IFA
ILLINOIS FINANCE AUTHORITY
Illinois Climate Bank

Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots Plan

Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

November 4, 2025

Background

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) authorized U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, allocating $5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and execute ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants.

In March 2024, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) submitted its Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), followed by the Illinois State Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Application. As a result, in July 2024, the EPA awarded Illinois $430 million under CPRG to support emissions reductions across five key sectors: clean buildings, clean freight, clean agriculture, clean industry, and clean power.

The Illinois Finance Authority (IFA)/Illinois Climate Bank (CB) received a subaward of $137 million to implement several initiatives as outlined in the grant agreement between the U.S. EPA and IL EPA. These initiatives include:

- Task 1.1: Clean Building Catalyst Fund
- Task 1.6: Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots
- Task 1.7: Stretch Building Code Adoption
- Task 2.1: Heavy-Duty Vehicle Charging
- Task 2.3: Zero-Emissions On-Road and Off-Road Vehicles
- Task 5.2: Small Utility Clean Energy Planning

Program Context

The Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program is designed to accelerate the deployment of community scale geothermal energy systems. These systems are intended to serve multiple buildings or clusters of homes rather than individual buildings or campuses. The program emphasizes projects that demonstrate measurable greenhouse gas reduction, and specifically, this initiative aims to:

- Reduce carbon pollution by 15,099 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent (mt CO_2e) by 2030,
- Achieve cumulative reductions of 128,562 mt CO_2e by 2050, and
- Serve 1,100 Illinois households with community geothermal systems by 2030.

Through a two-phase approach consisting of Phase One Planning Grants and Phase Two Pilot and Project Deployments, the IFA/CB will fund planning, design, and construction of community scale geothermal systems that demonstrate replicable, cost effective, and community driven models for decarbonized community or shared geothermal systems.

This Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots Plan will serve as the guiding framework for launching this initiative. It will define the scope and scale of eligible projects, the solicitation process, geographic and other priorities, requirements for community engagement and workforce participation, consumer protection provisions, and the reporting and accountability mechanisms necessary to track annual targets and outcomes.

The program will be funded through a total allocation of fifteen million dollars ($15,000,000) from the Illinois Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, administered by the IFA/CB.

Stakeholder Input and RFI Process

To inform development of this plan, the Illinois Finance Authority/Illinois Climate Bank (IFA/CB) issued a Request for Information (RFI) in July 2025 seeking input from stakeholders on the preliminary design framework for the Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots Program. The RFI included a draft outline of the program's structure and key questions to guide feedback on elements such as funding approach, community engagement, workforce participation, and geographic prioritization.

Responses were accepted through September 22, 2025, and included input from a broad range of stakeholders.

All feedback received through this process was reviewed and considered in the development of this plan and helped ensure that the final program framework reflects diverse perspectives.

Program Design

The following section outlines how the Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program will be structured, funded, and implemented. The program is designed to balance innovation and feasibility while ensuring that projects achieve measurable environmental and community benefits.

Program Structure and Funding Approach

The program will be implemented in two sequential phases that align with project readiness and are structured to advance community centered development and measurable greenhouse gas reductions consistent with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant goals.

Phase One: Planning Grants

Phase One will support planning and design activities for projects that have already begun predevelopment activities and can demonstrate early progress toward community scale geothermal deployment. This phase is not intended to fund ideas or purely conceptual proposals that have not identified communities or begun community engagement. Funding for Phase One is limited to planning and design activities and will not fund any construction or deployment work. Instead, it will assist projects that have established a foundation for implementation and are ready to advance toward deployment through additional technical, financial, or community readiness support.

Award Range. Awards are expected to range from one hundred thousand to two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($100,000-$250,000) per project, depending on size and scope. Approximately one million dollars ($1,000,000) of the total program budget will be allocated to this phase, supporting an estimated four to six planning projects. Each project selected under Phase One will have twelve months from the date of grant agreement to complete the planning phase and submit a final project plan.

Deliverables. The outcome of Phase One is a complete and actionable Community Geothermal Project Plan. Each funded project must provide and report on the key elements outlined in the Reporting

Template (Attachment A). These required components of the community geothermal project plan include but are not limited to:

- Site footprint with details of building stock.
- Pre-construction and construction budget.
- Construction timeframe.
- Mechanical and civil drawings.
- Technical engineering report.
- Permitting plan.
- Outreach and marketing pathway to gain customer commitments.
- Pro-forma financials for system ownership over a twenty year period.
- Ownership structure description.
- Estimate of customer bill savings in a typical participating residence, including the role of weatherization and other incentives.
- Plan to comply with federal requirements, including Davis Bacon and Related Acts, Build America Buy America, and other applicable construction requirements.
- Plan to engage with and employ apprentices from registered apprenticeship programs.
- The system's expected Coefficient of Performance, including blower and loop pump power.
- The number of buildings (by building type) to be connected to the system.
- The estimated square footage of the buildings (by building type) to be connected to the system.

