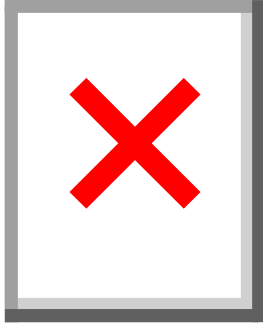


From: Climate Mayors
Sent: Dec 18, 2024 17:29:57.000000000 UTC
Subject: Climate Mayors' December Policy Newsletter
To: pbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org <pbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org>

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December 18, 2024

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December Policy Update: 2024 Year in Review

Congress Punts Federal Spending to the New Year:

Congressional leaders came to a compromise for an end-of-year government funding package ahead of the Friday night expiration of current funding.



The package includes \$100 billion for disaster aid and a three-month continuing resolution — which sets the new FY25 funding deal for March 14, 2025, when Republicans will control the Senate, House of Representatives, and the White House.

While year-end spending deal negotiations are nearing an end, Republicans are making ambitious legislative plans for Trump's second term. Senator Thune (the new Republican Majority Leader) expressed that confirming Trump's nominees will be one of the Senate's top priorities, along with passing a reconciliation package with border security and immigration enforcement within the first 100 days.

Thune also promised to end year-end spending negotiations and return to regular order when considering appropriations bills and the annual defense authorization bill.



Launching the Local Government Direct Pay Tracker +

Soliciting City Projects: This week, Climate Mayors launched with partners the [local government direct pay tracker](#) — which will track the uptake of Direct Pay (elective pay) by local governments. This initiative seeks to collect clean energy project data from local governments utilizing the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) clean energy tax credits via Direct Pay.

Tracking this data is essential and provides evidence for protecting these tax credits. The goal of the tracker is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the IRA's Direct Pay provision, enable cities to showcase their leadership in clean

energy deployment, and allow local governments to share their IRA success stories.

[Please click here to view the form and share your Direct Pay project information.](#)

[Climate Mayors EV Commitment](#): Earlier this year, to mark the two-year anniversary of the signing of the historic Inflation Reduction Act and in celebration of Climate Mayors 10-year anniversary, Climate Mayors announced our [#Electrify50 commitment](#).



Climate Mayors' most ambitious effort to date aims to collectively electrify 50% of municipal fleets by 2030 and increase EV charging infrastructure by 500% by 2035. With this commitment, the mayors will bring cleaner air and green jobs to their cities by supporting the growth of EVs, investing in infrastructure, increasing public charging stations, and accelerating fleet electrification. Read more [here](#).



NOAA and Climate Mayors Joined Forces: Earlier this year, Climate Mayors and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) announced a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) that advances collaborative efforts to help cities across the nation better prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

This MOU formalizes collaboration between NOAA and Climate Mayors to accelerate the use of climate information and expertise at the local level. The agreement will also ensure that NOAA's world-class climate science and tools are easy for local leaders across the country to access, understand, and use. By strengthening collaborative efforts between NOAA and Climate Mayors, mayors will have the resources they need to act on their commitment to take climate action in their communities. Read more [here](#).

Climate Mayors Policy Actions of 2025: Climate Mayors achieved 24 policy actions in 2024. Most notably:



- [415 mayors and councilmembers signing on to a letter](#) urging Congressional leadership to pass a clean, comprehensive disaster supplemental bill
- [75 mayors urging](#) the Environmental Protection Agency for strong heavy-duty vehicle phase 3 rules

- The Treasury acknowledged and accepted [key recommendations](#) from the elective pay feedback letter from 50 mayors

Additionally, Climate Mayors held 9 total round table and in-person forums. A couple of notable events included:

- In March, Climate Mayors convened over 40 mayors at Aspen Ideas in Miami Beach, Florida for our annual leadership forum. The forum included federal, public, and private partners who will help mayors deliver on investments from the IRA and BIL.
- During NYC Climate Week, Climate Mayors convened National and Community Greenhouse Gas Fund awardees to discuss how cities can take advantage of green financing through the fund.



Climate Mayors launched regional, topical, and communication cohorts:

- **Western Water Security Cohort:** Climate Mayors launched this regional cohort of cities in the West with Mayor Gallego and Mayor Mendenhall as co-chairs. Since June, the cohort has organized three mayoral meetings and launched a technical advisory committee. The meetings focused on aridification, water-housing nexus, and net-zero water goals. The regional cohort is also working to develop federal recommendations for a national water security policy agenda.
- **Zero Emissions Delivery Zone cohort:** In 2024, Climate Mayors supported the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) launch of the Zero Emissions Delivery Zone cohort which includes: Santa Monica, Los Angeles, New York City, Washington D.C., Louisville, Portland, Pittsburgh, Miami-Dade, and Oakland. This cohort will support zero emissions pilots and deliver a multi-pronged approach to achieve zero emission delivery zones such as: electrification solutions, mode shift and behavior changes, and real estate and land use planning.
- **Public Safety Communication Working Group:** Climate Mayors launched a communications working group for mayors and staff about the connection between public safety and climate. Climate Mayors hosted five working group sessions providing mayors and city staff messaging guidance, customizable resources, and feedback on challenges and successes

around communicating climate action. Members interested in learning more about the working group can reach out to rachel@climate-mayors.org.

