

# Climate Change Research Program

## ATTACHMENT 1

This overview outlines the origins of the grant program, its purpose, and funding history. A summary of program goals, requirements and priorities is included to introduce the Council to relevant directives crafted in the Legislature, at the California Air Resources Board (the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's administrative agency), and through the grant program's adopted 2018 Research Investment Plan.

### Legislation Establishing the Program

Assembly Bill 109 (Ting) established the Climate Change Research Program in 2017 to fund research on reducing carbon emissions, including clean energy, adaptation, and resiliency, with an emphasis on California. Before issuing grants, the Council was required to develop a plan that conveys these research needs.

The program is not required to wait until the fourth cap-and-trade auction of the fiscal year to commit an appropriation to a grant award, or to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act's administrative regulations and rulemaking procedures.

### Funding

The Legislature initially appropriated \$11 million in the Budget Act of 2017 (AB 109, Ting), followed by \$18 million in the Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee), and \$5 million in the Budget Act of 2019 (AB 74, Ting). The lifecycle for each appropriation is four years (to encumber and spend), at which time all funds revert to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The Council may use up to five percent of the appropriation for administrative costs.

### Legislative Direction

#### Budget Appropriations

- Fund research on reducing carbon emissions, including clean energy, adaptation, and resiliency, with an emphasis on California.
- Issue grants on a competitive basis to institutions, including the University of California, the California State University, federal research laboratories, and private nonprofit colleges and universities located within the state.
- Before issuing grants put in place a plan that establishes research needs for carbon emission reductions including clean energy, adaptation, and resiliency (refer to the SGC's [2018 Climate Change Research Investment Plan](#)).

#### Strategic Growth Council and Bagley-Keene

- The Council's approval of grants are subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act; however, this statute does not apply when developing grant guidelines that are otherwise subject to public participation process requirements ([PRC §75123](#)).



### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

- Comply with the Air Resources Board's funding guidelines for administering agencies (discussed on page 2) to ensure the requirements of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Investment Plan and Communities Revitalization Act are met, including maximizing benefits for disadvantaged communities ([HSC §39715](#)).
- Prior to expending any program funds, prepare a record consisting of a description of the program that explains how the program furthers the regulatory purposes of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, and how it contributes to achieving and maintaining the state's greenhouse gas emission reductions targets ([GC §16428.9](#)).

## **CARB Funding Guidelines for Administering California Climate Investments**

### **Guiding Principles**

- Expend funds in an effective and accountable manner.
- Target investments to benefit priority populations, with a focus on maximizing disadvantaged community benefits.
- Maximize economic, environmental, and public health "co-benefits".
- Provide fiscal and program transparency and accountability.

### **Program Requirements**

- Facilitate the achievement of GHG emission reductions and further the purposes of AB 32 and related statutes.
- Seek to invest in projects that are located in and benefit priority populations, meet community needs identified primarily through community engagement and outreach, and maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities, wherever possible.
- Consider whether a given project type has the potential to result in substantial economic, environmental, and public health burdens in disadvantaged communities and low-income communities, and design programs in such a way as to avoid potential substantial burdens.
- Provide transparency and accountability in program implementation and estimated project outcomes.

### **Additional Program Priorities**

To the extent possible, program investments shall:

- Maximize economic, environmental, and public health co-benefits to the State.
- Foster job creation by selecting and supporting projects carried out by California workers and businesses.



- Seek opportunities to work with other CCI funded programs to provide multiple benefits and to maximize the benefits from each program.
- Encourage projects that support California's existing plans, policies, and initiatives.
- Require consistency with regional local and plans.
- Generate new environmental credits.
- Conduct outreach to help potential applicants access funding opportunities.

### **Expenditure Record and Attestation Memo**

These documents are required to be updated to accurately reflect program design and implementation after receiving an appropriation prior to the release of a solicitation for funding.

### **Additional Information**

The ARB's [Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments](#) contains additional background, instructions and guidance for agencies responsible for administering the California Climate Investments' funding programs.

## **The Strategic Growth Council's Research Investment Plan**

### **Seven Program Goals**

- Invest in research that has a clear and demonstrated connection to the State's climate change goals.
- Advance research to support low-income and disadvantaged communities, and advance equitable outcomes in the implementation of the State's climate change policies and investments.
- Build a program that augments, builds connections, and fills gaps across existing research programs.
- Prioritize outcome-based research linked to practical climate action.
- Model meaningful engagement with the research community, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders at all stages of the program to ensure relevance and utility of research process, projects, and results.
- Continue to advance and develop a common research platform to support climate change planning, policy development, and implementation across all sectors at the state, regional, and community scale.
- Leverage and complement existing research funding and policy innovations to accelerate climate change research, innovation, and policy and technology deployment



### **Five Research Priority Areas**

- Support and protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.
- Integrate land use, conservation, and management into California's climate change programs.
- Increase data accessibility and planning support for local and regional climate change planning
- Accelerate and supporting transitions to climate smart communities
- Low-GHG transformative technology development and deployment

### **Four Threshold Requirements**

- Demonstrate how the proposed research will facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California.
- Discuss how the research will benefit low-income or disadvantaged communities.
- Describe how the research aligns with the goals of the Climate Change Research Program.
- Align the research with one or more of the program's Research Priority Areas

### **Additional Information**

The program's eight-page [Climate Change Research Investment Plan](#) contains additional information related to the program's structure, scoring process, requirements, and priorities.