Eligible Activities. Eligible activities under this phase may include planning, feasibility analysis, detailed engineering and design, cost estimation, and financial modeling, as well as environmental and site assessments and community engagement processes that demonstrate meaningful participation and local support.

Qualified Projects. While funding for Phase Two is not guaranteed for Phase One planning efforts, only planning efforts that can lead to an eligible Phase Two project will be funded in Phase One.

Phase Two: Pilot and Project Deployments

Phase Two will fund the construction and deployment of community geothermal projects that are ready, or nearly ready, to begin construction and installation. This phase is intended to demonstrate replicable community scale geothermal models that achieve measurable greenhouse gas reductions and tangible community benefits.

Award Range. Funding under Phase Two will be awarded through a competitive solicitation process. Awards are expected to range from one million to five million dollars ($1,000,000-$5,000,000) per project, depending on size, scale, and community impact. Projects must be fully prepared for construction at the time of application, with engineering, permitting, financial, and community engagement activities substantially complete.

Community Scale. The program seeks projects that reflect a true community focus and are designed to serve multiple buildings or customers within a defined neighborhood or census block. Preference will be given to projects that include multifamily residential buildings, mixed income housing, and other community serving properties such as schools, libraries, or small commercial corridors that collectively demonstrate community scale impact.

Project Footprint. Projects must demonstrate a minimum overall customer base of roughly 100 households or equivalent customer units within the project footprint. This floor is intended to ensure that projects reflect true community scale; however, the program seeks to fund projects that secure commitments and ultimately serve substantially larger portions of the neighborhood or census block.

Minimum Household Commitment. To qualify for funding, applicants must show that buildings representing at least twenty-five percent (25%) of households within the defined neighborhood or census block footprint are formally committed to participate at the time of application. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of these customer commitments, such as letters of intent, subscription agreements, or other formal documentation of participation.

Replicable Models. Projects funded under Phase Two must demonstrate that they represent replicable models that can be scaled or adapted across Illinois. The program is intended to fill financial and structural gaps that cannot be addressed through existing tax credits, utility rebates, or state and federal incentive programs. Therefore, funding will prioritize projects that otherwise could not proceed using traditional financing mechanisms or entity structures alone. Campuses or single owner developments that can already be financed solely through tax credits or energy savings, and owned or controlled by a single entity will not be prioritized for funding.

Leveraging Additional Funding. Applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage available state, federal, and utility incentives to strengthen overall project financing. However, projects must ensure that greenhouse gas reductions are not double counted across multiple funding sources. All GHG emissions reductions associated with the geothermal system must be attributable to this initiative and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Phase Two funding is not expected to cover all project costs. Applicants must demonstrate a robust and clearly defined financing plan and ownership structure that supports long term system operation and maintenance. The program seeks to fund projects that advance innovative and replicable ownership and financing models capable of expanding access to community geothermal systems across Illinois.

Technologies. All projects must include geothermal technologies as the primary energy source for heating and cooling. Systems that rely on fossil fuel combustion or other emitting energy sources will not be eligible. Hybrid designs are permitted only if geothermal remains the central thermal source.

Reporting. Each Phase Two awardee will be required to provide and report on all metrics outlined in the Pilot Phase Reporting Template (Attachment B), which includes technical, financial, and performance tracking elements such as:

- Number of buildings (and building type) connected to the system
- Square footage of buildings (and building type) connected to the system
- Total number of heat pumps
- Gross expected and actual tonnage of connected heat pump
- Total expected and actual therms of the system
- Total project construction cost
- The system's Coefficient of Performance, including blower and loop pump power.
- Actual annual gas usage of buildings being connected to the system

Phase Two projects are expected to represent the most advanced stage of community geothermal readiness, providing visible and measurable demonstrations of how community geothermal can reduce emissions, stabilize household energy costs, and build community resilience.

Competitive Solicitation and Evaluation

Both Phase One and Phase Two of the Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program will be administered through competitive solicitation processes. Each round will be evaluated based on criteria outlined in this plan, including technical readiness, community engagement, financial feasibility, alignment with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant goals of community centered emissions reductions, and other categories decided by IFA/CB.

Receiving a Phase One award does not guarantee selection for Phase Two funding. However, applicants interested in pursuing both phases should use the planning period to develop a complete project plan that positions them for a strong Phase Two application.

The final project plan developed under Phase One should include all documentation, design, and community engagement elements necessary to meet Phase Two readiness requirements and to score highly during the Phase Two competitive review. This plan should also include a preliminary customer participation strategy that demonstrates community scale feasibility, including evidence that the project can meet the minimum footprint requirement and the twenty five percent (25%) participation threshold within the defined neighborhood or census block.

Projects that demonstrate robust community support, clear emissions reduction potential, financial and technical feasibility, and compliance readiness will be most competitive for future deployment funding. Evaluation will also consider the project's contribution to equitable geographic distribution, innovation in financing or ownership structures, and replicability across other Illinois communities.

Program Schedule

IFA/CB proposes the following timeline for the Community Geothermal Planning + Pilots Program.