Climate Mayors Plans for 2025

2025 Regional, Topical, and Communication Cohorts | Climate Mayors will launch a second communications cohort focused on Climate, Affordability, and Prosperity on December 18, 2024, and an additional regional cohort focused on energy justice and a topical cohort focused on extreme heat. Stay tuned!

Climate Mayors Virtual Leadership Press & Members Call | January 6 | 1:30 - 2:00 PM ET | Please join us for a members and press meeting. Climate Mayors will kick off the new year by welcoming a new leadership team and highlighting 2025 goals and priorities. There will also be time for Q&A with the press. Register for the meeting [here](#).

Mayoral Reception at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Netherlands | January 17 | 7 - 9 PM ET | Please join Climate Mayors, The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, C40 Cities, and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for a reception sponsored by Sustainable Cities Fund on Friday, January 17th from 7-9 pm at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Washington D.C. (2347 S St. NW Washington, D.C., DC 20008). Invitation to this event is limited and is not transferrable. Register [here](#).

Climate Mayors Leadership Forum in Miami Beach | March 23 - 24, 2025 | Please save the date for the Climate Mayors Leadership Forum from March 22-23, 2025 in conjunction with the Climate365/Infrastructure Matters Conference in Miami Beach, FL. Register your interest [here](#).

Grant Opportunities & Resources

Climate Mayors is tracking relevant IRA and BIL funding opportunities available to local governments. Below is a list of recent federal funding announcements and grants that will close in December and January. The full list of grant opportunities and resources can be found [here](#) (PDF) and [is now available on our website](#) (updated monthly).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- **GRANT: [Clean School Bus Program Rebates](#)** | The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes the EPA to offer rebates to replace existing school buses

with clean and zero-emission models. You can find more information [here](#).

Deadline: January 9, 2025

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (NOAA)

- **GRANT:** Coastal Zone Management Grants | NOAA has made available \$45 million in funding for projects that will advance [coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities](#). **Deadline: January 9, 2025.** You can find more information [here](#).
- **GRANT:** [Center for Heat Resilient Communities](#) (CHRC) launched the application period for communities across the U.S. to develop Heat Resilience Roadmaps. Funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, up to 10 selected communities will receive \$10,000 and technical assistance to help determine and communicate the impacts of extreme heat in their communities, assess their capacity to respond, and design a locally tailored blueprint for heat resilience. **Deadline: January 24th, 2025.** You can find more information [here](#).
- **RESOURCE:** [NOAA IRA and BIL Explorer](#): The Explorer contains more than three years of data on grants and cooperative agreements implemented by NOAA to help communities across the country enhance their resilience to climate change, restore coastal and marine habitats, improve public safety, and create jobs. Users can filter award data by state, program, and funding source for more than 900 awards that total \$3.2 billion combined appropriations to NOAA.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- **GRANT:** [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Program](#). For projects that seek to strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, heat waves, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience, and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. **Deadline: February 24, 2025.**

Partnership Bulletin

[Climate Power Post-Election Talking Points: The Clean Energy Boom Is Here To Stay](#) | Manufacturing is coming back to the United States and cleaner energy options are becoming cheaper every day. There are more than 330,000 new clean energy jobs in communities all across the country, the majority of which are in Republican states and districts, and in places that often have been left behind—the exact communities that Donald Trump has promised to support. Millions of families

also are saving money by taking advantage of tax credits to lower their utility bills. You can find more talking points [here](#).

[Bloomberg Mayors Challenge](#) | A competition that calls on mayors to work with residents and entrepreneurs to radically reimagine their most essential municipal services, from public transportation to waste management to housing to emergency response and more. Cities with 100,000 residents or more can apply. Fifty finalists will receive \$50,000 and participate in an Ideas Camp to hone, model, and test their concepts. In October 2025, the 25 cities with the most inventive ideas will each be awarded \$1 million and operational assistance to put their ideas into action. Deadline: December 20, 2024.

[Climate Smart Communities Initiative \(CSCI\)](#) | The CSCI is now accepting applications for grants to help communities across the country accelerate their climate resilience plans and projects, with an emphasis on assisting communities that are on the front lines of the climate crisis. The grants can help small to midsize communities at any step in the planning process, and include funding, as well as training and technical support. The funding, anticipated at \$100,000 per award, can be used over a twelve-month period to advance activities ranging from risk assessments and community engagement to project prioritization and initial implementation.

Climate News

The best clean energy stories of 2024:

- [Minneapolis solar nonprofit is proving patience can bring results to lower-income residents](#): Solar entrepreneur Ralph Jacobson “hardly ever had Black customers or Black subcontractors” in his three-decade career. His new nonprofit, Solstar, aims to change that.
- [Illinois program’s ‘wraparound’ approach helps formerly incarcerated people land solar industry jobs](#): The Renewing Sovereignty Project provides job training and financial and social support to help guide “returning citizens” into the growing solar industry.
- [This disaster relief nonprofit is pioneering a clean energy alternative to noisy, polluting generators](#): The Footprint Project wants to create a solar-powered microgrid “lending library” to deploy during disaster recovery efforts to reduce reliance on generators, which increase air pollution and are costly to run.

Please email Rachel Paris (rachel@climate-mayors.org) if you have any announcements or actions you would like included in future newsletters or on social



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As a member of Climate Mayors you will receive regular updates from staff.

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