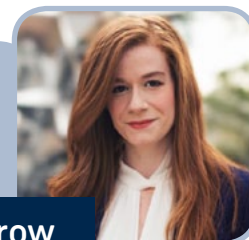
### Utilize Data and Information

- Be clear about who is being served by new infrastructure projects, not just focus on what can be built.
- Look at previous funding programs (i.e., CARES ACT expenditures) and where investments were made to effectively identify and target areas and communities in need of additional investments.

### Think Creatively, Think Bigger

- Work with local leaders to change the mindset to design projects that address the needs of the community instead of sizing them to the available funding.
- Empower leaders to be more vocal and proactive in seeking out new funding opportunities for large projects.
- Identify bottlenecks and develop long-term solutions that work on multiple systems and can sequentially unlock the potential for future projects, such as how a water delivery enhancement project can provide the necessary infrastructure for future housing developments that the completed infrastructure will provide.

“Individual communities have varying needs and I have been coaching all my municipalities on what types of projects to think about and how to ask for these dollars. The amount of available money is a new position to be in for many leaders, and [learning] to creatively go after it.”



**NewDEAL Leader Michigan Senator Mallory McMorrow**

**We encourage Leaders to use the resources provided here to help achieve the climate policy goals in their communities:**

- [Watch the full conversation here](#), including comments from Senator Mary Landrieu.
- Access the DOE’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview [PowerPoint presentation](#).
- DOE Regional Specialists, can provide technical assistance and are interested in hearing from community leaders about their needs: email [DL-regional specialists@hq.doe.gov](mailto:DL-regional specialists@hq.doe.gov)
- DOE’s [one stop resource](#) on programs and distribution updates
- The [White House guidebook](#) on different programs and funding opportunities