- **Fall/Winter 2025**: Competitive solicitation and award of Phase One Planning Grants
- **Winter 2026**: Competitive solicitation and award for Phase Two Pilot and Project Deployment Grants
- **2027 and Beyond:** Additional funding rounds based on resource availability and program performance

Project Eligibility and Design Criteria

Scope and Scale of Community Geothermal Projects

Projects funded through this program under both Phase One and Phase Two must be geothermal-based systems that serve multiple residential buildings or clusters of single family and multifamily housing, and may also include commercial or community-serving buildings located within the same defined geographic footprint, such as a neighborhood, census block, or adjacent city block area. The program's primary focus is on residential customers, with a preference for multifamily housing developments or mixed residential blocks that integrate adjacent commercial or public buildings that contribute to overall community-scale benefit.

Projects must demonstrate a minimum overall customer base of roughly 100 households or equivalent customer units within the project footprint.

Projects that rely on fossil fuel combustion or other emitting energy sources will not be eligible for funding. Geothermal must serve as the primary thermal energy source for heating and cooling, although hybrid systems may be considered if the geothermal portion remains central to system operation.

Eligible projects should demonstrate:

- A clear community scale design that connects multiple residential or mixed use buildings across one or more neighborhoods or census block(s).
- Measurable greenhouse gas reductions and avoided energy consumption.
- Alignment with complementary funding streams such as federal tax credits, state programs, or utility incentives, without double counting emissions reductions.
- Replicable financing and ownership structures that can serve as models for future community geothermal deployments.
- Evidence of a community participation threshold of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of households or customers within the project's neighborhood or census-block footprint as committed or actively engaged in planning and development.
- Evidence of a minimum customer base and household participation consistent with the thresholds described in the Phase Two: Pilot and Project Deployments section.
- The projected heating and cooling costs for end users is not greater than the projected heating and cooling costs the end users would have incurred if the end users had not participated in the program, taking into account scenarios where projects enhance comfort and safety for customers through expanded access to affordable heating and cooling.

Prioritized Geographies and Regions

In alignment with the equity and environmental justice goals of both the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) and the Illinois Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), IFA/ICB intends to prioritize funding for projects located in communities that have historically faced disproportionate environmental and economic burdens. Geographic targeting will be a key component of program design to ensure that program benefits are directed to areas most in need of investment and resilience.

Priority will be given to projects located in one or more census tracts designated as Equity Investment Eligible Communities (EIECs) under CEJA.

Projects may also receive higher scoring if they are located in communities or census blocks with leak-prone or aging gas distribution infrastructure. Applicants who can demonstrate that their project will directly replace or offset the need for repairs or reinvestment in such gas systems will be prioritized for funding consideration.

Both Phase One and Phase Two applicants are encouraged to align their project footprints with these priority areas. Geographic equity will be considered as part of the overall evaluation to ensure funding reaches communities that have historically faced higher energy costs and infrastructure risks.

Community Engagement and Community Planning

Community engagement is central to the design and success of the Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program. To be attractive to residents, who are the system's potential customers, projects must be developed with and for the communities they serve, using a planning process that reflects local priorities and builds trust throughout all phases of implementation.

During Phase One, applicants must demonstrate that community engagement has already begun and that local input has directly informed site selection, system design, or participation strategy. Engagement activities may include neighborhood meetings, resident surveys, workshops, or partnerships with local governments, housing authorities, community-based organizations, and neighborhood associations. Applicants must provide documentation such as letters of support, partnership agreements, or meeting summaries that reflect authentic community participation and demonstrate interest in the proposed project area, which should align with a defined census block or neighborhood footprint.

During Phase Two, applicants must show that at least twenty five percent (25 %) of households or equivalent customer units within the defined neighborhood or census block footprint are formally committed to participate in the community geothermal system at the time of application. This commitment must be based on a project footprint that includes a minimum overall customer base of roughly 100 households or equivalent units. Applicants should also demonstrate a clear plan for expanding participation beyond that threshold during and after construction. Evidence of customer commitments such as signed participation agreements, subscription forms, or letters of intent will be required and verified by IFA/CB.

Community engagement must continue throughout construction, commissioning, and long-term system operation. Successful projects will maintain transparent, ongoing communication with residents and partners, including updates on project milestones, billing and participation information, and system performance. Post-construction engagement should also include opportunities for resident feedback, education on geothermal system use and benefits, and participation in ongoing monitoring or performance review.

Through this approach, the program emphasizes that true community geothermal systems are not defined solely by infrastructure but by active participation from the people who live and work within the neighborhood or census block the system serves.

Workforce and Contractor Requirements

Prevailing wage

All construction activities funded under the Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program must comply with prevailing wage requirements. Projects are required to pay the higher of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act rates or the federal Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) rates, as applicable to each trade classification and county where work is performed.

Prevailing wage requirements apply to all laborers and mechanics engaged in construction, alteration, installation, or repair of project facilities funded in whole or in part with program funds. This includes work associated with boreholes, trenching, drilling, piping, mechanical systems, and other site infrastructure activities. The IFA/CB may procure and provide approved systems or platforms for projects to use in tracking and verifying wage compliance. Alternatively, awarded projects may be required to utilize their own systems to track and report specific wage items in accordance with federal requirements and to meet audit and documentation purposes.

