



AMENDMENT TO THE RFP DEEP022825SW

DEEP New England Heat Pump Accelerator Request for Proposals

Questions and Answers 3/21/25

Summary of Redline Edits to the RFP

- The deadline for proposals has been extended to **5:00 pm EST on April 10, 2025**.
- In response to Q41, on pg. 16, the year 2026 was changed to 2025 in the sentence, *DEEP anticipates engagement on the Innovation Hub to begin in summer 20262025 and funding to begin to be dispersed Q1 of 2026*.
- In response to Q8, Q33, and Q41, the dates on the Procurement Timetable on pg. 42 were updated to mirror the dates on the Procurement Schedule on pg. 6 of the RFP.
- In response to Q43, the Budget Template in Appendix D added labels for Yr1-5 for the *Administrative Costs* to further clarify that *Administrative Costs* for the Regional Implementer should be provided separately for each year, following the Budget Expectations guidance on pg. 20.

1. Will a recording of the 1/24 Technical Conference be posted?

- ANSWER: Both the video of the Technical Conference and the Bidder's Conference are posted on the Accelerator Webpage here:
<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/energy/new-england-heat-pump-accelerator>.

2. Will the Accelerator support the permitting of heat pumps in the region?

- ANSWER: That is among a number of strategies that could be incorporated in the Accelerator. DEEP welcomes this and proposals for additional market transformation strategies.

3. Could you clarify the role of the Community Outreach Group – will this group have responsibility for soliciting stakeholder engagement, or share responsibility with the Regional Implementer?

- ANSWER: The Community Outreach Group will support meaningful community involvement and is intended to operate similar to other stakeholder groups across the region, like the [Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) (CEEJAC). It will be established as part of the engagement efforts of the Accelerator to collaborate and help identify potential barriers, benefits, and opportunities for broader participation. The Advisory Council will nominate members of the Community Outreach Group. The Regional Convener will establish the Outreach Group and convene the group. The Regional Convener will work with the Regional Implementer to identify what topics to gather input on, design engagement/

feedback plans, and solicit other feedback needed for program design and implementation.

4. Will you make your application to the EPA available for review?
 - ANSWER: The application for funding is not available for review. It is a proposal and not the final workplan referenced in the grant agreement with EPA. DEEP is providing relevant sections of the grant agreement with EPA and relevant sections of the workplan cited in the grant agreement to inform bidders' proposals in Appendices E and F of this document.
5. The RFP mentions proposers should have experience working with 3rd party evaluator for GHG emissions. Do you have one selected? Could bidders do that in-house?
 - ANSWER: DEEP expects to issue a separate RFP for a third-party evaluator. If bidders want to note their expertise in their proposal, DEEP welcomes that.
6. The RFP states that “The resulting contract will be funded by EPA and consequently will contain applicable federal terms and conditions. The contract will be subject to controlling federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to [...] CPRG Administrative and Programmatic Conditions applicable to the EPA award to CT DEEP, Grant Number (FAIN): 00A01474”. Those terms and conditions did not appear to be included in the RFP, can CT DEEP provide the CPRG Administrative and Programmatic Conditions applicable to the EPA award to CT DEEP that are referenced in the RFP for review?
 - ANSWER: The Administrative and Programmatic Terms are in the Grant Agreement attached as Appendix E.
7. Will you post a teaming list?
 - ANSWER: We will not be posting a teaming list but have included a list of Bidder's Conference Registrants (Appendix C), RFI Technical Conference Presenters and Registrants (Appendices A and B), and RFI Commenters (Appendix D).
8. There are some discrepancies in the RFP with regard to the start and end dates of the accelerator. Can you clarify the anticipated start and end dates?
 - ANSWER: The RFP references August 2025 and October 2025 as start dates. August 2025 is referenced as a start date in the RFP because it is the anticipated start date for the contract with the Regional Implementer. October 2025 is the anticipated start date for the Market Hub. The Accelerator's overarching goal is to launch some elements of the Accelerator in 2025, but there is some flexibility on which program elements will be launched in which month. We invite proposers to suggest how program launch might best be sequenced and identify elements of the program that can launch between August 2025 and December 2025. Section 4.2 of the RFP specifically asks proposers to identify any “quick launch” projects that might be able to start in Q4 of 2025, prior to the launch of the full Market Hub.

Ultimately for 2025, DEEP expects an Accelerator website (a Resource Hub deliverable) to be created by September 2025. The website is not expected to be fully populated with resources and data at that point. DEEP also would like to see the launch of any “quick launch” projects or parts of the Market Hub midstream rebates in Q4 (October-December) of 2025.

The Procurement Timetable on pg. 42 was updated in the Redline of the RFP to mirror the dates of the Procurement Schedule on pg. 6. These timetables were intended to be the same. As stated in the RFP, however, for both the Schedule and the List, the dates with an “*” are non-binding target dates.

For additional information, see questions #33 and #41.

9. Is this funding committed to DEEP by EPA and any chance of being cut by DOGE?

- ANSWER: DEEP is operating under an Agreement with the US EPA. All \$450 million in funds for the New England Heat Pump Accelerator Coalition are obligated under that Agreement. The current status of these funds is that they are available. DEEP is also actively engaged in regular calls with the EPA Program Officer for this grant.

10. Do you have an attendee list from your RFI process? Could you post that publicly, to know who provided input into program design, especially with respect to community groups?

- ANSWER: Yes, the RFI Technical Conference Presenters and Registrants (Appendices A and B) and RFI Commenters (Appendix D).

11. Will we receive all of the answers to live questions in writing?

- ANSWER: Yes, all live questions from the Bidder’s Conference and questions received in writing are in this document.

12. Do you anticipate any additional State Designated Implementers in addition to Maine?

- ANSWER: Maine will be the only State-Designated Implementer for the Market Hub. Efficiency Maine has administered an existing midstream program that is very similar to how the Market Hub will operate and is familiar to Maine distributors, contractors, and consumers, so the state will be using that program structure to implement their rebates. In this case, the State Designee (Efficiency Maine Trust) will work closely with the Regional Implementer to ensure the state program aligns with the Accelerator’s goals, disseminates consistent information, and collects the necessary information. This will enable them to leverage existing relationships and program design to deploy the Accelerator rebates, grow their existing offerings, and align their midstream program on the regional level.

Coalition states are still determining whether to use State Designees to implement large-scale initiatives within the Innovation Hub. These decisions will be finalized soon so as not to impede the launch of the Accelerator. For additional information, please see questions #25, 26, 27, and 28.

13. Is there a list of other state programs that we need to coordinate with?

- ANSWER: Section II.C.2.1, Footnote 7 (page 12) includes the list of state level programs we expect the Regional Implementer to coordinate with ([EnergizeCT](#), [Efficiency Maine](#), [Mass Save](#), [NH Saves](#), and [RI Energy](#)). DEEP has identified these programs but cautions that this list may not be exhaustive. For example, there are state administered programs such as [Clean Heat Rhode Island](#) that may also require coordination with the Accelerator.

The Regional Implementer will need to meet with and identify best ways to coordinate with existing state and utility energy efficiency and building decarbonization programs prior to the launch of the Accelerator. This can range from directly passing funding through to existing state-specific program implementers (for State Designees) or coordinating on marketing and messaging. The goal of coordination is to enable the Accelerator to complement existing programs (including adopting their marketing and logos) and leverage existing infrastructure, such as contractor networks and communication channels. DEEP and the coalition states will assist the Regional Implementer in this task.

14. In terms of what has already been decided, for the Innovation Hub grants, do you have a size of grant you're thinking?

- ANSWER: As noted in the RFP, the total budget for the Innovation Hub is \$90 million. The Advisory Council is currently discussing what allocations for Innovation Hub projects might look like. DEEP welcomes any additional input or recommendations from bidders on how best to allocate and distribute these grants.

15. Is there a framework of decision-making for this consortium?

- ANSWER: The states in the Accelerator are all members of the Advisory Council and signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) when applying for the grant. The Advisory Council is also in the process of drafting bylaws that will outline a framework and processes for decision-making.

16. Will you be sending out the slides from this call?

- ANSWER: Yes, they are available on the webpage:
<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/energy/new-england-heat-pump-accelerator>.

17. What are you thinking about integration with Home Energy Rebates? There will be some overlap.

- ANSWER: DOE Home Energy Rebates program current guidance does not permit combining federal grants on the same measure. DEEP and the coalition states have discussed this and identified this as an area to tackle during program design and implementation. For now, the states have been tracking their plans for the Home Energy Rebates to identify any potential overlap. DEEP welcomes any recommendations from bidders for ways to distinguish or ensure funding is not mingled.

18. All states have probably had stakeholder engagement processes for the Home Energy Rebates, perhaps with distributors and manufacturers. There may be efficiencies to be gained in communication. Is there an easy way to get those groups together to hear summaries of where each state stands in implementation of rebates, and their plans?

- ANSWER: Thank you for that recommendation. DEEP does plan to do more public engagement and will take this recommendation into consideration.

19. Are resumes included in the 30 page count? I understand the desire to limit space, but with this project we will have several key individuals on the team and want to provide all of their resumes so I think the space is limited.

- ANSWER: Resumes are attachments. They are not included in the 30 page limit. The RFP says that resumes of Key Staff must be included. It also includes the following requirement: **Key Staff Experience and Qualifications:** *List key staff contributing to the work outlined in Section II.C – Scope of Services and describe the roles that each key staff will play on the project, including subcontractor key personnel. Include a brief description of relevant qualifications, experiences, and certifications for each key staff as attachments. Full resumes can also be included as attachments.*

20. The total budget is \$450M. Is there a financial budget for the period of performance (approximately 5 years) that was either submitted as part of the PCAP or that CT DEEP has in mind for the Regional Implementer to carry out the tasks for the Program Accelerator?

- ANSWER: The total budget for the grant awarded to the New England Heat Pump Accelerator is \$450 million, which must be expended over the Period of Performance of 5 years. DEEP provided a high-level breakdown of the budget in Table 1 on page 20 of the RFP. Guidance for Budget Expectations for bidders is on page 20 of the RFP. A Budget Template is in Appendix D on page 44. Bidders must provide a budget estimate for each task by year following the template. The Regional Implementer's administrative costs should be broken out separately for each year following the template.

For additional information, see question #44.

21. Proposal: If companies are partnering for this RFP, will the subcontractor need to fill out the Statement of Assurances form, or only the prime?

- ANSWER: Only the prime contractor is required to fill out the Statement of Assurances.

22. Program Admin: Please share the Memorandum of Agreement among the coalition states. If you are not able to share the MOA, please provide the key provisions that will inform aspects of the Implementer's work. For example, the RFP states on page 14: The program plan will be consistent with the Grant Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement among the coalition members.

- ANSWER: DEEP is not providing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at this time. As noted above, DEEP will work with the awarded Regional Implementer to ensure the program plan referenced in the above question on page 14 of the RFP and any tasks for the Regional Implementer are consistent with the MOA. A copy of the relevant sections of the EPA Grant Agreement is attached to this document as Appendix E for reference. All relevant provisions in the MOA are included in the RFP Scope of Service section.

23. Program Admin: Please confirm all relevant terms the awardee and their subrecipients and subcontractors would have to agree to have been provided, including any other relevant documents or special terms or conditions that need to be considered. Additionally, please clarify the applicability of 2 CFR Part 910 and the required Uniform Guidance audit for subcontractors under this federal contract.

- ANSWER: The final terms and conditions will be contained in the contract that is signed by DEEP and the selected Regional Implementer. Section V of the RFP contains some terms and conditions proposers should expect to see in a contract, and a sample contract is attached as Exhibit A to the RFP. Federal regulations and flow-down requirements are set forth in the sample contract but are subject to change in accordance with modifications to federal requirements. The federal regulations at 2 CFR 200 —UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS, as amended by 2 CFR 910 will be applicable to the resulting contract.

24. Program Admin: Does the regional implementer have the flexibility of issuing RFPs for very specific expertise needed along the 5 year timeframe?

- ANSWER: Yes, the Regional Implementer may organize and conduct competitive bidding processes to select qualified subcontractors as needed to support future deliverables.

25. Program Admin: Is there an expectation that the State Designee(s) coordinate regionally and share lessons with the Regional Implementer in ways that contribute to identification of scalable solutions and policy and program development? If so, what mechanisms have been established to support the State Designee(s) in this task?

- ANSWER: Yes, State Designee(s) are expected to coordinate regionally and share lessons learned with the Regional Implementer. This coordination will be facilitated through the Advisory Council as well as through direct coordination between the Regional Implementer and the State Designee(s). Below are roles and responsibilities that have been outlined through the Workplan and MOA signed by the coalition states:
 - The Regional Implementer will be funded to play an overall coordination and reporting role for states with and without a State Designee.
 - Funding for State Designees for the Market Hub and/or Innovation Hub will flow through the Regional Implementer.

- The Regional Implementer will develop templates for a State Designee to report progress and results for the Accelerator and communicate key deadlines for reports and other deliverables to the State Designee.
- The Regional Implementer will meet regularly with each State Designee to support ongoing coordination and share best practices.
- For the Market Hub, the Regional Implementer will coordinate with the State Designee to support distributors who work across state lines and explore opportunities to align distributor participation and reporting requirements, equipment eligibility criteria and qualified product lists, and incentive levels.
- For the Innovation Hub, if a state is using a State Designee to implement large-scale initiatives, the Regional Implementer may also be asked to provide substantive expertise to guide project design and implementation.

26. Program Admin: Would the Regional Implementer have any role in selecting any State Designees besides Efficiency Maine? Could the Implementer be in a scenario of being required to subcontract to a party not named at the time they applied and which they had no role in selecting?

