

Navigating CRGA IRP Requirements + Illinois Climate Bank Grant Funding Opportunity

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INTRODUCTIONS



Nick Reitz
V.P. of Government Relations
AIEC



Claire Brinley
VP of Climate Bank Programs
Illinois Finance Authority



Rebecca Goold
Climate Infrastructure Group



Andrew Barbeau
Climate Infrastructure Group

AGENDA

- Illinois Climate Bank Overview
- Part One: The Clean & Reliable Grid Affordability Act
- Part Two: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant
- Q&A



THE IFA WAS DESIGNATED AS THE CLIMATE BANK BY CEJA



CLIMATE BANK PURPOSE

- (1) The distribution of the benefits of clean energy in an equitable manner;*
- (2) Making clean energy accessible to all; and*
- (3) Accelerating the investment of private capital into clean energy projects in a manner reflective of the geographic, racial, ethnic, gender, and income-level diversity of the State.*

**- Climate & Equitable Jobs Act,
2021 (20 ILCS 3501/850-15)**

PART ONE

THE CLEAN & RELIABLE GRID AFFORDABILITY (CRGA) ACT

What is CRGA?

- Formally: SB25, signed into law January 8, 2026 and takes effect on **June 1, 2026**
- Landmark IL energy legislation addressing grid reliability, clean energy transition, and utility planning
- For co-ops: **new planning obligations + new funding pathways**
- Full text [here](#).



Who Does it Apply To?

- G&T electric cooperatives with members in Illinois
- Distribution electric cooperatives serving more than 7,000 retail electric customer meters
- Municipal power agencies and municipalities



IRP

Initiate an integrated resource planning process by **January 1, 2027** and issue a preliminary integrated resource plan on website by **January 1, 2028**

IRPs repeat every 5 years thereafter

An IRP completed **on or after January 1, 2024** can satisfy the first requirement if it meets the statutory criteria



Technically feasible, least-cost portfolio scenarios



Consistent with RTO (MISO) reliability obligations



Must model pathway to: 40% renewable energy by 2030



Must model pathway to: 100% carbon-free resources (+ storage + demand-side) by 2045



Response to public comments (submitted to IPA within 90 days of comment period close)

Process Requirements	Posting & Transparency Requirements
Post preliminary IRP within 60 days of completion	Preliminary IRP posted publicly on utility's website
Hold at least one open member meeting (annual meeting may satisfy this requirement) Meeting must cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purpose & process of developing the IRP - co-op's IRP development process; - assumptions & scenarios considered; - overview of supply & demand-side resources; - historical energy & capacity data and future load assumptions 	
Members have at least 30 days following the meeting to submit written comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All written comments compiled and posted on co-op's website - Written response to comments posted publicly on both the utility's website and IPA's website - Preliminary IRP, as submitted, and any revisions made in response to comments posted publicly
Co-op submits written response to public comments to the IPA no later than 90 days after close of comment period	PA maintains a public repository of all IRPs for at least 10 years



IPA will maintain a list of prequalified consulting firms to help utilities develop their IRPs



IPA must issue a Request for Information (RFI) for consulting firms by June 1, 2026



RFI open for 45 days, followed by 45 days to compile the final list

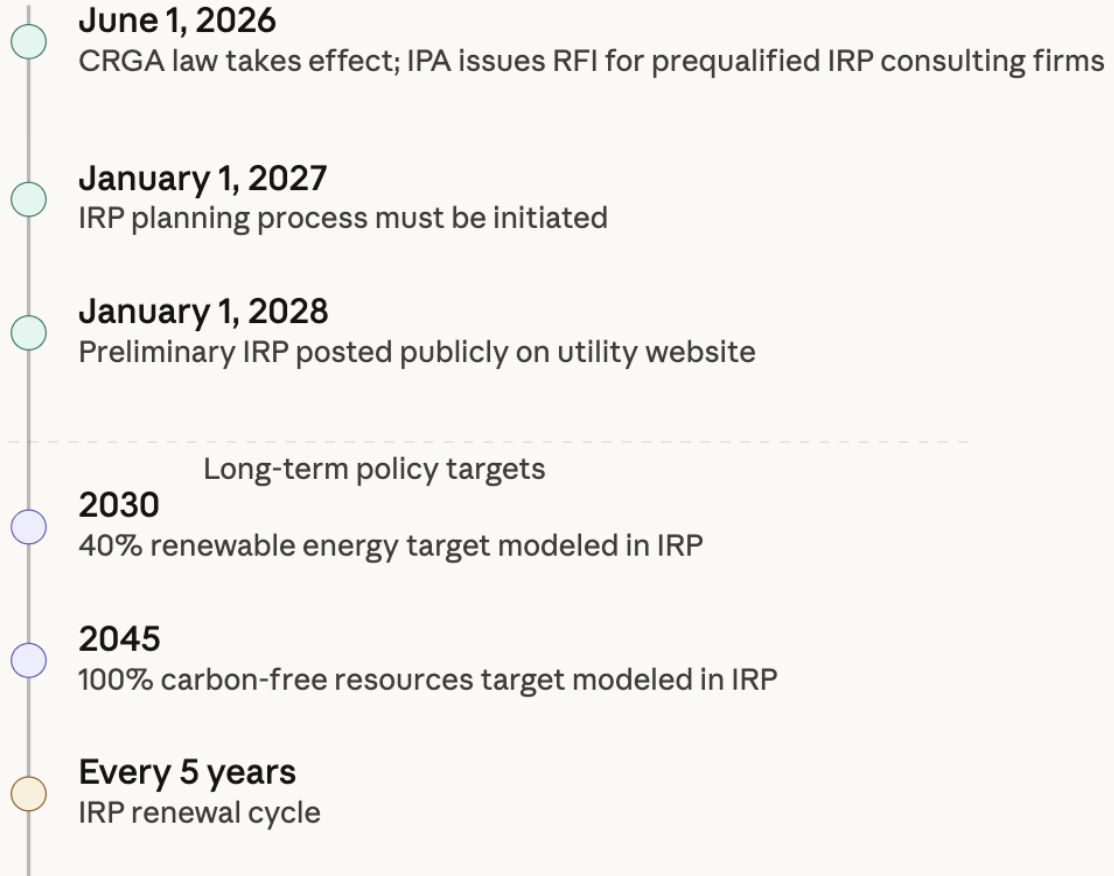


Cooperatives can use a firm from the prequalified list OR choose their own consultant(s)