Project Labor Agreements

For projects with a thermal capacity greater than one-half megawatt or approximately 142 tons, IFA/ICB will require the execution of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) prior to the start of construction. PLAs are collective agreements between project owners and labor organizations that establish terms and conditions of employment for construction work. They are designed to ensure timely project delivery, promote workplace safety, and maintain stable labor-management relationships on complex infrastructure projects.

The PLA requirement applies to construction-related activities, including trenching, drilling, piping, borehole installation, and other system infrastructure work associated with the geothermal system. This requirement does not apply to behind-the-meter activities, such as in-home HVAC replacement, appliance installation, or weatherization upgrades.

During the Phase Two application stage, applicants with projects that meet the PLA threshold must provide evidence of a Project Labor Agreement being established prior to construction. IFA/ICB will review this information as part of the application evaluation to confirm that applicants have engaged or intend to engage with relevant labor organizations and that the proposed approach aligns with state and federal labor standards.

IFA/ICB encourages applicants to begin early coordination with labor representatives to facilitate PLA development that supports project schedules and ensures consistency with prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements

Labor peace agreement

An entity operating a project shall demonstrate that it has entered into a labor peace agreement with a bona fide labor organization that is actively engaged in representing its employees. The labor peace agreement shall apply to the employees necessary for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the

community geothermal system. The existence of a labor peace agreement shall be an ongoing material condition of an entity's authorization to maintain and operate the project.

Apprenticeship Requirements

To support a strong and inclusive clean energy workforce, projects funded under Phase Two must demonstrate integration of apprenticeship opportunities within their construction activities. Applicants are expected to partner with registered apprenticeship programs. Early coordination with labor organizations, training providers, and workforce intermediaries is strongly encouraged to ensure meaningful participation and compliance with applicable labor standards.

IFA/ICB will use an apprenticeship participation goal of approximately ten percent (10%) of total labor hours in each prevailing wage classification as an initial guide for program implementation. This guideline is intended to promote consistent participation of apprentices while additional consultation occurs.

IFA/ICB will work with stakeholders, labor organizations, and participating entities to further refine apprenticeship expectations and identify the resources and support needed to help companies meet these goals. Final apprenticeship requirements and related guidance may be updated in future program documents based on this collaboration and the evolving needs of the industry.

As part of the Phase Two application, applicants must describe their approach to meeting apprenticeship and workforce participation goals, including the number of apprentices expected to be employed, partner organizations, and the duration and scope of on-the-job training. This information will be reviewed as part of the competitive evaluation and must be updated prior to construction once final program guidance is established.

Consumer Protections

Effective consumer protections are essential to ensure residents can trust that the community geothermal system will deliver reliable service and address their needs. Clear communication, transparent terms, and accessible support help build that trust. Strong safeguards also prevent fraud and misleading claims, protecting both residents and the integrity of the program.

Phase One Planning and Phase Two Pilot grantees will be expected to adhere to a forthcoming set of Community Geothermal Consumer Protection guidelines. These guidelines will draw heavily from the Illinois Solar for All Consumer Protection Handbook and will detail program requirements for community geothermal providers in their relationships with Illinois residents. These will include requirements for:

- Statements about customer savings and the nature of the offers made by community geothermal pilot providers,
- Representations about identity and affiliates,
- Use of testimonials,
- Compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules, and guidance,
- Requirements for various marketing channels,
- Requirements for language used in solicitations,

- Claims related to environmental attributes,
- Standard disclosure forms and requirements for contract execution,
- Substantive requirements for program offers, including insurance and maintenance and delayed billing notices and payment plans,
- Sales agent training,
- Customer data privacy provisions,
- Customer complaints, subgrantee and contractor management, and disciplinary determinations and process, and
- The obligation to restore heating and cooling.

Phase One Planning and Phase Pilot program applicants should describe how they intend to put the requirements described in the Handbook into practice in the context of their community geothermal project.

Renter Benefits

To ensure that participation in community geothermal pilots delivers equitable benefits and does not adversely affect renters in connected buildings, proposals must clearly describe how program participation will provide direct or indirect benefits to tenants, including those who pay for energy through their rent.

In most cases, the geothermal project entity contracted with IFA/ICB will enter into agreements with building owners to connect their properties to the community geothermal system. It is the responsibility of both the geothermal project entity and participating building owners to ensure that tenant households share in the benefits of the program and are not disadvantaged as a result of participation.

Owners of buildings that house low- or moderate-income tenants will be required to commit, prior to connection, not to increase rents as a direct result of participation in the community geothermal system. As part of the contracting and subscription process, IFA/ICB will review agreements between the geothermal project entity and building owners, as well as any associated customer participation contracts, to confirm that commitments regarding tenant protections and benefit-sharing are clearly stated. IFA/ICB may also request attestations from building owners confirming that any rent increases are unrelated to participation in the community geothermal pilot.