- ANSWER: Maine will be the only state using a State-Designated Implementer for the Market Hub. Coalition states are still determining whether to use State Designees for the statewide initiatives in the Innovation Hub. These decisions may not be finalized before responses to this RFP are due, but we expect them to be finalized prior to contract negotiations with the selected proposer. The Regional Implementer will have the opportunity to provide input on contractual expectations for contracts with any State Designees. For any subcontractors other than the specific State Designees named prior to contracting and program launch, such as implementers of small-scale community-based projects in the Innovation Hub, the Regional Implementer will play a key role in designing the solicitation process and selecting the successful bidder.

For additional information, please see questions #12, 25, 27, and 52.

27. Program Admin: Please clarify the role of a State Designee in coordinating a state's Innovation Hub implementation. The RFP currently reads as if the Implementer conducts the solicitation process but the State Designee fulfills the selection and contracting role.

Is that a correct understanding?

Is that true for both small-scale community grants and larger-scale state-based initiatives?

Is there an expectation that Project Oversight (e.g., data sharing, contents of public reporting, sharing of deliverables) is coordinated or has a level of standardization between projects managed by the Regional Implementer and those managed by a State?

- ANSWER: For the small-scale community grants, the Regional Implementer will be responsible for the solicitation and selection process, with input from the Advisory Council. For the larger-scale state-based initiatives, if a state uses a State Designee, the Regional Implementer will contract with the State Designee and the State Designee will conduct the solicitation, selection, and contracting for any necessary subcontractors. For states that decide to use the Regional Implementer for the large-scale state-based initiatives, states will provide guidance and identify priorities, but the Regional Implementer will conduct the solicitation process for any needed project implementers, make award recommendations, and contract with successful bidders.

Whether or not a state uses a State Designee for the large-scale state-based initiatives, there is an expectation that there will be a level of coordination and standardization across the region, led by the Regional Implementer. As stated in the RFP the Regional Implementer will “develop templates for project design and reporting, schedule regular meetings with initiative implementers and states, and communicate key deadlines for deliverables, such as progress reports and final reports. The Regional Implementer will also be responsible for contracting and oversight of deliverables, data sharing, report outs and summaries, and adherence to all funding requirements for the recipients of the funds.” Section C, 2.3 *Innovation Hub*.

For additional information, see questions #25, 26, and 52.

28. Program Admin: Please clarify to whom Efficiency Maine as the Market Hub State Designee will be accountable (e.g. is it accountable to the Regional Implementer, DEEP, or to the Advisory Council [of which Efficiency Maine is member])?

- ANSWER: Efficiency Maine will be accountable to DEEP and the Advisory Council. The Regional Implementer will only be responsible for supporting coordination and reporting tasks, as described in the response to question 25.

29. Program Admin: Can DEEP provide baselines for all the current performance measures listed in the RFP (for example, significant job growth in region)? Or, is that something DEEP would like the regional implementer to determine after winning the contract?

- ANSWER: Performance measures in the RFP are quoted directly from the Grant Agreement with EPA. Any measures that do not include a baseline is something DEEP would like the Regional Implementer and the Regional Evaluator to determine after winning the contract.

30. Program Admin: Does the grant agreement between DEEP and EPA include a more detailed definition of how “full access to equitable and affordable heat pump solutions” is meant to be documented as a performance measure?

- ANSWER: No. However, language in the grant agreement between DEEP and EPA that may be relevant to achieving this outcome includes:

- "At least 40% of Accelerator funding will be directed to low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs)¹; 100% of the Innovation Hub funding will serve LIDACs and LIDAC-targeted programs are included in each pillar."
- "Stipends will be distributed to groups representing LIDACs to encourage community participation."
- The Resource Hub will "offer additional LIDAC-specific outreach and resources."
- "Reports for the Innovation Hub will include information on heat pumps installed (including data on installations in low-income and disadvantaged communities), barriers overcome, incumbent systems replaced, and scalable solutions identified."
- "The [grant] recipient agrees to report the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Census tract IDs or the EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs for areas affected by GHG reduction measures, consistent with the EPA's definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities for the CPRG program."

The Grant Agreement is attached as Appendix E

31. Program Admin: Section 43 of the sample contract terms (pg. 58) includes language related to Build America, Buy America, stating specifically that manufactured products used must be produced in the United States. Does DEEP intend to apply these terms to heat pump products incentivized through the market hub and or innovation hub of the Accelerator?

- ANSWER: Certain projects in the Accelerator may be subject to BABA as these provisions apply when a recipient uses federal funds for the purchase of iron, steel, certain manufactured products and construction materials used in the construction, alteration maintenance or repair of public infrastructure. DEEP expects additional guidance from EPA to clarify which parts of the Accelerator will be subject to BABA.

32. Program Admin: Please clarify the role of the Community Outreach Group with regard to implementing stakeholder outreach activities. Will the Regional Implementer have primary responsibility for general stakeholder engagement, or will this responsibility lie with or be shared with the Regional Convener?

- ANSWER: The Community Outreach Group is meant to support meaningful community involvement and is intended to operate similar to other stakeholder groups across the region, like the [Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice](#)

¹ The Programmatic Conditions for the one-year report for EPA in DEEP's current Grant Agreement with EPA states that, "the [grant] recipient agrees to report the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) Census tract IDs or the [EPA's EJScreen Census](#) block group IDs for areas affected by GHG reduction measures, consistent with the EPA's definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) for the CPRG program." The relevant part of the Grant Agreement is included as Appendix E.

[Advisory Council](#) (CEEJAC). It will be established as part of the engagement efforts of the Accelerator to collaborate and help identify potential barriers, benefits, and opportunities for broader participation. Members of the Community Outreach Group will be nominated by the Advisory Council.

Responsibilities and roles around stakeholder engagement will be shared by the Regional Convener and Regional Implementer. As the Community Outreach Group will be established over the next few months, the Regional Convener will establish the Community Outreach Group and convene the group initially. After the Regional Implementer has been identified, the Regional Convener will work with the Regional Implementer to identify what topics to gather input on, design engagement and feedback plans, and solicit other feedback. As far as other stakeholder engagement, such as with program administrators, distributors, contractors, and manufacturers, DEEP is open to recommendations on how to best approach this engagement and appropriate roles for the Regional Convener and Regional Implementer.

33. Cross Cutting: What components of the Resource Hub are expected for the August launch? Is the “Accelerator launch” date referring to the Market Hub? Section 2.2 states that the initial launch of the Market Hub is October 2025, Section 2.4 states that the Resource Hub aims for an initial launch of August 2025, however the Procurement Timetable list the “Accelerator Launch” date as September 2025.

- ANSWER: At minimum, the coalition would like an Accelerator website (a Resource Hub deliverable) to be created by September 2025, but the website is not expected to be fully populated with resources and data at that point.

The “Accelerator launch” date is referring to the Market Hub, but there is some flexibility on which program elements will be launched in which month. The coalition's overarching goal is to launch some elements of the Accelerator in 2025. DEEP invites bidders to suggest how program launch might best be sequenced and identify elements of the program that can launch in the August-December 2025 time frame. Section 4.2 of the RFP specifically asks proposers to identify any “quick launch” projects that might be able to start in Q4 of 2025, prior to the launch of the full Market Hub.

For additional information, see answers to questions #8 and #41.

34. Cross Cutting: Fast incentive payment reimbursement to participating distributors is critical to midstream program success. A number of factors, including the increasing federal risk, could cause delays. Is CT DEEP able to pre-pay a bank of incentives for the regional implementer so they have one to three months' worth of forecasted incentives available to draw down as soon as applications are approved? Or are incentives payments to the regional implementer only allowed to occur only after the approved incentives amounts are reported to CT DEEP?

- ANSWER: The payment procedure for the incentives will be determined by DEEP in consultation with the Regional Implementer. DEEP would like respondents to recommend a payment procedure they think would work well for this program based on their experience. You may include potential budget risks resulting from different payment procedures in your narrative where applicable. All payment procedures for this grant are subject to state of Connecticut and federal contracting rules.

35. Cross Cutting: The RFP states that the Regional Implementer’s work products “shall be considered public documents and shall be made available for public inspection and distribution as required.” Can DEEP clarify whether this includes any work products beyond deliverables defined in the Implementer’s scope of work? If so, will the Implementer be able to designate certain work products as unavailable for public inspection if those products include non-anonymized/aggregated data collected from market actors that includes (for example, PII, sensitive information, or trade secrets)?

- ANSWER: Data and records have to be disclosed to DEEP under our standard contract terms, attached to the RFP as Exhibit A. Some, but not all of these documents will be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and exemptions apply. DEEP will work with the Regional Implementer on a case-by-case basis to determine what information is subject to disclosure in compliance with state and federal rules, but it will be the responsibility of the Implementer to provide and defend the legal basis for nondisclosure, if one is claimed. Regarding Proposals submitted in response to the RFP, see Section III. A. 8, IV. F., and V. E. 1. Respondents may include examples of materials they think should be designated as unavailable for public inspection in their proposal without identifying the content of the materials, but that designation is not necessarily determinative. “Confidential Information” is also defined in the standard contract terms, together with the obligation to protect it.

36. Cross Cutting: Regarding the GHG emissions performance measure, to what extent will the Implementer be involved in selection of electricity, gas, and GHG emissions savings factors to use for estimating savings from incentivized heat pump sales?

- ANSWER: The Regional Implementer along with the Independent Evaluator will determine this as part of program design and implementation. The measures will need to align with EPA's current standards and requirements.

37. Market Hub: Are ground source heat pumps a required measure?

- ANSWER: The goals of the Accelerator are “to increase adoption of residential cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ASHPs), heat pump water heaters (HPWHs), and ground source heat pumps (GSHPs).” For the Market Hub, each state will have the discretion to choose which of these measures are incentivized within their borders. This can include GSHPs. Additionally, GSHPs might be included in Innovation Hub projects.

38. Market Hub: P 15 says “The Regional Implementer will recommend eligibility criteria...” To whom will the Implementer make these recommendations and who will make a final decision on eligibility criteria?

- ANSWER: The Regional Implementer will make recommendations to the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will decide what criteria to adopt for the Accelerator.

39. Market Hub: Regarding workforce development, please clarify if the primary goal is “deliver workforce training on heat pump sales and installation best practices” (p 15) or “look to focus on promotion of job creation and entrepreneurship in communities throughout the region” (p 11).

- ANSWER: The Grant Agreement with EPA outlines “significant job growth in the heat pump industry, including in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs)” as an outcome. The Accelerator’s primary goals include both objectives highlighted in the question, delivering trainings and creation of jobs as well as workforce growth in local communities. Workforce initiatives will be embedded within all three hubs, but the goals outlined above will be completed primarily through both the Market and Innovation Hubs. The Market Hub will aim to provide trainings from manufacturers or distributors to contractors at participating distributors and other touchpoints. The Innovation Hub will aim to remove barriers to adoption and drive investment in community-based organizations and businesses.

DEEP invites proposers to provide any best practices or examples of ways to integrate workforce development into implementation of the Accelerator.

40. Innovation Hub: Are there any metrics for savings for Innovation Hub specifically?

- ANSWER: For the Workplan submitted to EPA as part of the grant application, DEEP submitted GHG emissions reduction estimates for the Market and Innovation Hub. The estimates are in the table below.

Cumulative GHG Emission Reductions for New England Heat Pump Accelerator

Priority Measure	Cumulative GHG emission reductions (MTCO ₂ e)	
	2025-2030	2025-2050
New England Heat Pump Accelerator	2,209,712	9,051,956
Market Hub (\$270 million)	1,729,340	7,084,139
Innovation Hub (\$90 million)	480,372	1,967,816

41. Innovation Hub: The RFP indicates that “DEEP anticipates engagement on the Innovation Hub to begin in summer 2026 and funding to begin to be dispersed Q1 of 2026.” Can you please clarify the timeline?

- ANSWER: This is a typo and should read, “DEEP anticipates engagement on the Innovation Hub to begin in summer 2025 and funding to begin to be dispersed Q1 of 2026.” This has been corrected in the Redline of the RFP. Additionally, as previously noted, the coalition’s overarching goal is to launch some elements of the

Accelerator in 2025, but there is some flexibility on which program elements will be launched in which month. We invite proposers to make recommendations on how best to sequence program rollout.

For additional information, see questions #8 and #33.

42. Resource Hub: Please clarify that Resource Hub will also include: “a plan for stipends to compensate community-based organizations for their participation and feedback on all three pillars of the Accelerator.”

- ANSWER: The Accelerator plans to provide stipends to community-based organizations and stakeholders to facilitate stakeholder engagement for each of the hubs. The funding for those stipends is allocated to come from the Resource Hub. DEEP welcomes any recommendations or proposals for how to best design or approach distribution of these stipends.

43. Resource Hub: Please clarify if the \$90 million listed for the Resource Hub in “Table 1. Accelerator High Level Budget” also includes the total program implementation budget for the regional implementer? Or is the implementation budget for the regional implementer built into the budget listed for each hub in Table 1?

- ANSWER: The total budget for the grant awarded to the New England Heat Pump Accelerator is \$450 million. The Accelerator High Level Budget in Table 1 on page 20 of the RFP breaks down the \$450 million total award across the three hubs to give bidders a better sense of how funds should be distributed across the three hubs, but these are budget estimates and not a final program budget.