Key takeaway: You don't have to figure this out alone — approved experts are available to help

Key dates & milestones



● Process deadlines

● Policy targets

● Ongoing requirement

Assess



- Determine if your co-op is covered (>7,000 meters or G&T co-op)
- Review any IRPs completed since January 1, 2024 as they may qualify

Plan



- Begin planning for the January 1, 2027 IRP deadline
- Explore the IPA prequalified consulting firm list when available (June 2026) OR speak with your own outside experts

Act



- Audit your website and governance documents for new transparency requirements
- Consider applying for IFA grant funding to offset IRP costs

PART TWO

CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) & SMALL UTILITY CLEAN ENERGY PLANNING GRANT

OVERVIEW

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

In October 2024, the US Environmental Protection Agency awarded the state of Illinois, through the Illinois EPA, \$430,000,000 under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) to implement several initiatives and programs across 5 key sectors. These sectors include buildings, transportation, agriculture, power, and industry.

The Illinois Climate Bank received a subaward of \$137,000,000 to implement several initiatives and programs under the CPRG award that aligns with Illinois state policy and CEJA.

Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grants: Program Snapshot

Grant Opportunity Name	Grant Type	Eligible Entities	Estimated Total Program Funding	Award Range	Anticipated Number of Awards	Application Due Date	Cost Match Requirements
Small Utility Clean Energy Planning	Competitive Grant	Municipal and cooperative electric utilities *See below for other eligible entities	Up to \$1,600,000	Up to \$200,000 per award	2-8	April 17, 2026	None

*Municipal power agency, municipality, or electric cooperative such as a generation and transmission electric cooperative that provides wholesale electricity to one or more distribution electric cooperatives, may apply on behalf of one or more eligible municipal or cooperative electric utilities, provided that the applicant demonstrates authority to conduct power planning, procurement, or integrated resource planning activities on behalf of its member utilities.

Program Purpose

The Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program supports **municipal and cooperative electric utilities** in:

- Aligning power generation planning and procurement with CEJA carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) and copollutant emissions limits (415 ILCS 5/9.15), and
- Advancing Illinois' goal of 100% carbon-free power by 2045

The Program may also support planning activities that help utilities meet the Integrated Resource Planning requirements under the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, where those activities clearly advance the CEJA-aligned clean energy strategies.

All applications **must achieve** the following three objectives:

- CEJA-Aligned Power Planning and Decision Making
- Clean Energy Procurement Readiness and Implementation Enablement
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Objectives and Eligible Activities

Objective 1: CEJA-Aligned Power Planning and Decision Making

Support municipal and cooperative electric utilities in power planning, scenario analysis, and decision-support activities that evaluate and prioritize CEJA-aligned, carbon-free resource pathways.

Activities may include Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) or IRP-related analysis only where they go beyond minimum IRP requirements and explicitly evaluate, select, and advance CEJA-aligned scenarios.

Eligible Activities May Include:



Technical and Financial Assessments



Hiring External Consultants or Technical Experts

Clean Energy Roadmap, Strategy, or IRP Scenario Development



Emissions Baseline Development and Scenario Modeling



Community Engagement for IRP-Related Planning

See NOFO for more details: <https://illinois-climate-bank.web.app/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/>

Objectives and Eligible Activities

Objective 2: Clean Energy Procurement Readiness and Implementation Enablement

Build utility readiness to implement CEJA-aligned power planning decisions by supporting procurement planning, internal capacity building, governance processes, and contract or financial analysis necessary to execute clean energy procurement strategies.

Eligible Activities May Include:



Clean Energy Procurement Strategy and Execution Support



Staff Capacity Building for Procurement and Contract Management



Governance, Financial, and Contract Readiness



GHG Data Management and Reporting Readiness

See NOFO for more details: <https://illinois-climate-bank.web.app/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/>

Objectives and Eligible Activities

Objective 3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction and Accountability

Support measurable and projected reductions in GHG emissions through the transition from fossil-based generation to carbon-free resources, consistent with CEJA's CO₂e and copollutant emission limitation goals. Activities under this objective must generate sufficient baseline, projected, and ongoing data to support Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) reporting requirements and enable IFA/ICB to calculate and report emissions reductions attributable to funded activities.

Eligible Activities May Include:



GHG Emissions Reduction Modeling and Quantification

GHG Emissions Tracking Tools and Resources

GHG Reporting and Data Development

See NOFO for more details: <https://illinois-climate-bank.web.app/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/>

Q&A

Contact for Further Questions

This presentation and questions and answers from today's webinar will be posted on the Climate Bank's website:

- Small Utility Clean Energy Planning Grant Program: <https://illinoisclimatebank.com/financing-programs/municipal-cooperative-utilities/clean-energy-planning/>

If you have further questions, please send them to ClimateBank@IL-FA.com by the date that questions are closing, listed in the program NOFO.