In the event that heat or electricity is included in rent, IFA/ICB will request and retain the right to review rental agreements to ensure that cost savings or bill neutrality requirements, as outlined in the Bill Savings section, are being appropriately passed through to tenants.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have established reasonable policies and transparency measures to ensure that benefits flow equitably to tenants and that rent adjustments are not directly tied to program participation. Applicants should describe how renters will receive a fair share of energy cost savings and non-energy benefits, such as improved comfort, building performance, and indoor air quality.

IFA/ICB may review these proposed approaches during the application and contracting process to ensure that projects are designed to equitably distribute benefits and maintain affordability for participating renters.

Contract Review

To ensure that customers and participants are treated fairly and transparently, and that all program requirements are met, Phase One Planning and Phase Two Pilot grantees must submit draft or executed subscription, participation, and building owner agreements to the Illinois Finance Authority and Illinois Climate Bank for review.

This includes agreements between the geothermal project entity and building owners, as well as any template contracts or subscription documents with individual customers participating in the geothermal system. IFA/CB will review these materials to ensure that:

- Terms are clear, transparent, and consistent with the Community Geothermal Consumer Protection Handbook (Attachment C);
- Participant and building owner responsibilities are well defined;
- Commitments regarding customer and tenant protections, including rent-related attestations where applicable, are reflected; and
- Agreements align with the program's objectives and comply with applicable state, federal, and programmatic requirements.

Because Phase Two applicants must demonstrate that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of customers within the project footprint are committed to participate at the time of application, IFA/CB recognizes that some agreements may already be executed prior to review. In such cases, IFA/CB reserves the right to request modifications or amendments to executed contracts that are not consistent with program, state, or federal requirements or that do not meet minimum consumer protection and transparency standards.

Bill Savings

One of the core objectives of the program is to ensure that participation in a community geothermal system results in no increase in total household energy costs, and preferably a measurable reduction in bills.

Phase Two applicants must demonstrate through their financial models and/or customer contracts that overall energy costs for customers will remain neutral or decrease, taking into account scenarios where projects enhance comfort and safety for customers through expanded access to affordable heating and cooling. The analysis should include the significant reduction of gas service charges, where applicable; expected changes in electricity usage; and the role of complementary investments such as weatherization or efficiency improvements.

Projects must provide an estimate of average customer bill savings for a typical participating household and explain the assumptions behind those estimates. Projects may, if applicable, propose methods to account for enhanced comfort and safety through expanded access to affordable heating and cooling.

Targets, Metrics, and Reporting Mechanisms

Grantees will report using Attachment A (Phase One Reporting Template) or Attachment B (Pilot and Project Deployment Reporting Template) as applicable to their award. These templates identify the specific data elements required for each project phase, including technical, financial, and community performance indicators. Data collected by grantees may update or change over time. Reporting will be completed either directly through the Amplifund grant management system or through an Excel-based reporting template provided by the IFA/CB.

The key reporting areas are summarized in this plan and detailed further in the Phase One: Planning Grants and Phase Two: Pilot and Project Deployments sections. Each funded project will be expected to submit data in some or all of the following categories:

- Project Stage: The stage of development of the project;
- Technical Performance: Installed system capacity, coefficient of performance (COP), system operating characteristics, energy savings and fuel savings, and energy consumption.
- Buildings and Customers Served: Number, type, and square footage of connected buildings, including the proportion of residential, multifamily, and community serving facilities.
- Emissions Reductions: Greenhouse gas reductions and avoided energy use measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) and British thermal units (BTUs).
- Financial and Economic Impact: Total project cost, leveraged funding sources, and demonstrated bill savings for participating households.
- Workforce Participation: Compliance with prevailing wage, participation of apprentices, and local contractor or labor organization engagement. The number of jobs retained or created by the project.
- Community Engagement: Ongoing communication, outreach, and documentation of resident or partner participation throughout planning, construction, and operation.
- Compliance Tracking: Documentation of adherence to federal and state requirements, including DBRA, BABA,, and environmental cross-cutting statutes.
- Barriers: A description of barriers to development of the project.

All grantees will be required to report semi-annually for the duration of their grant term. Phase One Planning Grant recipients will submit semi-annual progress reports and a final report at the conclusion of the twelve-month planning period that includes all required deliverables and project materials outlined in Attachment A. Phase Two Pilot and Project Deployment recipients will also submit semi-annual reports through September 2029 including the information outlined in Attachment B, providing updates on construction progress, system performance, emissions reductions, community engagement, and compliance with program requirements.

The IFA/CB will compile reported data to measure statewide progress toward the CPRG program goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15,099 metric tons by 2030, achieving cumulative reductions of 128,562 metric tons by 2050, and serving at least 1,100 Illinois households with community geothermal systems by 2030.

All reporting will be reviewed for completeness, consistency, and compliance with program requirements. IFA/CB may request additional documentation or clarification as needed to verify data accuracy and ensure that funded projects are contributing to the program's measurable community and emissions-reduction outcomes.