There is no “implementation budget” requested from the Regional Implementer in the RFP. Bidders should follow the Budget Template on pages 44-45 to provide estimated costs for each task associated with each hub following the Budget Expectations guidance on page 20 of the RFP. **Administrative costs for the Regional Implementer across all tasks should be broken out separately for each year according to the Budget Template (see below).**

A bidder’s budget estimate for all tasks, including incentive payments as well as administrative costs, should not exceed \$450 million. Bidders may use the estimates in Table 1 as a guide for how to distribute costs across each of the three hubs in their proposed budget, but they are not required to follow these numbers exactly. For example, if a bidder thinks the tasks under the Resource Hub may be completed at a significantly lower cost than \$90 million, those funds could be applied towards the cost of completing the tasks under the other two hubs. As stated in the RFP on page 20, “*A significant share of these funds will go towards incentives (including to the State Designee) with some also going to program administration by DEEP, support of the Advisory Council and coalition states participation, engagement of a third-party evaluator, and other implementation tasks. Therefore, the numbers below [in Table 1] are to provide an estimate and are subject to change prior to program implementation.*”

Appendix D. Budget Template

Learned and Opportunities for Scaling							
TOTAL 2.4 RESOURCE HUB ACTIVITIES							
		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Total
Administrative Costs							
		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Total
TOTAL FUNDING							

For additional information, see question #20.

44. Resource Hub: The RFP states under section “2.4 Resource Hub” that “DEEP aims for the Resource Hub to initially launch in August 2025”, then later describes a key deliverable as “Central website hosting publicly accessible data launched by August 2026 and updated regularly.” Please clarify the intended launch date for the Resource Hub website, and if there are distinct expected launch dates for particular components of the website? For example, if website launch is expected to happen by a certain date and program data publication is expected to begin by a separate date.

- ANSWER: See response to question #33.

45. Resource Hub: The RFP states: “The Regional Implementer will also assist the Advisory Council in selecting and supporting state- and community-level projects.” Please clarify the role envisioned for the Advisory Council: will they be involved in day-to-day project management, playing an active role in selection and design, or is the intent primarily that the Advisory Council provides high-level guidance and approval?

- ANSWER: The intent is for the Advisory Council to provide high-level guidance and approval. The Advisory Council will not be involved in day-to-day project management.

46. Resource Hub: For the Resource Hub, the RFP notes a desire to have translated content. Are there specific languages in mind or can the vendor make a recommendation based on the communities the program will serve?

- ANSWER: There are no specific languages in mind. The vendor can make recommendations based on the communities the program will serve. DEEP also welcomes bidders to propose ways to provide translated content and identify appropriate languages within the coalition states.

47. Resource Hub: For the Resource Hub, is the intention to include stipends to validate the proposed content on the website?

- ANSWER: The Grant Agreement with EPA identifies that “[s]tipends will be distributed to groups representing LIDACs to encourage community participation.”

In the Workplan, stipends are proposed to be used for engagement with LIDACs in three ways:

- For LIDAC representatives and community members to participate in stakeholder processes, such as the Community Outreach Group.
- For the Innovation Hub, stipends are provided for representatives from LIDACs and state environmental justice working groups to offer feedback on the design of the state pilots and selection criteria for Quick Start Grants.
- For the Resource Hub, stipends are identified to support engagement and feedback on resources from LIDAC households and contractors.

48. Resource Hub: For the Resource Hub deliverable focused on the collection, creation, and dissemination of educational resources, can you confirm if the selected vendor will be responsible for setting new channels to disseminate information or if we would leverage existing channels. Would it be appropriate to leverage paid media to reach the desired audiences?

- ANSWER: The methods of communications will be determined after consultation with the Advisory Council and current program implementers in each state. The Regional Implementer will be responsible for creation of a website under the Resource Hub where the information will be collected. The Regional Implementer will work with existing implementers and distributors to identify existing channels to disseminate information and may need to create new ones as part of program implementation to ensure dissemination of resources across the region.

49. Resource Hub: For the Resource Hub LIDAC engagement and resources, would it be appropriate for the selected vendor to leverage paid media to help with targeted engagement with LIDACs?

- ANSWER: The methods of communications will be determined after consultation with the Advisory Council and current program implementers in each state. Paid media is an allowable expense under the federal regulations, i.e. 2 CFR 200.421 Advertising and public relations and 461 Publication and printing costs.

50. Resource Hub: For the Resource Hub LIDAC engagement and resources, can you clarify the intention for the stipends? Is this intended to compensate for content validation or access to CBOs channels and members to share the educational materials with or both?

- ANSWER: See answer #47.

51. Page 24 of the RFP states, “submitted proposals must conform to the following specifications: Page Limit: 30 pages, not including appendices.” However, page 28 states, “MAIN PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Please note the maximum total page length for this section is 30 pages.” Requesting clarification/confirmation that the entire

proposal is not expected to be 30 pages max, but rather just the Main Proposal section, minus the other sections and attachments/appendices.

- ANSWER: Yes, that is correct. The Main Proposal section cannot exceed 30 pages, but the full proposal which includes the cover sheet, table of contents, executive summary, and attachments can exceed 30 pages.

52. Page 16 of the RFP states, "...large-scale state-based initiatives and smaller-scale community-based projects..." Requesting clarification on definition of large-scale vs. smaller-scale projects and the difference between the two.

- ANSWER: In the Innovation Hub, both large-scale state-based initiatives and smaller-scale community-based projects will focus on overcoming barriers to heat pump adoption among low-income households and disadvantaged communities. As stated in the RFP, smaller-scale community-level grants will be available annually to fund community-based pilot projects that expand access to heat pumps. These projects will be designed by communities for communities. In contrast, the state-based initiatives will be larger-scale multi-year projects specifically designed to address priorities and barriers identified by each coalition state.

53. Would Fixed Price be an acceptable compensation structure? How does payment structure impact scoring of the Budget, Cost Competitiveness, and Financial Management category?

- ANSWER: DEEP is open to compensation structures that comply with state and federal laws, rules and regulations. A respondent's preferred payment structure may be factored into the Budget, Cost Competitiveness, and Financial Management scoring category if a proposed payment structure raises financial management concerns. All payment procedures will be subject to state and federal contracting rules.

54. It was mentioned on the RFP Conference that bidders are required to submit two copies of proposals: 1) One complete proposal, unredacted labeled "PUBLIC" and 2) One complete proposal, redacted, with explanations for redactions labeled "CONFIDENTIAL." The RFP highlights the FOIA component and marking proposals sections as Confidential, where applicable, yet there is no mention of a separate redacted version. Is this a new requirement that bidders must submit two versions?

- ANSWER: Bidders are not required to submit two separate versions of their proposal. Bidders should, however, label confidential information as such.

55. Would dual fuel HP solutions that result in lower GHG impacts, but allow for existing fossil systems to remain in place as back-up heat be allowed (with appropriate controls)?

- ANSWER: The Regional Implementer will recommend equipment eligibility criteria for the Accelerator and could discuss inclusion of dual fuel systems with the Advisory Council. However, it is important to note that midstream incentives through the Market Hub are likely to be applied through wholesale distributors who

may not know whether existing fossil fuel systems will remain in place in the homes where the heat pumps are ultimately installed.

56. Our Legal team wanted us to ask if we should submit redlines with our proposals, or if we would submit those at a later time/upon award?

- ANSWER: No, you should not submit redlines with your proposal.

Appendices

Appendix A: Accelerator Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Presenters

Appendix B: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Registrants

Appendix C: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFP, Bidder's Conference Registrants

Appendix D: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Comments

Appendix E: Accelerator, Grant Agreement, Attachment 1 – Project Description, Administrative Conditions, and Programmatic Conditions

Appendix F: Accelerator, EPA Application Workplan

Appendix A: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Presenters

Organization	Name
Resource Innovations	Will Walker
Energy Solutions	Charlie Taylor
ICF	Matt Dugan
VEIC	Jake Marin
TRC	Matt Christie
ICAST	Ryan Kristoff
Maine Labor Climate Council	Frances Eanes

Appendix B: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Registrants

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Cassandra	Squiers	Energy Solutions
Nicole	Davis	Energy Solution
Zach	Henkin	Energy Solutions
Sarah	Lewis	CT DEEP
Nivair	Gabriel	VEIC
Brendan	Wyman	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Jennifer	Galbraith	NHDES
Tracy	Gionfriddo	Eversource
Ravi	Gorthala	University of Connecticut
David	Chu	CEMA
Robert	Durning	GreenerU, Inc.
Richard	Tomlinson	Kingston Consulting LLC
Sarah	Huang	CT DEEP
Chris	Herb	Connecticut Energy Marketers Association
Mark	Thomson	LG Electronics
Stephen	Kozlen	Clean Power Research
Barry	Reaves	ACT
Charlie	O'Neill	Energy Resources
Mike	Morrissey	Morrissey Consulting
Lloyd	Kass	Franklin Energy
Greg	Nettleton	Clean Power Research
David	Hernandez	UI
James	Desantos	Connecticut Green Bank
Shannon	Laun	Conservation Law Foundation
Ryan	Arba	ICF
Cathy	Fletcher	City of Bridgeport
Paul	Campbell	ICF
Mark	Hervey	CLEAResult Consulting Inc.
Amanda	Dwolley	Beech Hill Research LLC
Jamal	Lewis	Rewiring America
Eddie	Oquendo	Empere, LLC
Mary	Hogue	Sustainable Fairfield
Peter	Russell	Santa Energy
Brent	Milardo	Eversource
John	Isberg	Resource Innovations
Stephen	Santa	Santa Energy
Ian	McElwee	South Central Regional Council of Governments

Douglas	McClellan	Resource Innovations
Norm	Needleman	CGA
Mohan	Parekh	Eversource
Grace	Watters	Eversource
Erin	Krevis	Eversource
Ghani	ramdani	Eversource
James	Shirvell	The WorkPlace
Sarah	Steinberg	Advanced Energy United
Amanda	Barker	Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Mary-Ann	Rau	Velma Energy
deb	roe	PACE
Daniel	Rabin	PACE
Jessica	Wilcox	NHDES
Nicole	Burger	Innova Building Advisors
Vaughan	Piccolo	Innova Services Corp
Peter	Botelho	Dimeo Construction Company
Patrick	Lacey	Atris Energy
Michael	Ghilani	Yale University
Kelly	O'Connell	NEEP
Charlie	Taylor	Energy Solutions
Mark	Bowen	TRC
Coralie	Cooper	NESCAUM
drew	gillett	solar engineers
Bela	Bogdanovic	Dig Energy
Aisha	Khiyat	Eversource
Tamar	Nagel	NYSERDA
Andrew	Iliff	HEET
Kane	D'Amico	Alliance Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Lisa	Glover	Unitil
Jared	Landsman	E3
Brendan	Dewalt	Posterity Group
Sarah	Dooling	Slipstream
Melissa	Kops	BuildGreenCT
Katherine	Johnson	Johnson Consulting Group
Yung	Nguyen	CEC
Liz	Compitello	DVRPC
Sue	Hanson	EMC Insights
Joseph	Sculley	Energy Marketers Association of New Hampshire
Mary	Wambui	POUA
Joe	Van Gombos	Unitil

Dwayne	Escola	Ridgefield Energy Task Force
Mark	Ralston	HeatSmart Alliance
John	Pfeiffer	ICF International
Barry	Zitser	Bethlehem Sustainability Working Group
Kile	Adumene	MCAC
Bill	McNally	Carrier
Phillip	Borges	Emerson Swan
Anne	Stephenson	Efficiency Maine Trust
Elier	Alvarado	Jewett City DPU
Joseph	Lajewski	Unitil
Michael	Psihoules	Fujitsu General America
Prathamesh	Patil	Eversource
Gabrielle	Watson	Tamworth Energy Committee
Joe	Hitt	NTS Department of Public Service
marc	lemenager	Eversource
nadja	tremblay	Carrier Global Corporation
Emily	Bigl	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
Kristin	Dupre	Abode Energy Management
Lorenzo	Macaluso	CET
Beth	Conlin	US EPA
Mark	Brescia	Con Edison
Dana	Fischer	Mitsubishi Electric US
Jackson	Teener	RMI
Daniel	Lawlor	US EPA
Allison	Pilcher	Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
Paul	Campbell	ICF International
Greg	Thomas	Midea America Corp.
Nicholas	LaFortuna	Motili Inc.
Jeff	Stewart	Trane Technologies
Brett	Feldman	Rhode Island Energy
Briana	Kane	Cape Light Compact
Russell	Paul	Emerald Cities Collaborative
Sandra	Lee	Emerald Cities Collaborative
John	Siegenthaler, P.E.	Appropriate Designs
Alex	Quintal	QGM Consulting
Judy	tallman	New Opportunities Inc
Monica	Roy	Carrier Corporation
Walter	Morton	CEMA

Martin	Bean	Earthshare Construction
Alexander	Rees	DOE
Cliff	McDonald	NV5
Eric	Stanley	Liberty Utilities
Frank	Stone	MA Community Climate Bank
Nickey	Kollie	CEMA
Nickey	Kollie	CEMA
Neil	Paradise	HUD
Scott	Martin	City of Keene NH
Melanie	Coen	National Grid
Nathan	Jeffay	ERG
Brian	Yeung	National Grid
John	MacFaun	Emerson Swan
Chris	Jobson	PosiGen
Cindy	Zeis	PSD
Devin	Schleidt	Schleidt Works LLC
Beth	Fenstermacher	City of Concord, NH
Caleb	Smith	CT Green Bank
Meredith	Seibold	EPA
Maggie	Liang	Midea
Rebecca	Biros	Daikin
Jillian	Winterkorn	Avangrid
joanne	balaschak	new opportunities, Inc.
Will	Lange	WaterFurnace International
William	Rees	Groton Utilities
Amanda	Stevens	Eversource
Diane	Del Rosso	Eversource
Elihu	Dietz	Steven Winter Associates
Z	Watson	CLEAResult
Sophia	Gosselin-Smoske	PowerOptions
Sherif	Gerges	US HUD
William	Walker	Resource Innovations
Edward	Schmidt	Equity Heat Pump Exchange, LLC
Sarah	Santiago-Cok	Newport Partners LLC
Jennifer	Marrapese	NEEP
Dave	Lis	NEEP
Molly	Keleher	JKMuir
Theo	Brossman	New Ecology
Jonathan	Chaffee	Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee
Dianalys	Bonilla	City of Bridgeport
john	came	EPA