Federal and State Compliance Requirements

All projects funded under the Community Geothermal Planning and Pilots program must comply with applicable federal and state requirements. Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of and ability to comply with the following federal and state requirements:

- Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA): All laborers and mechanics employed for construction, alteration, or repair must be paid no less than the prevailing wage rates established by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Illinois Prevailing Wage Act: All projects must pay the higher of the state or federal prevailing wage rates, as applicable to the project location and trade classification.
- Build America, Buy America (BABA): All iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in funded projects must comply with domestic content requirements, unless a waiver has been granted by the Illinois Finance Authority or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Illinois Works: Projects estimated to cost $500,000 or more must align with Illinois Works Apprenticeship goal to expand access to construction careers for historically underrepresented populations through registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. The Apprenticeship Goal provides that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less, and that at least 50% of the Apprenticeship Goal shall be performed by graduates of the Illinois Works Pre-apprenticeship program, the Illinois Climate Works Pre-apprenticeship Program, or the Highway Construction Careers Training Program
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): Projects must identify and protect historic and cultural resources that may be affected by construction activities, in consultation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office.
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act: Projects must avoid or properly manage impacts to archaeological or historic sites that may be discovered during project development.
- Endangered Species Act (50 CFR Part 402): Projects must assess potential impacts on federally listed species or critical habitats and coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service as appropriate.
- Farmland Protection Policy Act: Projects must avoid or minimize the conversion of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses.
- Coastal Zone Management Act: Projects located within Illinois' designated coastal zone must demonstrate consistency with the Illinois Coastal Management Program.
- Other Applicable Federal or State Requirements: Additional cross-cutting requirements may apply as specified in program guidance or through the grant agreement.

Applicants are required to include a Compliance Plan, as described in Attachment B, within their Phase 2 application that describes how these requirements will be met and documented. The IFA/CB may issue supplemental guidance, templates, and tracking tools to support compliance and audit readiness.

ATTACHMENT A: COMMUNITY GEOTHERMAL PHASE ONE REPORTING TEMPLATE

Community Geothermal Planning Grant – Semi-Annual Reporting Template
This document collects information needed to report on your grant's milestones and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. The spreadsheets use drop-downs and limitations on the data that can be entered to help ensure accurate reporting. If you feel you need to report information that is not requested in the spreadsheet, please include a narrative attachment when filing on Amplifund. If at all possible, though, **please enter all reporting information into this Excel workbook, which is mandatory.** This Excel workbook contains hidden and locked spreadsheets, rows and columns, which cause discontinuous row or column numbers. Do not be concerned about these "missing" rows and columns.

Instructions:					
Please fill out every cell that is highlighted in blue.					
If you have questions, please contact:	Enter IFA contact information here.				

Instructions: Grantees complete all blue cells.			
Grantee Name	Grantee 1		
Reporting Period:			
CPRG PROGRAMMATIC METRICS TABLE			

Metric	Response Type	Response	Notes
# of community engagement activities (this period)	Number		
Total attendees across activities (not unique)	Number		
Categories of Attendees: Government, Nonprofits, For-profits, Universities, or the Public. *You may enter more than one*.	List		
Types of activities conducted: Workshop, Public meeting, Online survey, Stakeholder roundtable, Builder outreach, or Other. *You may enter more than one*.	List		
How was the activity publicized: Website, Newsletter, Email, or Other. *You may enter more than one.*	List		
How was community input incorporated into the project?	Short text		
What are some challenges, successes, and lessons from this reporting period that you can share.	Short text		
If the project resulted in or will result in the creation of high-quality jobs and/or new workforce training opportunities, please describe the progress toward achieving these outcomes. Grantees may consider reporting on quantitative information if possible, such as the number of jobs created, the number of people trained, and the number of participants in registered apprenticeship programs that worked on your project(s). Additional details, such as further elaboration on training programs, measures taken to increase the availability of domestic manufacturing and workforce, and/or relevant status updates or changes are also encouraged.	Short text		
Please describe and quantify, if possible, any other benefits resulting from this project.	Short text		
Personnel Changes / Staff Turnover: Any major changes in project personnel, including those from coalition members?	Dropdown		List changes in notes

Environmental Risks: Have any environmental risks been identified? If so, what strategies have you implemented for mitigating these risks?	Dropdown		
Climate Resiliency Planning: Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of any climate resiliency planning, siting, design, and operation of the project.	Short text		
Project Progress: Is your project on schedule based on the schedule in your workplan? If progress is slower than anticipated, please explain why, what challenges or difficulties were encountered, and how these barriers will be overcome.	Short text		

COMMUNITY GEOTHERMAL ADOPTION SUBPROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC METRICS TABLE			
Is your Community Geothermal Project Plan complete?	Dropdown		
Date of Plan Completion	Date		
List the Census GEOIDs (11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code) of the planned project footprint:	Short text		
Status of the elements of a completed plan:			
Site footprint with details of building stock	Dropdown		
Pre-construction and construction budget	Dropdown		
Construction timeframe	Dropdown		
Mechanical drawings	Dropdown		
Civil drawings	Dropdown		
Technical engineering report (template from IFA)	Dropdown		
Permitting plan	Dropdown		
Outreach and marketing pathway to gain customer commitments	Dropdown		
Pro-forma financials for system ownership over a 20 year period	Dropdown		
Ownership structure description	Dropdown		

Estimate of customer bill savings in typical system-attached residence, showing role of weatherization and other incentives	Dropdown		
Plan to comply with federal requirements, including DBRA, BABA, and other relevant requirements for construction projects.	Dropdown		
Plan to engage with and employ apprentices from registered apprenticeship programs	Dropdown		
If the Plan is complete, enter the system's Coefficient of Performance (COP), including the blower and loop pump power.	Number		
If the Plan is complete, enter the system's total expected cost to construct:	Number		
Has the planned system been constructed? If yes:	Dropdown		
Date of System Completion:	Date		
How many buildings are connected to the system?	Number		
What is the square footage of buildings connected to the system?	Number		
Total number of connected heat pumps	Number		
Gross tonnage of connected heat pumps	Number		
Total expected therms produced by system	Number		

MILESTONES TABLE						
Activity Description	**Deliverable**	**Planned Start Date**	**Planned Completion Date**	**Actual Completion Date**	**Status**	**Notes**
Note: IFA will fill the orange cells in this section with the Milestones Table that grantees submitted with their applications.						

Instructions: Grantees complete each blue cell. If a project boundary covers more than one Census Block, Grantees will copy the table and fill it out separately for each block.

ONGOING-GHG EMISSIONS REPORTING TABLE (EACH REPORTING PERIOD UNTIL EOY 2029)				
Building Sector	**Has the Plan been Completed?**	**Census GEOID 11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code (One Table per GEOID)**	**Number of Buildings to be Connected to the Planned Geothermal System** ***Respond only if Column C is Yes***	**Square Feet to be Connected to the Planned Geothermal System** ***Respond only if Column C is Yes***
Residential				
Commercial				
Total				-

ATTACHMENT B: COMMUNITY GEOTHERMAL PHASE TWO REPORTING TEMPLATE

Community Geothermal Pilot Grant – Semi-Annual Reporting Template
This document collects information needed to report on your grant's milestones and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. The spreadsheets use drop-downs and limitations on the data that can be entered to help ensure accurate reporting. If you feel you need to report information that is not requested in the spreadsheet, please include a narrative attachment when filing on Amplifund. If at all possible, though, **please enter all reporting information into this Excel workbook, which is mandatory.** This Excel workbook contains hidden and locked spreadsheets, rows and columns, which cause discontinuous row or column numbers. Do not be concerned about these "missing" rows and columns.
Instructions:
Please fill out every cell that is highlighted in blue. Some of these values will remain the same across reporting periods.
If you have questions, please contact:
Enter IFA contact information here.

Grantee Name			
Reporting Period:			
CPRG PROGRAMMATIC METRICS TABLE			
Metric	**Response Type**	**Response**	**Notes**

# of community engagement activities (this period)	Number		
Total attendees across activities (not unique)	Number		
Categories of Attendees: Government, Nonprofits, For-profits, Universities, or the Public. *You may enter more than one*.	List		
Types of activities conducted: Workshop, Public meeting, Online survey, Stakeholder roundtable, Builder outreach, or Other. *You may enter more than one*.	List		
How was the activity publicized: Website, Newsletter, Email, or Other. *You may enter more than one.*	List		
How was community input incorporated into the project?	Short text		
What are some challenges, successes, and lessons from this reporting period that you can share.	Short text		
If the project resulted in or will result in the creation of high-quality jobs and/or new workforce training opportunities, please describe the progress toward achieving these outcomes. Grantees may consider reporting on quantitative information if possible, such as the number of jobs created, the number of people trained, and the number of participants in registered apprenticeship programs that worked on your project(s). Additional details, such as further elaboration on training programs, measures taken to increase the availability of domestic manufacturing and workforce, and/or relevant status updates or changes are also	Short text		

encouraged.			
Please describe and quantify, if possible, any other benefits resulting from this project.	Short text		
Personnel Changes / Staff Turnover: Any major changes in project personnel, including those from coalition members?	Dropdown		List changes in notes
Environmental Risks: Have any environmental risks been identified? If so, what strategies have you implemented for mitigating these risks?	Dropdown		
Climate Resiliency Planning: Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of any climate resiliency planning, siting, design, and operation of the project.	Short text		
Project Progress: Is your project on schedule based on the schedule in your workplan? If progress is slower than anticipated, please explain why, what challenges or difficulties were encountered, and how these barriers will be overcome.	Short text		
COMMUNITY GEOTHERMAL ADOPTION SUBPROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC METRICS TABLE			

Did this pilot project previously receive a CPRG Community Geothermal Planning Grant?	Dropdown		
If yes, please provide the final total GHG emissions reductions reported for the planning grant, if available.	Number		
Please describe the planned Community Geothermal Pilot system:			
Year of Expected System Completion:	Year		
How many residential buildings are expected to be connected to the system?	Number		Count partial buildings for mixed use
How many commercial buildings are expected to be connected to the system?	Number		Count partial buildings for mixed use
What is the residential square footage of buildings expected to be connected to the system?	Number		
What is the commercial square footage of buildings expected to be connected to the system?	Number		
Total number of heat pumps expected to be connected to the system	Number		
Gross expected tonnage of connected heat pumps	Number		
Total expected therms produced by system	Number		
Total expected cost to construct:	Number		
Enter the system's expected Coefficient of Performance (COP), including the blower and loop pump power.	Number		
Is the Community Geothermal Pilot construction complete? If so, please describe the system as completed	Dropdown		Completion is defined as being fully operational and having connected all expected customers. Use "No" only if construction has not yet begun.