Zoe	Dawson	REEF (Refrigerant Emissions Elimination Forum)
Sarah	Krame	Sierra Club
Andy	Markowski	Statehouse Partners, LLC
Nathaniel	Jutras	US EPA
Aislinn	Hanley	Climate Jobs Rhode Island
Tony	Sirna	Evergreen Action
Bob	Macca	Macca Plumbing & Heating / CTPHCC
Jennifer	Wallace-Brodeur	VEIC
Mark	Milby	Elevate
Billy	Corbett	VEIC
Alison	Donovan	VEIC
Becky	Schaaf	VEIC
Katherine	Goyette	Conservation Law Foundation
Desmond	Kirwan	VEIC
Thomas	Palma	Unitil
Jocelyn	Lee	Conservation Law Foundation
David	Gomez	Climate Jobs National Resource Center
Keirstan	Entriken	Electric Power Research Institute
JoAnna	Perron	VEIC
Rahul	Young	Rewiring America
Sarah	Doherty	Office of Energy Resources
Jodi	Hanover	Department of Energy Resources
Nancy	Weinberg	CT DEEP
Dylan	Voorhees	VEIC
Matt	Dooley	VEIC
Seth	Federspiel	Abode Energy Management
Danielle	Crocker	Eversource
Ross	Anthony	Maine Governor's Energy Office
Sam	Lamos	Gradient
Sarah	Griffith	Energy Solutions
daphne	dixon	Live Green Connecticut
Matt	Christie	TRC
Luke	Miller	NEEP
Katharine	Morris	CCCo / CRCJ
Deepti	Dutt	NEEP
Corin	Tasso	Energy New England
William	Wesson	Valiant Energy Solutions
Jesse	Mastro	Envr Air
Grace	Strauch	Eversource

Tess	Ruderman	Wellesley Municipal Light Plant
Liz	Reichart	Massachusetts DOER
Brian	Kealoha	VEIC
Brian	Kealoha	VEIC
Robert	Keen	Power Engineer
Alison	Seel	VEIC
Raphael	Breit	Regulatory Assistance Project
Marissa	Westbrook	Avangrid
Sean	Malone	The New England Council
Keara	O'Laughlin	Building Electrification Institute
Jordana	Graveley	CT DEEP
Michael	Berry	ICF
Rachel	Norman	SEEL, LLC
Greg	Hosselbarth	self
Jamie	Mize	NJNG
Jeff	Mitchell	Resource Innovations
George	Lawrence	CT Energy Efficiency Board
Kim	Stevenson	New Ecology, Inc.
Daniel	Whittet	AHA Consulting Engineers

Appendix C: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFP, Bidder's Conference Registrants

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Anne	Stephenson	Efficiency Maine Trust
Ross	Anthony	Maine Governor's Energy Office
Jodi	Hanover	Department of Energy Resources
Ellen	Pfeiffer	Energy Solutions
David	Meisegeier	ICF
Alexis	Washburn	Emerald Cities
Alyssa	Latuchie	Franklin Energy
William	Walker	Resource Innovations
Jeff	Mitchell	Resource Innovations
Wynn	Tucker	GHHI
STEPHANIE	JUDGE	Resource Innovations
Nic	Dunfee	TRC
Sarah	Vanover	Slipstream Inc.
Elihu	Dietz	
Dan	Wildenhaus	MNCEE
Mike	Uhl	System Smart LL
Zaine	Watson	CLEAResult
Lindsey	Wilson	TRC
Jim	Koontz	Rock Energy Storage
KerriAnn	Lombardi	CLEAResult
Erin	Kempster	Opinion Dynamics
Richard	Tomlinson	Kingston Consulting LLC
Paul	Campbell	ICF
Ryan	Arba	ICF
Ravi	Gorthala	UCONN
J	Rasmussen	C Plus C
Ashim	Vaish	Sealed
Andy	Frank	Sealed
Bill	Codner	TRC
Allison	Lauer	PSD
Michael	Psihoules	Fujitsu
Mark	Gentry	Franklin Energy
Brody	Vance	ICF
Mark	Thomson	LGE
Jordana	Graveley	CT DEEP
Yuna	Shu	
Kyle	D'Souza	

Rebecca	Biros	Daikin
Devin	Schleidt	Schleidt Works
Ugur	Pasaogullari	UCONN
Kristin	Dupre	Abode
Mike	McQueeney	
Mark	Rodriguez	
Becki	White	Energy Solutions
Zach	Henkin	Energy Solutions
Chris	Justin	Emergent Grids
Jill	Wells	
Russell	Paul	Emerald Cities
Kristina	Hodges	ICF
Sofie	Zivovic	ICF
Maci	McDaniel	ICF
Matt	Dugan	ICF
DeAnn	Welker	Resource Innovations
Mark	Handy	CPlusC
Greg	Bauhof	MNCEE
Nicole	Davis	Energy Solutions
Mohammed	Albayati	UConn
Laure-Jeanne	Davignon	
Michael	Berry	ICFI
Jim	Staley	Deloitte
Kristen	Hagerty	
Charlie	Taylor	Energy Solutions
Rebecca	French	UConn
Jim	Douglas	Willdan
Nancy	Weinberg	CT DEEP
Billy	Corbett	VEIC
Alison	Donovan	VEIC
Puja	Vohra	
Jennifer	Wallace-Brodeur	VEIC
Kristen	Cheriegate	ICAST
Yiran	He	NEEP
Dylan	Sarkisian	Energy Solutions
Jennifer	Galbraith	NH DES
Amanda	Barker	Green Energy Consumers
Emily	Levin	NESCAUM
Stephen	Bruno	Eversource
Michael	Berry	
Benjamin	Christensen	MassCEC

Matt	Davis	UNH
Nikhil	Nadkarni	Cambridge, MA
Becca	Trietch	CT DEEP
Don	Becker	ICF
Kim	Lundgren	Kim Lundgren Associates.com
Maggie	Molina	NEEP
Daphany	Sanchez	
Ashley	Paulsworth	AECOM
Hollis	Martens	CT DEEP
Meaghan	Connelly	MassCEC
Marvin	Church	
Seth	Nuzum	Schleidt Works

Appendix D: Accelerator, Regional Implementer RFI, Technical Conference Commenters

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Chris	Balfanz	
Scott	Harriman	
Bob	Keen	
Emily	Peck	ConnectDER
Mary	Wambui	
Russell	Paul	Emerald Cities Collaborative
Dianalys	Bonilla	City of Bridgeport
James	Crowley	Conservation Law Foundation
Becky	Pelton	Ecosmart Home Services
Stephanie	Weiner	New England Smart Energy Group LLC
Sophia	Gosselin-Smoske	PowerOptions
Savannah	Bertrand	Sealed
Bernie	Pelletier	PACE
Christopher	Lewis	GreenerU
Alicia	Dolce	BuildGreenCT
Noel	Chambers	Energy New England and MLPs
Samantha	Dynowski	Sierra Club
Daphany Rose	Sanchez	KC3
Elihu	Dietz	Steven Winter Associates
Gina	Scumaci	Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors
Jack	Cawley	Cawley Plumbing and Heating LLC
Eric	Shutt	
Kevin	Purnell	Granite Group Corporate - Plumbing Supplies
Tyler	Robinson	Mainely Plumbing and Heating Inc
Jim	Robinson	Mainely Plumbing and Heating Inc
Jordan	Harmer	Harmer & Sons, Plumbing & Heating
Jack	Teener	RMI
Rachel	Norman	SEEL
Hannah	Walker	TRC Environmental Corporation
Marc	Leménager	NHSaves
Melanie	Coen	Mass Save utilities
Robert	Wolfer	Bradford White Corporation
Jason	Thomas	Carrier
Rick	Nortz	Mitsubishi Electric Trane
Kyle	Bergeron	A.O. Smith
William	Walker	Resource Innovations
		Energy Solutions
Billy	Corbett	VEIC
Andrew	Fisk	CLEAResult
Erin	Kempster	Opinion Dynamics

Kristen	Cheriegate	ICAST
Neil	Grigsby	NEEA
Gary	Sippin	Sippin Energy Products
Christine	Vaughan	lareg.ai
John	Siegenthaler, P.E.	Appropriate Designs
Claire	Chang	Greenfield Solar
Eugene	DeJoannis	
Ryan	Duffy	CT Custom Interiors, LLC
Jesse	Mastro	Envr Air
Edward	Schmidt	Equity Heat Pump Exchange
Andrew	Iliiff	HEET
Samantha	Lamos	Gradient
Kelley	Raymond	Daikin
Steve	Weitzel	Enertech
Stephen	Kozlen	Clean Power Research
Alison	Pilcher	CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
Ryan	Murphy	Climate Jobs MA, with unions
Aislinn	Hanley	Climate Jobs RI
Erica	Hammond	Rhode Island AFL-CIO
Francis	Eanes	Maine Labor Climate Council
Anthony	Cherry	Build Rhode Island

Appendix E

Grant Agreement, Project Description

Attachment 1 - Project Description

The purpose of this award is to provide funding under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). The recipient will implement greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures identified in a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) developed under a Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) planning grant. Activities conducted through this grant will benefit all residents of and visitors to Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island through four main objectives: implementation of ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond; pursuit of measures that will achieve substantial community benefits, particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities; complementing other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits; and, pursuit of innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions. The activities include various initiatives intended to rapidly accelerate adoption of cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ASHPs), heat pump water heaters (HPWHs), and ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) in single-family and multifamily residential buildings in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. These initiatives will be implemented through three program pillars or “hubs”: the Market Hub, Innovation Hub, and Resource Hub.

Through the Market Hub, the recipient will work with contractors and partner organizations to provide per-unit midstream incentives for qualifying ASHPs, HPWHs, and GSHPs via distributors. The recipient will also conduct contractor training on regionally relevant topics, such as cold-climate heat pumps and whole-home installations, to drive consistent installation practices. Workforce development programs to grow the contractor base, with a focus on promoting job creation and entrepreneurship in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs), will be developed as well.

Activities to be performed through the Innovation Hub include 1 or 2 large-scale, multiyear state initiatives to address specific state priorities and develop scalable solutions to overcome barriers for LIDACs; annual “Quick Start Grants” for community-based pilot projects to expand access to heat pumps for LIDACs; and stakeholder engagement to ensure community involvement in the design of these programs.

Through the Resource Hub, the recipient and its partners will collect and share aggregate or anonymized data on heat pump markets and program participation; share resources for consumer and contractor education; and offer additional LIDAC-specific outreach and resources. Stipends will be distributed to groups representing LIDACs to encourage community participation. Key deliverables include semi-annual progress reports and a detailed final report to EPA; a Quality Assurance Progress Plan (QAPP), if deemed necessary by EPA; annual program evaluations by a third-party Program Evaluator (beginning in Month 23 of the project); and annual reports to stakeholders describing results for the Market Hub and Innovation Hub (also beginning in Month 23). Reports for the Innovation Hub will include information on heat pumps installed (including data on installations in low-income and disadvantaged communities), barriers overcome, incumbent systems replaced, and scalable solutions identified. Reports to EPA will describe actual GHG emissions reduced and report on the recipient’s progress toward achieving other outputs and outcomes described in the workplan.

Additional deliverables for each of the three project pillars are listed below.

Market Hub:

- Equipment eligibility criteria and Qualified Product Lists (QPLs) for heat pump technologies (updated annually)
- Standardized tool for distributor reporting and incentive processing
- Training resources for contractors and workforce development programs
- Data on workforce development program participation; records and evaluation of outreach activities to workforce organizations in low-income and disadvantaged communities

Innovation Hub:

- 1 or 2 large-scale projects in each coalition state
- Annual grants for smaller-scale, community-based grants
- Selection criteria for Innovation Hub projects

Resource Hub:

- Central website hosting publicly accessible data
- Maps and tools for regional trend analysis, synthesizing publicly available information from each coalition state on building decarbonization policy and programs, housing stock and fuel sources, available incentives, and electricity and fuel costs
- Web-based, easily searchable repository of educational resources for distributors, contractors, program implementers, and other stakeholders

The expected outcomes include 2,209,712 metric tons (MT) of cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by 2030 and 9,051,956 MT by 2050; reductions in criteria air pollutant emissions and associated health benefits; an increase in heat pump adoption such that heat pumps comprise 65% of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and water heater sales by 2030 and 90% of sales by 2040; lower installation costs for heat pumps due to greater market scale and data transparency; an increase in New England homes fully electrified by 2030; significant job growth in the heat pump industry, including in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs); and full access to equitable and affordable heat pump solutions, resulting in lower energy burdens and improved health outcomes.

The intended beneficiaries include all residents of and visitors to Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Specifically, residents of single-family and multifamily residential buildings in these five New England states will benefit from the project's focus on the rapid adoption of heat pump technology to permanently shift the market from fossil fuel equipment to heat pumps. Additional beneficiaries include heat pump distributors, contractors, and program implementors across the region who will receive training and other resources. LIDACs in particular will benefit from this project, as the program as a whole is designed to address the specific barriers that disadvantaged communities face in adopting heat pumps. At least 40% of Accelerator funding will be directed to LIDACs; 100% of the Innovation Hub funding will serve LIDACs and LIDAC-targeted programs are included in each pillar. No subawards are included in this assistance agreement.

Grant Agreement, Administrative Conditions

Administrative Conditions

National Administrative Terms and Conditions

General Terms and Conditions

The recipient agrees to comply with the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general terms and conditions available at: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-10/fy_2025_epa_general_terms_and_conditions_effective_october_1_2024_or_later.pdf

These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as a part of the award and the terms, conditions, or restrictions cited throughout the award.

The EPA repository for the general terms and conditions by year can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions#general>.

A. Correspondence Condition

The terms and conditions of this agreement require the submittal of reports, specific requests for approval, or notifications to EPA. Unless otherwise noted, all such correspondence should be sent to the following email addresses:

- Federal Financial Reports (SF-425): rtpfc-grants@epa.gov and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document
- MBE/WBE reports (EPA Form 5700-52A): Grants Specialist on Page 1 of Award Document AND Larry Wells, Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program Manager: r1_mbewbreport@epa.gov
- All other forms/certifications/assurances, Indirect Cost Rate Agreements, Requests for Extensions of the Budget and Project Period, Amendment Requests, Requests for other Prior Approvals, updates to recipient information (including email addresses, changes in contact information or changes in authorized representatives) and other notifications: Grants Specialist and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document
- Payment requests (if applicable): Grants Specialist and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document
- Quality Assurance documents, workplan revisions, equipment lists, programmatic reports and deliverables: Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document AND R1QAPPs@epa.gov

B. Use of Expired Rates (relates to Section 6.4 of the IDC Policy)

Options for Applicants if the Negotiated Rate Has Expired

The applicant should do (at least) one of the following:

-Request an IDC rate extension from the cognizant agency (this is not an option for provisional and fixed rates with carryforward), in order to budget and draw down IDCs;

-Submit an IDC rate proposal to the cognizant agency in order to include IDCs in the budget. IDCs should not be drawn down until a rate is approved:

-Seek a regulatory exception (only available for fixed rates with carry-forward) from the National Policy, Training and Compliance Division of EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment to continue to budget and draw down IDC's, using the previous/expired rate;

-Use the 10% *de minimis* rate; or Remove IDCs from the budget, and do not charge for IDCs. Funds may be transferred to the appropriate Direct budget categories, in this case. In some cases, it may be a good idea for an applicant to do a combination of options, such as request an extension from the cognizant agency and also submit a rate proposal to the cognizant agency.

Drawing Down EPA Funds for IDCs with an Expired IDC Rate

Only institutes of Higher Education may draw down for IDCs with an expired rate, as long as an approved rate was in place and funds were budgeted for IDCs when grant was awarded.

Other recipient types (tribe, Non-profit, governmental agency that receives \$35,000,000 or more in federal funding annually) has an expired (or expiring) rate, the applicant must do one of the following, in order to continue using that rate after expiration:

-Obtain approval from the cognizant agency to extend the rate (not applicable to fixed rates with carry-forward or provisional rates).

-Obtain a regulatory exception from the National Policy, Training, and Compliance Division (NPTCD) of EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD), to continue to use a fixed rate with carry-forward (for EPA grants only).

Grant Agreement, Programmatic Conditions

Programmatic Conditions

Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants Programmatic Terms and Conditions

A. Deliverables

The first phase of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provided funding for designing Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) that incorporate a variety of measures (i.e., programs, policies, measures, and projects) that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The purpose of this CPRG Implementation assistance agreement is to implement proposed measures within a specified PCAP identified in the CPRG Implementation Grant General Competition application. All programs, policies, measures, and projects contained in the final, approved CPRG implementation assistance agreement workplan are required deliverables.

The recipient agrees to implement GHG reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures (collectively referred to as “GHG reduction measures,” or “measures”) identified in a PCAP developed under a CPRG planning grant and included in the CPRG implementation grant workplan. The recipient agrees to ensure that each is successfully implemented before the end of the grant project period. The recipient agrees to successful project implementation, which includes the process of putting a decision or plan into effect; executing the program, policies, projects and/or measures, not just planning or designing the programs, policies, projects and/or measures. The recipient agrees to adequately describe the actual environmental outputs and outcomes achieved, including actual GHG emissions reduced, not just the expected outputs and outcomes of the proposed measures. Clean Air Act (CAA) section 137 also requires that CPRG Implementation grant recipients address the degree to which a grant reduces GHG emissions in total and with respect to low-income and disadvantaged communities, where “greenhouse gas” refers to the air pollutants carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).

To the best of their ability, the recipient agrees to:

- implement GHG emission reduction programs, policies, measures, and projects that are expected to reduce GHG emissions (or enhance GHG removals) by the estimated cumulative total GHG emission reductions from the final approved workplan;
- only report emission reductions occurring as a result of CPRG funding; and
- only report emission reduction data in units of million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) where appropriate, calculated using the global warming potentials (GWP) in the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report.

Refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity, EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07 ([https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/CPRG General Competition NOFO.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-09/CPRG%20General%20Competition%20NOFO.pdf)), Appendix B, Global Warming Potentials for GHGs, for details about how to apply GWP values for different gases.

For the measures included in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan, the recipient agrees to provide transparent GHG emission reduction estimates based on high-quality, thorough, reasonable, and

comprehensive methodologies, assumptions, and calculations. Examples of tools that could be used to assist in these GHG quantifications can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>.

B. Final Approved Work Plan and Modifications

The recipient agrees to implement the measures in the EPA-approved work plan that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond.

Recipient agrees to carry out the project in accordance with the final approved workplan. Recipients are required to report deviations from budget or project scope or objective, and must request prior written approval from the EPA:

- For any change in the scope or objective of the project or program (even if there is no associated budget revision requiring prior written approval);
- For change in key personnel (including employees and contractors) that are identified by name or position in the Federal award;
- For the disengagement from a project for more than three months, or a 25% reduction in time and effort devoted to the Federal award over the course of the period of performance, by the approved project director or principal investigator;
- For the inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E—Cost Principles or 48 CFR part 31, “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable;
- For the transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs as defined in 2 CFR Section 200.1 Definitions to other budget categories;
- For the subawarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under the award;
- Changes in the total approved cost-sharing amount;
- When the need arises for additional Federal funds to complete the project.

Proposed modifications to the approved work plan or budget, including additions, deletions, or changes in the schedule, shall be submitted in a timely manner to the EPA Project Officer for approval. Depending on the type or scope of changes, a formal amendment to the award may be necessary.

Major project modifications may include but are not limited to: changes to the approved environmental results, outputs or outcomes, types and number of affected devices or equipment, the approved types of emission reduction technologies to be implemented, specific programs or policies to be adopted, or changes to the approved project location(s). Any change that would significantly alter the cumulative GHG reductions achieved by 2030 and beyond and affect the achievement of community benefits, especially in low- income and disadvantaged communities, may not be allowed. The recipient shall not

make changes to the proposed activities in the EPA-approved work plan without prior written approval from the EPA. The recipient shall contact the EPA Project Officer with the proposed changes; however, depending on the type of change, the Agency Award Official or Grant Management Officer may need to make the final determination. If issues regarding proposed measures arise that cannot be resolved, the EPA may elect to terminate the assistance agreement, and/or if applicable, recover ineligible expenditures from the recipient. Any significant changes to the approved work plan that would result in undermining the integrity of the award competition will not be approved.

For grants that are awarded to a recipient that is serving as the lead for a coalition under the CPRG program, the recipient agrees to abide by the terms set out in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), including the roles, responsibilities, and commitments that each partner will provide to ensure project success, the operating model for the coalition, and the resources that each partner will contribute to the project. As established in the CPRG coalition's MOA, the lead applicant is accountable to the EPA and accepts full responsibility for effectively carrying out the full scope of work and proper financial management of the grant. Coalition members who are grant subrecipients are accountable to the lead applicant for proposed use of EPA funding and successful project implementation. The recipient shall not make changes to the signed MOA without prior written approval from the EPA.

C. Performance Reporting and Final Performance Report

1. Performance Reports - Content

The recipient agrees to inform the EPA as soon as it is aware of problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the recipient's ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan. The recipient agrees to inform the EPA immediately rather than waiting until the next performance report is due.

The recipient agrees to adequately describe the actual environmental outputs and outcomes achieved, not just the expected outputs and outcomes of the proposed measures. The recipient agrees to report out on each performance measures that will be the mechanism to track, measure, and report progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes for each GHG reduction measure. The recipient agrees to track and report separately on the work conducted and GHG emissions reductions for each measure (program, policy, measure, or project) specified in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan. Recipients also agree to track and report separately on the budgets for each measure.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.329, the recipient agrees to submit semi- annual, one-year, and final performance progress reports that include brief information on each of the areas specified below. To ensure the EPA can effectively monitor progress towards the achievement of measures, the recipient also agrees to report progress for each measure identified in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan as soon as work is completed and information is available.

a. Semi-Annual: The recipient agrees to submit semi-annual performance reports that include brief information on each of the following areas:

1. a comparison of actual technical progress and milestones achieved during the reporting period to the outputs/outcomes and performance measures established in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan, which may include technical changes made to the project, public events conducted, websites published, release of public-facing documents or tools, or other reportable activities described in the work plan;

2. a consolidated budget update with separate tracking for each measure (that is, how much was spent on equipment, supplies, contractors, subgrants, etc., during the reporting period and cumulatively) and, when appropriate, additional pertinent information such as analysis and explanation of cost overruns, high-unit costs, cost-share expenditures, program income, infrastructure costs subject to Buy America, Build America (BABA) compliance, or requested budget modifications (for example, when the recipient is requesting to move funding from one budget category to another);
3. if necessary, a description of the reasons why any implementation timeline milestones or outputs/outcomes were missed for each measure established in the final, approved assistance agreement work plan, including the recipient's strategy to address challenges faced and/or the recipient's approach to ensure that the approved outputs/outcomes for each measure will be achieved within the period of performance;
4. documentation of community engagement activities conducted in low- income and disadvantaged communities for each measure, which describes how the activities were publicized, categorizes respondents/attendees (e.g., the number of people from Tribal governments, federal government, state government, local government, nonprofits, for profits, universities, and the public), explains how input from participants was considered in decisions for implementing the measure, and details how meaningful engagement with low- income and disadvantaged communities will be continuously included in the development and implementation of the measure;
5. as applicable, strategies for mitigating environmental risks;
6. a description of any climate resiliency planning, siting, design, and operation of the project.
7. as applicable, updates to individuals, including those from coalition members, who serve as key contacts and/or any changes to the roles and responsibilities of key contacts involved in each measure and the reason(s) for the change(s);
8. as applicable, updates regarding which organizations have the authority to implement each measure and the reason(s) for the change(s);
9. as applicable, updates regarding changes to contracts, subgrants, and participant support costs;
10. as applicable, progress on generating high-quality jobs with a diverse, highly skilled workforce and support of strong labor standards; and
11. summary of anticipated activities for the next 6-month reporting period.

b. One-year report: As part of the second semi-annual progress report (*i.e.* the more detailed one-year report), the recipient agrees to report the additional data to the EPA using the reporting template from the

EPA's Information Collection Request 2806.01, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 2060-0763. The reporting template will be made available to grant recipients through an electronic data interface to be specified by EPA upon approval of the Information Collection Request. This includes co-pollutant emissions reductions of each pollutant impacted by each measure, the sector impacted, and the county in which the emissions change. In addition, the recipient agrees to report the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Census tract IDs or the EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs for areas affected by GHG reduction measures, consistent with the EPA's definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities for the CPRG program.

c. Final Report: The recipient also agrees to submit a detailed final report and to report certain data associated with the final report to the EPA using the reporting template from the EPA's Information Collection Request 2806.01, OMB Control Number 2060-0763.

d. Coalition Performance

The grant recipient is accountable to the EPA and accepts responsibility for carrying out the full scope of work and proper financial management of the grant. In the event that a coalition member withdraws, the grant recipient continues to be subject to the EPA's terms and conditions for the grant, the subaward policy, and EPA grants policy. In circumstances where the EPA deems that the withdrawal of a coalition member fundamentally alters the project or jeopardizes the project's success, the EPA will consider appropriate remedies and reserves the right to terminate an awarded grant (see 2 CFR 200.339 through 343)

2. Performance Reports

The recipient agrees to submit semi-annual performance reports electronically to the EPA Project Officer within 30 days after the six-month reporting period ends. Semi-annual reports are due according to the following schedule. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the report will be due on the next business day. If a project start date falls within a defined reporting period, the recipient must report for that period by the given due date unless otherwise noted. This semi-annual reporting schedule shall be repeated for the duration of the award agreement.

October 1 – March 31 Reporting Period: report due April 30

April 1 – September 30 Reporting Period: report due October 30

As part of the second semi-annual performance report that is submitted one year after the grant award, the recipient agrees to submit the one-year performance report that includes the additional details specified above in section C.1.b.

The recipient must submit the final performance report no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance.

D. Allowable and Unallowable Activities

The recipient agrees to only use this CPRG Implementation grant award funding to implement measures in the EPA approved workplan for this CPRG Implementation grant and follow the grant Terms and Conditions.

All costs charged to the award to support these activities must meet the requirements for allowability under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E as well as applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500. In addition, the recipient agrees to obtain prior approval from the EPA Award Official prior to the expenditure of the award for financial assistance as well as other activities that involve acquiring real property, including related equipment purchases, if not already in the EPA approved work plan.