Year of Actual System Completion:	Year		
How many residential buildings are connected to the system?	Number		Count partial buildings for mixed use
How many commercial buildings are connected to the system?	Number		Count partial buildings for mixed use
What is the residential square footage of buildings connected to the system?	Number		
What is the commercial square footage of buildings connected to the system?	Number		
Total number of connected heat pumps	Number		
Gross tonnage of connected heat pumps	Number		
Total expected therms produced by system	Number		
Enter the system's total expected cost to construct:	Number		
Enter the system's Coefficient of Performance (COP) as built, including the blower and loop pump power.	Number		
Status of the following deliverables:			
Customer protection provisions	Dropdown		
TBD	Dropdown		**IFA may add other deliverables once the NOFO is complete.**

MILESTONES TABLE						
Activity Description	**Deliverable**	**Planned Start Date**	**Planned Completion Date**	**Actual Completion Date**	**Status**	**Notes**
Note: IFA will fill the orange cells in this section with the Milestones Table that grantees submitted with their applications.						

PLANNED GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION (BASELINE) REPORTING TABLE (COMPLETE AT BEGINNING OF GRANT)						
Building ID	**Building Sector**	**Census GEOID (11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code)**	**Square Feet**	**Does building use gas or delivered fuels for purposes other than heating (cooking, clothes dryer)?**	**Principal Building Activity (*Commercial Buildings Only*)**	**Pre-Geothermal Annual Gas Use (therms/yr)**
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS						
Residence 1	Residential					
Residence 2	Residential					-
Residence 3	Residential					-
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS						
Commercial 1	Commercial					-
Commercial 2	Commercial					-
Total			-			-

GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION REPORTING TABLE (COMPLETE EACH REPORTING PERIOD UNTIL 9/2029)						
Building ID *(Buildings Added to System This Reporting Period)*	**Building Sector**	**Census GEOID (11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code)**	**Square Feet**	**Does building use gas or delivered fuels for purposes other than heating (cooking, clothes dryer)?**	**Principal Building Activity *(Commercial Buildings Only)***	**Pre-Geothermal Annual Gas Use (therms/yr)**
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS						
Residence 1	Residential					
Residence 2	Residential					
Residence 3	Residential					
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS						
Commercial 1	Commercial					
Commercial 2	Commercial					
Total			-			-

CUMULATIVE GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION REPORTING TABLE (COMPLETE EACH REPORTING PERIOD UNTIL 9/2029)							
Building ID *(All Buildings Added to System Thus Far)*	**Building Sector**	**Census GEOID (11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code)**	**Square Feet**	**Does building use gas or delivered fuels for purposes other than heating (cooking, clothes dryer)?**	**Principal Building Activity *(Commercial Buildings Only)***	**Pre-Geothermal Annual Gas Use (therms/yr)**	**Year Connected to Geothermal System**
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS							
Residence 1	Residential						
Residence 2	Residential						
Residence 3	Residential						
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS							
Commercial 1	Commercial						
Commercial 2	Commercial						
Total			-			-	

EXPECTED GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS REPORTING TABLE (PROJECTED 2030 - 2050)							
COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF THE GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND ALL EXPECTED CUSTOMERS ARE NOT YET CONNECTED TO THE SYSTEM.							
Building ID *Buildings Expected to be Added to System After 9/30/2029*	**Building Sector**	**Census GEOID (11-digit tract code or 12-digit block group code)**	**Year Building is Expected to Connect to System**	**Square Feet**	**Does Building use Gas or Delivered Fuels for Purposes Other than Heating (cooking, clothes dryer)?**	**Principal Building Activity *(Commercial Buildings Only)***	**Pre-Geothermal Annual Gas Use (therms/yr)**
RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS							
Residence 1	Residential						
Residence 2	Residential						
Residence 3	Residential						
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS							
Commercial 1	Commercial						
Commercial 2	Commercial						
Total				-			-

SUPPLEMENTAL THERMAL ENERGY NETWORKS REPORTING TEMPLATE			
Grantee Name			
Reporting Period:			

THERMAL ENERGY NETWORKS REPORTING TABLE			
Metric	**Response Type**	**Response**	**Notes**
Project Stage	Text		
Energy Savings (Annual kWh)	Number		
Jobs created or Retained	Number		
A Description of Barriers to the Development of the Project	Text		