The recipient agrees to not use the award for the following unallowable activities: (a) activities that are not in the EPA approved work plan; (b) activities that support measures, activities or projects outside the boundaries of the ten EPA regions. The recipient also agrees not to use this CPRG award to replace existing program federal funding, but the recipient may use CPRG funds to supplement or expand existing programs. The recipient also agrees not to use the award for activities associated with defending against, settling, or satisfying a claim by a private litigant, except when either (a) the claim stems from the recipient's compliance with the terms and conditions of the award agreement or (b) the recipient has obtained prior written approval from the EPA Project Officer.

The recipient agrees to not use the award to aid regulated entities to comply with EPA regulatory requirements.

E. Davis-Bacon Related Act Term and Condition

1. Program Applicability

1. Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants.
2. Section 314 of the Clean Air Act.
3. Construction activities conducted under a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant.
4. The recipient must work with the appropriate authorities to determine wage classifications for the specific project(s) or activities subject to Davis Bacon under this grant.

2. Davis-Bacon and Related Acts

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction>) is a collection of labor standards provisions administered by the Department of Labor, that are applicable to grants involving construction. These labor standards include the:

1. Davis-Bacon Act, which requires payment of prevailing wage rates for laborers and mechanics on construction contracts of \$2,000 or more;
2. Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act, which prohibits a contractor or subcontractor from inducing an employee into giving up any part of the compensation to which he or she is entitled; and
3. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which requires overtime wages to be paid for over 40 hours of work per week, under contracts in excess of \$100,000.

3. Recipient Responsibilities When Entering Into and Managing Contracts

1. **Solicitation and Contract Requirements:**
2. **Include the Correct Wage Determinations in Bid Solicitations and Contracts:** Recipients are responsible for complying with the procedures provided in 29 CFR 1.6 when soliciting bids and awarding contracts.
3. **Include DBRA Requirements in All Contracts:** Include the following text on all contracts under this grant:

“By accepting this contract, the contractor acknowledges and agrees to the terms provided in the DBRA Requirements for Contractors and Subcontractors Under EPA Grants (<https://www.epa.gov/grants/contract-provisions-davis-bacon-and-related-acts>).”

1. **After Award of Contract:**
2. **Approve and Submit Requests for Additional Wages Rates:** Work with contractors to request additional wage rates if required for contracts under this grant, as provided in 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1)(iii).
3. **Provide Oversight of Contractors to Ensure Compliance with DBRA Provisions:** Ensure contractor compliance with the terms of the contract, as required by 29 CFR 5.6.

4. Recipient Responsibilities When Establishing and Managing Additional Subawards

1. **Include DBRA Requirements in All Subawards (including Loans):** Include the following text on all subawards under this grant:

“By accepting this award, the EPA subrecipient acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions provided in the DBRA Requirements for EPA Subrecipients (<https://www.epa.gov/grants/contract-provisions-davis-bacon-and-related-acts>).”

2. **Provide Oversight to Ensure Compliance with DBRA Provisions:** Recipients are responsible for oversight of subrecipients and must ensure subrecipients comply with the requirements in 29 CFR 5.6.

5. Consideration as Part of Every Prime Contract Covered by DBRA

The contract clauses set forth in this Term & Condition, along with the correct wage determinations, will be considered to be a part of every prime contract covered by Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (see 29 CFR 5.1), and will be effective by operation of law, whether or not they are included or incorporated by reference into such contract, unless the Department of Labor grants a variance, tolerance, or exemption. Where the clauses and applicable wage determinations are effective by operation of law under this paragraph, the prime contractor must be compensated for any resulting increase in wages in accordance with applicable law.

F. Cybersecurity Condition

1. State Grant Cybersecurity

- a. The recipient agrees that when collecting and managing environmental data under this assistance agreement, it will protect the data by following all applicable State law cybersecurity requirements.
- b. (1) The EPA must ensure that any connections between the recipient's network or information system and EPA networks used by the recipient to transfer data under this agreement, are secure.

For purposes of this Section, a connection is defined as a dedicated persistent interface between an Agency IT system and an external IT system for the purpose of transferring information. Transitory, user-controlled connections such as website browsing are excluded from this definition.

If the recipient's connections as defined above do not go through the Environmental Information Exchange Network or the EPA's Central Data Exchange, the recipient agrees to contact the EPA Project Officer (PO) and work with the designated Regional/Headquarters Information Security Officer to ensure that the connections meet EPA security requirements, including entering into Interconnection Service Agreements as appropriate. This condition does not apply to manual entry of data by the recipient into systems operated and used by the EPA's regulatory programs for the submission of reporting and/or compliance data.

(2) The recipient agrees that any subawards it makes under this agreement will require the subrecipient to comply with the requirements in (b)(1) if the subrecipient's network or information system is connected to EPA networks to transfer data to the Agency using systems other than the Environmental Information Exchange Network or the EPA's Central Data Exchange. The recipient will be in compliance with this condition: by including this requirement in subaward agreements; and during subrecipient monitoring deemed necessary by the recipient under 2 CFR 200.332(d), by inquiring whether the subrecipient has contacted the EPA Project Officer. Nothing in this condition requires the recipient to contact the EPA Project Officer on behalf of a subrecipient or to be involved in the negotiation of an Interconnection Service Agreement between the subrecipient and the EPA.

G. Climate Resilience:

To the extent practicable, the recipient agrees to incorporate current and future climate change risk in planning, siting, design, and operation of the project. Approaches for incorporating climate change risk may make use of climate change data and information (e.g., projections and emission scenarios) that are reflective of the project's anticipated lifespan. This includes consideration of the climate change risks posed to the individuals, communities, local governments, organizations, or other entities served by the project over its anticipated lifespan.

H. Equipment and Devices

1. Procurement of Systems, Equipment and Devices

When purchasing replacement systems, equipment and/or devices, the recipient agrees the replacement systems, equipment or device:

1. will continue to perform a similar function and operation as the system, equipment or device that is being permanently rendered inoperable;

2. will achieve the estimated emission reductions included in the EPA-approved work plan; and
3. is consistent in its intended use, operation and location as described in the EPA-approved work plan.

The procurement of systems, equipment or devices should follow the EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements (<https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance>).

2. Operation and Maintenance

The recipient will assure the continued proper operation and maintenance of systems, equipment and devices funded under this agreement. Such practices shall be operated and maintained for the expected lifespan of the specific measure and in accordance with commonly accepted design standards and specifications. The recipient shall include a provision in every applicable sub-agreement (subaward or contract) awarded under this grant requiring that the management practices for the project be properly operated and maintained. Likewise, the sub-agreement will assure that similar provisions are included in any sub-agreements that are awarded by the sub- recipient.

3. Equipment Use and Management

Equipment is defined as tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes (see Capital assets at 2 CFR 200.1 Definitions), or the amount specified in Equipment at 2 CFR 200.1. Under 2 CFR 200.313, if the CPRG grant recipient purchases equipment with CPRG federally- awarded funds, title to the equipment vests in the grant recipient and there will be no ongoing requirements for the grant recipient for the purchased equipment after the end of the grant period.

These conditions must be met by the grant recipient for equipment use and management during the grant period:

1. Use the equipment for the authorized purposes of the project during the period of performance or until the property is no longer needed for the purposes of the project.
2. Not encumber the property without approval of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
3. Use and dispose of the property as described below. Equipment use and management instructions are applicable to assistance agreement recipients and subrecipients acquiring equipment under this award. Per 2 CFR 200.313 (b), state agencies may use and manage equipment acquired through a Federal award by the state in accordance with state laws and procedures. Per 2 CFR 200.313(b), Indian Tribes must use, manage, and dispose of equipment acquired under a Federal award in accordance with tribal laws and procedures.

Recipient agrees that at the end of the project period the recipient will continue to use the equipment

purchased under this assistance agreement in the project or program for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the Federal award. After the end of the grant period, equipment purchased under this award that is no longer needed, may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the Federal awarding agency.

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.313, unless instructed otherwise, a grant recipient may keep the equipment and continue to use it on the project originally funded through this assistance agreement or on other federally funded projects whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by Federal funds. When acquiring replacement equipment, the non-Federal entity may use the equipment to be replaced as a trade-in or sell the property and use the proceeds to offset the cost of the replacement property.

Subrecipients are subject to the same federal requirements as the grant recipient (also known as the “pass-through entity”) and they must comply with applicable subaward provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, the EPA Subaward Policy, and the EPA’s General Term and Condition for Subawards.

Under 2 CFR 200.313, if the CPRG grant recipient purchases equipment with CPRG federally-awarded funds, title to the equipment vests with the grant recipient and there will be no ongoing requirements for the grant recipient for the purchased equipment after the end of the grant period.

In this case, equipment includes systems, equipment and devices.

I. Equipment Disposition for Recipients

State agencies may dispose of equipment acquired under a Federal award by the state in accordance with state laws and procedures.

J. QUALITY ASSURANCE

1. Quality Assurance Project Plan(s) (QAPP)

Prior to beginning environmental information operations, the recipient must:

1. Prepare a QAPP(s) for all applicable projects and tasks involving environmental information operations in accordance with the current version of EPA’s [Quality Assurance Project Plan \(QAPP\) Standard](#);
2. Submit the document for EPA review and approval at least sixty (60) days before environmental information operations begin. QAPPs are submitted by e-mail to both the EPA Project Officer (PO) (see page 1 of the assistance agreement for contact information) and the Region 1 Quality Assurance Branch (QAB) at R1QAPPS@epa.gov;
3. Obtain EPA approval from both the EPA PO and Regional Quality Assurance Manager (RQAM) (or delegated QA Reviewer) prior to the start of environmental information operations.
4. The recipient must review their approved QAPP at least annually. The results of the QAPP review and any revisions must be submitted to the PO and the RQAM at least annually and may also be

submitted when changes occur.

The recipient should discuss any potential new environmental information operations with the EPA PO prior to starting those operations. The EPA PO and the RQAM can assist in determining if a QAPP is required.

1. The recipient shall notify the PO and RQAM when substantive changes are needed to the QAPP. EPA may require the QAPP be updated and re-submitted for approval. In consultation with the PO and the RQAM, if it is determined that no QAPP is required at the time of award, the recipient must review project activities at least annually and discuss any revisions to determine whether a QAPP is appropriate.
2. Quality Management Plan (QMP) (only applicable to organizations with existing, EPA-approved QMPs)
3. Submit the current EPA-approved QMP to the EPA Project Officer (PO) within sixty (60) days after grant award. The EPA PO will confirm that the QMP remains current (i.e., it was approved by EPA within the last five-years). The EPA PO shall confirm the status of the QMP with Region 1 Quality Assurance Manager (RQAM), if needed.

2. The recipient must review their EPA-approved QMP at least annually. These reviews shall be documented and made available to the EPA PO and/or RQAM, if requested. When necessary, the recipient shall revise its QMP to incorporate minor changes and notify the EPAPO and RQAM of the changes. If significant changes have been made to the Quality Program that affect the performance of environmental information operations, it may be necessary to re-submit the entire QMP for re-approval. In general, a copy of any QMP revision(s) made during the year should be submitted to the EPA PO and RQAM in writing when such changes occur. Conditions requiring the revision and resubmittal of an approved QMP can be found in section 6 of EPA's [Quality Management Plan \(QMP\) Standard](#)

“Environmental information operations” is a collective term for work performed to collect, produce, evaluate, or use environmental information and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology. For EPA, environmental information includes direct measurements of environmental parameters or processes, analytical testing of environmental conditions, information provided by models, information compiled from other sources such as databases, software applications, or existing literature, the development of environmental software, tools, or models, or the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology.

To assist meeting these requirements, regional guidance documents and resources are available at [Region 1 Quality Program Documents](#) and national (Agency-wide) QA Directives are available at [EPA Quality Program Directives](#).

K. Retention / Required Documentation

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.334, the recipient must retain all Federal award records, including but not limited to, financial records, supporting documents, and statistical records for at least three years from the date of submission of the final financial report. The records must be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings have been resolved and final action has been taken if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three-year period. Examples of the required records include: (1) time

and attendance records and supporting documentation; and (2) documentation of compliance with statutes and regulations that apply to the project.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.337, the EPA, the Inspector General, the Comptroller General, and the pass-through entity, or any of their authorized representatives, have the right of access to any documents, papers or records of the recipient which are pertinent to the grant award. The rights of access are not limited to the required retention period, but last as long as the records are retained.

If the demonstration projects or activities, device and/or the device components are to be sold, the recipient must comply with the program income requirements (see the Program Income section below).

L. Program Audit

The EPA will conduct random reviews of recipients to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse. As part of this process, the EPA, or its authorized representatives may request documentation from current recipients to verify statements made on the application and reporting documents. Recipients may be selected for advanced monitoring, including a potential site visit to confirm project details. The EPA, or its authorized representatives, may also conduct site visits to confirm documentation is on hand and that the project is completed as agreed upon, as well as confirm applicable infrastructure adheres to Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements. Recipients are expected to comply with site visit requests and recordkeeping requirements and must supply the EPA with any requested documents for three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report, or risk cancellation of an active grant application or other enforcement action.

M. Use of Submitted Information

Applications and reporting materials submitted under this competition may be released in part or in whole in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The EPA recommends that applications and reporting materials not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged, or sensitive information that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.). However, if such information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203. (Review EPA clause IV.a, Confidential Business Information, under EPA Solicitation Clauses (<https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses>)).

The EPA may make publicly available on the EPA's website or another public website copies or portions of CPRG grant project information.

The EPA reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, for federal purposes, submitted project photos, including use in program materials.

N. USE OF LOGOS

If the EPA logo is appearing along with logos from other participating entities on websites, outreach materials, or reports, it must not be prominently displayed to imply that any of the recipient or subrecipient's activities are being conducted by the EPA. Instead, the EPA logo should be accompanied with a statement indicating that CT DEEP received financial support from the EPA under an Assistance Agreement. More information is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/stylebook/using-epa-seal-and-logo#policy>

O. Public or Media Events

The EPA encourages the recipient to notify the EPA Project Officer listed in this award document of public or media events publicizing the accomplishment of significant events related to construction projects as a result of this agreement and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by federal representatives with at least ten (10) working days' notice.

P. National Programmatic Term and Condition for Fellowship, Internship Programs and Similar Programs Supported by EPA Financial Assistance

1. EPA funds for this program may only be used for participant support cost payments, scholarships, tuition remission and other forms of student aid for citizens of the United States, its territories, or possessions, or for individuals lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.
2. The recipient and program participants are responsible for taxes, if any, on payments made to or on behalf of individuals participating in this program that are allowable as participant support costs under 2 CFR 200.1 or 2 CFR

200.456 and scholarships and other forms of student aid such as tuition remission under 2 CFR 200.466. EPA encourages recipients and program participants to consult their tax advisers, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or state and local tax authorities regarding the taxability of stipends, tuition remission and other payments. However, EPA does not provide advice on tax issues relating to these payments.

3. Participant support cost payments, scholarships, and other forms of student aid such as tuition remission are lower tiered covered Nonprocurement transactions for the purposes of 2 CFR 180.300 and EPA's Suspension and Debarment Term and Condition. Recipients, therefore, may not make participant support cost payments to individuals who are excluded from participation in

Federal Nonprocurement programs under 2 CFR Part 180. Recipients are responsible for checking the eligibility of program participants in the System for Award Management (SAM) or obtaining eligibility certifications from the program participants.

See EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/epa-guidance-on-participant-support-costs.pdf>.

Q. Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data

In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements, the recipient agrees, by entering into this agreement, that it has demonstrated competency prior to award, or alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, Recipient agrees to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. Recipient shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of this agreement and this will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/competency-policy-aaia-new.pdf> or a copy may also be requested by contacting the EPA Project Officer for this award.

R. Geospatial Data Standards

All geospatial data created must be consistent with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) endorsed standards. Information on these standards may be found at <https://www.fgdc.gov/>.

S. Health and Safety Plan

Before beginning field work, the recipient must have a health and safety plan in place providing for the protection of on-site personnel and area residents, unless specifically waived by the award official. This plan need not be submitted to the EPA but must be made available to the EPA upon request. The recipient's health and safety plan must comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.120, entitled "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response."

T. Foreign Entity of Concern (Updated 01/08/25)

The recipient agrees to not directly transfer EPA funds through a subaward, contract, or participant support costs to a foreign entity of concern (FEOC). The EPA considers FEOCs to include foreign entities that are owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a foreign country that is a covered nation as defined by Congress in Section 40207 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The EPA uses the proposed interpretive rule from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to provide additional guidance in determining FEOCs. See 88 Fed. Reg. 84,082 (Dec. 4, 2023). If DOE finalizes an interpretive rule that differs in material respects from the proposal, the EPA may amend the award agreement accordingly.

Additionally, the recipient agrees to develop and implement internal controls that ensure EPA funds are not directly transferred to FEOCs, including through subawards, contractors, and participant support costs.

As part of carrying out this award, Recipient agrees that they are not:

1. an entity owned by, controlled by, or subject to the direction of a government of a "covered nation" as defined at 10U.S.C. §4872(d);
2. an entity headquartered in a "covered nation" as defined at 10U.S.C. §4872(d); or
3. a subsidiary of an entity described above in (1) or (2).

As of the date these terms and conditions become effective, covered nations under 10 U.S.C. § 4872(d) are the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea; the People's Republic of China; the Russian Federation; and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

U. Historic Preservation

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Section 106 of the NHPA requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings, including the act of awarding a grant or cooperative agreement, on historic properties, and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (AChP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The recipient must assist the EPA Project Officer in complying with NHPA if any activities funded under this grant impact a historic property. Historic properties include: (a) land or buildings listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; (b) archaeologically sensitive areas or in an area where traditional cultural properties are located; and (c) properties that are associated with significant historic events, are associated with significant people, embody distinctive characteristics, and contain important precontact information.

The recipient should work with their Project Officer to ensure that subrecipients are available to work with EPA on any required consultation process with the State or Tribal Historic Preservation Office prior to commencing the project to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

If NHPA compliance is required, necessary Section 106 consultation activities, such as historic or architectural surveys, structural engineering analysis of buildings, public meetings, and archival photographs, can be considered allowable and allocable grant costs.

Archeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA)

This law applies if archeologically significant artifacts or similar items are discovered after an EPA-funded construction project has begun, and compliance may be coordinated with the NHPA, discussed above. The AHPA requires federal agencies to identify relics, specimens, and other forms of scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archaeologic data that may be lost during the construction of federally-sponsored projects to ensure that these resources are not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished or substantially altered, or allowed to deteriorate significantly. The recipient must ensure that subrecipients performing construction projects are aware of this requirement, and the recipient must notify EPA if the AHPA is triggered.

V. Other Federal Requirements

In addition to the statutes outlined in the Labor and Equitable Workforce Programmatic Term and Condition, Build America, Buy America Programmatic Act Term and Condition, Historic Preservation Programmatic Term and Condition , the recipient must comply with all federal cross-cutting requirements. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Endangered Species Act, as specified in 50 CFR Part 402: Non-Federal entities must identify any impact or activities that may involve a threatened or endangered species. Federal agencies have the responsibility to ensure that no adverse effects to a protected species or habitat occur from actions under Federal assistance awards and conduct the reviews required under the Endangered Species Act, as applicable.
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act: Recipients of financial assistance awards must comply with the requirements outlined in 2 CFR Part 170, Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation and in the General Term and Condition “Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation.”
- Farmland Protection Policy Act: This statute requires EPA to use criteria developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify the potential adverse effects of Federal programs on farmland and its conversion to nonagricultural uses, to mitigate these effects, and to ensure that programs are carried out in a manner that is compatible with the farmland preservation policies of state and local governments, and private organizations. Recipients may need to work with EPA or NRCS, as appropriate, to ensure compliance.
- Coastal Zone Management Act: Projects funded under federal financial assistance agreements must be consistent with a coastal State's approved management program for the coastal zone.

For additional information on cross-cutting requirements visit <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-subaward-cross-cutter-requirements>.

W. Copyrighted Material and Data

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.315, EPA has the right to reproduce, publish, use and authorize others to reproduce, publish and use copyrighted works or other data developed under this assistance agreement for Federal purposes. Examples of a Federal purpose include but are not limited to: (1) Use by EPA and other Federal employees for official Government purposes; (2) Use by Federal contractors performing specific tasks for [i.e., authorized by] the Government; (3) Publication in EPA documents provided the document does not disclose trade secrets (e.g. software codes) and the work is properly attributed to the recipient through citation or otherwise; (4) Reproduction of documents for inclusion in Federal depositories; (5) Use by State, tribal and local governments that carry out delegated Federal environmental programs as "co-regulators" or act as official partners with EPA to carry out a national environmental program within their jurisdiction and; (6) Limited use by other grantees to carry out Federal grants provided the use is consistent with the terms of EPA's authorization to the other grantee to use the copyrighted works or other data. Under Item 6, the grantee acknowledges that EPA may authorize another grantee(s) to use the copyrighted works or other data developed under this grant as a result of:

- The selection of another grantee by EPA to perform a project that will involve the use of the copyrighted works or other data, or
- Termination or expiration of this agreement.

In addition, EPA may authorize another grantee to use copyrighted works or other data developed with Agency funds provided under this grant to perform another grant when such use promotes efficient and effective use of Federal grant funds.

X. Termination (Added 01/08/25)

Notwithstanding the General Term and Condition "Termination," EPA maintains the right to terminate the Assistance Agreement only as specified in 2 CFR 200.339 and the version of 2 CFR 200.340 effective as of October 1, 2024, when the noncompliance with the terms and conditions is substantial such that effective performance of the Assistance Agreement is materially impaired or there is adequate evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse, prompting adverse action by EPA per 2 CFR 200.339, through either a partial or full termination. If EPA partially or fully terminates the Assistance Agreement, EPA must (1) de-obligate uncommitted funds and re-obligate them to another Eligible Recipient to effectuate the objectives of Section 137(c) of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC § 7437(c) within 90 days of the de-obligation and (2) amend the Recipient's Assistance Agreement to reflect the reduced amount, based on the de-obligation. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.341, EPA will provide the Recipient notice of termination.

Appendix F

EPA, Climate Pollution Reduction Grants – Implementation Grants

New England Heat Pump Accelerator, Workplan

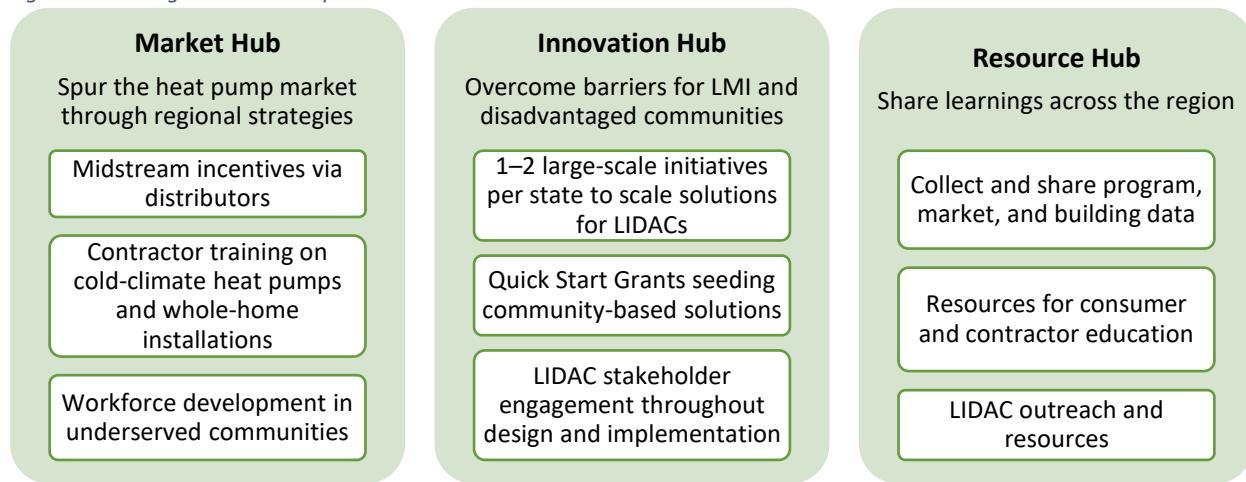
The details of the program stated herein are not necessarily final program parameters or components and are subject to change prior to program implementation or selection of any contractors or projects.

1. Overall Project Summary and Approach

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (ME GOPIF), Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), and Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RI OER) (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the coalition") propose to create the New England Heat Pump Accelerator (Accelerator) to achieve substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.¹ The coalition will undertake the efforts described in this workplan if awarded funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program: Implementation Grants General Competition.

The New England Heat Pump Accelerator will leverage the power of a multistate market to rapidly accelerate adoption of cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ASHPs), heat pump water heaters (HPWHs), and ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) in single-family and multifamily residential buildings across the region. The Accelerator is designed to achieve GHG emissions reductions even after its funding ends by overcoming systemic barriers to residential building electrification at this critical moment in the region and making heat pumps standard practice in the HVAC and water heating industries. If the Accelerator achieves its goals, nearly every space and water heater sold in New England will be a heat pump by 2040. Specifically, the Accelerator aims for heat pumps to make up at least 65% of residential-scale heating, air conditioning, and water heating sales by 2030 and 90% by 2040, in line with recent efforts on the national stage to increase adoption, notably the U.S. Climate Alliance Commitments to Decarbonize Buildings and the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) Memorandum of Understanding to Accelerate the Transition to Zero-Emission Residential Buildings.² Both of these efforts were joined by states in the coalition and rely on the rapid adoption of heat pump technology to permanently shift the market from fossil fuel equipment to heat pumps.

Figure 1 New England Heat Pump Accelerator Pillars



¹ Letters of Intent from each coalition member are included as part of the application.

² U.S. Climate Alliance, [US Climate Alliance Commitments to Decarbonize Buildings](#); NESCAUM (Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management), <https://www.nescaum.org/our-work/stationary-sources/building-electrification>.

The Accelerator will achieve these goals through three program pillars designed to activate the supply chain, scale solutions to address the specific barriers that low- and moderate-income (LMI) households and disadvantaged communities (collectively, LIDACs) face in adopting heat pumps, and share data and educational resources to drive rapid, aligned progress across the region, as shown in Figure 1.

This coalition of five states has joined forces to rapidly scale adoption of heat pump technologies suited to New England's cold climate and older housing stock by filling gaps in funding and program coverage that prevent the full activation of the supply chain of manufacturers, distributors, and contractors and addressing barriers to access for LIDAC households. New England is comprised of small states that share a labor and supplier market. Therefore, states must work together to accelerate the regional heat pump market; the Accelerator's pillars tackle the activities that are most essential for growth. The Accelerator is thoughtfully designed to coordinate with utility and state heat pump programs in the coalition states and will build on and learn from Maine's national leadership in driving heat pump adoption.³

In alignment with EPA's Justice40 goals, at least 40% of Accelerator funding will be directed to LIDACs. 100% of the Innovation Hub funding will serve LIDACs and LIDAC-targeted programs are included in each pillar. The Resource Hub will employ a multilayered approach to outreach and engagement with LIDACs and other stakeholders. It will collect resources for equitable building electrification policies, programs, and processes that center the needs of communities and provide stipends for LIDAC representatives and community members to participate in the Advisory Council and other stakeholder processes.

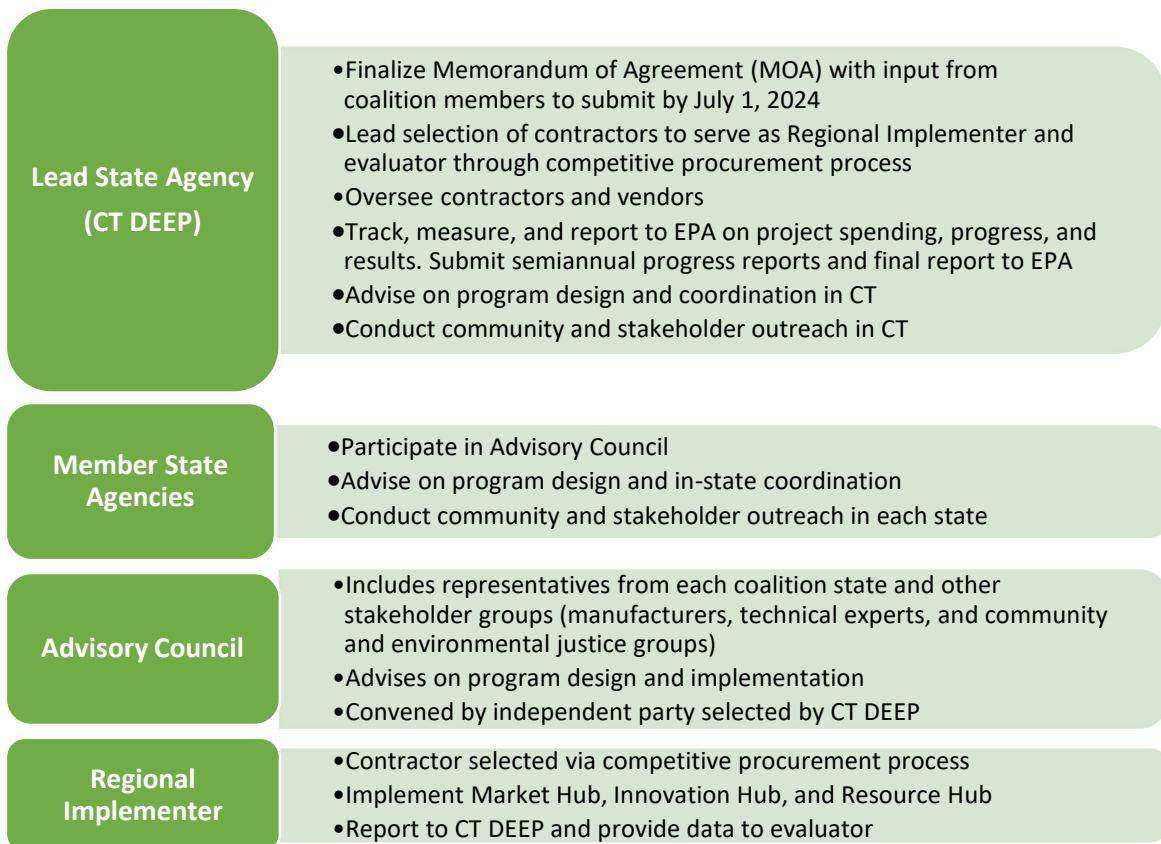


Figure 2 Coalition Roles and Responsibilities

³ Woody, T. (2003, October 6). *How Maine Became the Heat Pump Capital of the US*. Bloomberg.
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-06/how-maine-became-the-heat-pump-capital-of-the-us>.

All five states have identified residential heat pump installations as a priority GHG reduction measure in their Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) and recognize that they can achieve greater impact by working together in a regional coalition to implement the Accelerator. Roles and responsibilities of each coalition member, as well as key supporting functions, are described in Figure 2.

a. Description of GHG Reduction Measures

Collectively, the activities of the Accelerator address one significant GHG reduction measure: transformation of the residential space and water heating market to heat pumps. Heat pumps are a highly efficient, all-electric replacement for fossil fuel heating equipment and a highly efficient replacement for homes with electric resistance heating. A recent analysis by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) found that “nationally, heat pumps would cut residential sector greenhouse gas emissions by 36%-64%, including the emissions from new electricity generation.”⁴

This transition is especially important in New England, where many homes rely on expensive and highly polluting delivered fuels (propane, kerosene, and heating oil), which contribute disproportionately to GHG and air pollutant emissions and household energy burden. According to Atlas Public Policy, New England has the highest reliance on fuel oil and kerosene for home heating of any region in the U.S., as shown in Figure 3. Maine and New Hampshire also have a high percentage of households using propane. Propane and home heating oil are 19% and 40% more carbon-intense than natural gas, respectively.⁵ For example, heating oil and propane account for 61% of residential GHG emissions in Connecticut but serve only 43% of homes.⁶

Delivered fuels, along with electric baseboard heating, are also the most expensive options for heating on a dollar-per-BTU basis. Due to the region’s cold climate, older building stock, and reliance on expensive delivered fuels, low-income households in New England—many of whom are located in rural communities—have the highest median energy burden of any region in the country, with 10.5% of income spent on energy bills.⁷ Delivered fuels are also unregulated, leading to volatile and unpredictable pricing that places a particular strain on household budgets as well as a risk of dangerous fuel cut-off situations. NREL found that nearly all households that use fuel oil and propane for heating would see energy bill savings from switching to heat pumps, with more significant savings in colder climates.⁸

Each state’s PCAP identifies residential buildings as a significant contributor to total GHG emissions:⁹

- CT: Residential buildings are the second largest source of GHG emissions at 19%.¹⁰

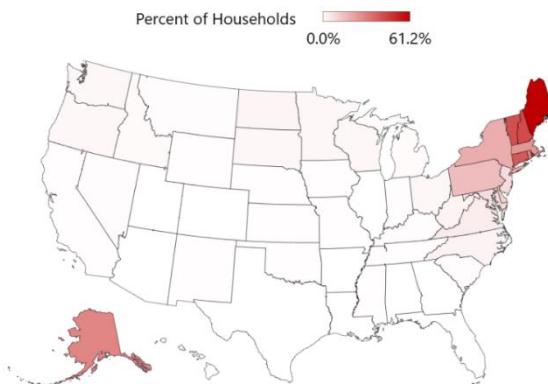


Figure 3 Percent of Households Using Fuel Oil or Kerosene for Primary Space Heating by State in 2020 (Source: Atlas Public

⁴ National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). (2024, February 12). *News Release: Benefits of Heat Pumps Detailed in New NREL Report*. <https://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2024/benefits-of-heat-pumps-detailed-in-new-nrel-report.html> (hereinafter NREL, *Benefits of Heat Pumps*).

⁵ Gabriel, N. (2023, April 3). *Fuel Oil and Propane Space Heating Across the United States*. Atlas Buildings Hub. <https://atlasbuildingshub.com/2023/04/03/fuel-oil-and-propane-space-heating-across-the-united-states/>.

⁶ CT DEEP. (2023, April). 1990-2021 Connecticut Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. https://portal.ct.gov/_/media/DEEP/climatechange/1990-2021-GHG-Inventory/DEEP_GHG_Report_90-21_Final.pdf.

⁷ ACEEE. (2020, September). *National and Regional Energy Burdens*. ACEEE | American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ACEEE-01%20Energy%20Burden%20-%20National.pdf>.

⁸ NREL, *Benefits of Heat Pumps*.

⁹ PCAP links for the five coalition states are provided here and are not subsequently cited for each PCAP reference.

¹⁰ CT DEEP. (2024, March). *Priority Climate Action Plan*. U.S. EPA. (hereinafter CT PCAP).

- MA: Residential and commercial buildings are the second largest GHG source at 35%.¹¹
- ME: Residential buildings are the second largest source of GHG emissions at 21%.¹²
- NH: Residential and commercial buildings are the second largest GHG source at 16.9%.¹³
- RI: Residential heating alone is 19.3% of the state's emissions.¹⁴

Table 1 outlines the GHG reduction measure in coalition member PCAPs and provides PCAP links.

Table 1 PCAP Measures Related to Heat Pump Adoption

GHG Reduction Measure	PCAP Title(s) and Page Numbers
"Support increased adoption of heat pumps statewide" and "Support deployment of networked geothermal system"	Connecticut: EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning Grant First Deliverable: A Priority Climate Action Plan ; Appendix I-7 page(s) 83–91; Appendix I-10 page(s) 106–115.
"Transition to cleaner heating and cooling systems and efficient appliances"	State of Maine: Priority Climate Action Plan ; page(s) 27
"Decarbonizing Building Heating Systems"	Massachusetts Priority Climate Action Plan ; page(s) 64–66; Appendix G – B2 page(s) 117–119
"Heat Pumps to Improve Energy Efficiency of Space and Water Heating of Buildings"	State of New Hampshire: Priority Climate Action Plan ; page(s) 62–66, 96; Appendix A page(s) A3–A7
"Increase Residential and Commercial Heat Pump Adoption"	State of Rhode Island Priority Climate Action Plan ; page(s) 32–34; Appendix 2-J

The Accelerator is purpose-built to address the region's unique challenges and opportunities to fundamentally transform the market for residential heat pumps through three program pillars: Market Hub, Innovation Hub, and Resource Hub. The features of these program pillars are described below.

Market Hub Features

The Market Hub will supercharge participation in the coalition states' existing heat pump programs by engaging manufacturers, distributors, and contractors to drive the sales, stocking, and quality installation of heat pumps suited to New England's climate and housing stock. While utility and state programs currently offer incentives for heat pump technologies across the five states, these mainly take the form of "downstream" rebates to end-use customers. In contrast, "midstream" incentives typically include a smaller stipend to the wholesale distributor and a larger "pass-through" incentive to the contractor and/or customer, applied as an instant discount at point of sale. Currently, as described in Section 1.b, few midstream incentives are available in the region and engagement with the supply chain is inconsistent. Moreover, manufacturers and distributors highly value program consistency, since they operate in all five coalition states and frequently sell equipment across the borders of New England's small states.¹⁵ The five largest distributors (F.W. Webb, Homans, Plumbers' Supply Company, The Granite Group, and S.G. Torrice) sell more than 50% of the heat pumps sold in the region.¹⁶ The Accelerator will address this missed opportunity and drive equipment stocking and sales across the region. The Market Hub will also incorporate strategies that support LIDAC access to heat pumps, such as incentive adders for distributors and contractors serving LIDACs and incentivizing equipment types needed in LIDAC buildings.

The Market Hub will also meet the need for training New England contractors on cold-climate heat pumps and the value of whole-home electrification with efficiency. This approach will address gaps in the market;

¹¹ MA Office of Climate Innovation & Resilience (OCIR) and Department of Transportation (DOT). (2024, March). U.S. EPA [Massachusetts PCAP](#) (hereinafter MA PCAP).

¹² ME GOPIF. (2024, March 1). [State of Maine PCAP](#). U.S. EPA. (hereinafter ME PCAP).

¹³ NH DES. (2024, March). [State of New Hampshire PCAP](#). U.S. EPA. (hereinafter NH PCAP).

¹⁴ RI DEM. (2024, March 7). [PCAP](#). U.S. EPA. (hereinafter RI PCAP).

¹⁵ Personal Communication, New England Program Implementer, March 2024.

¹⁶ Ibid.

according to one major heat pump manufacturer, “only 30% of contractors are aware that a modern heat pump can supply 100% of a home’s heating load at outdoor temperatures of around 0°F.”¹⁷ The Market Hub will raise the quality of training and installation across the region, while also incorporating a focus on workforce development and job creation in LIDACs. Details on these workforce strategies are provided in Section 5. The Market Hub will look to train contractors on the value of efficiency alongside electrification and look to cross-promote existing efficiency programs alongside installation of heat pumps. Table 2 provides a summary of Market Hub features.

Table 2 Market Hub Program Features

Program Features	
Midstream Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500-\$1,000 (on average) per unit incentive to wholesale distributors for qualifying ASHPs, GSHPs, and HPWHs, with distributors retaining 20%-30% of the incentive and 70%-80% passed through to participating contractors and/or customers. • Standardized tool for distributor reporting, invoicing, and incentive processing, with streamlined data collection and rapid reimbursement. • Equipment eligibility (updated annually) based on qualifying product lists to drive adoption of products suited to New England’s climate and housing stock and the needs of LIDAC buildings, such as cold-climate ASHPs, variable-speed heat pumps, and 120-volt HPWHs. • Collaboration with distributors to increase stocking and sales of qualified products, ensuring product availability to meet growing demand for heat pumps across the region. • Collaboration with utility and multifamily program implementers to ensure program can be used when applicable to these projects.
Contractor Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training resources for contractors to drive consistent quality installation practices in New England on topics such as: cold-climate ASHPs, equipment sizing, control strategies, whole-home installations, fuel switching, and emerging technologies. • Leveraging distributors’ contractor networks/relationships to reach contractors quickly. • Integration of electrification and New England program-specific content into existing manufacturer and distributor training infrastructure.
Workforce Development in Underserved Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development programs to grow the contractor base, with a focus on promoting job creation and entrepreneurship in LIDACs. • Outreach and engagement with workforce organizations in LIDACs. • Tools and training to overcome barriers to entry in current workforce programs. • Collect data on workforce development program participation; records and evaluation of outreach activities to workforce organizations in low-income and disadvantaged communities

Innovation Hub Features

Low-income households in New England have the highest median energy burden of any region in the country.¹⁸ It is essential that these households and communities are not left behind in the clean energy transition. At the same time, households in LIDACs face unique barriers to heat pump adoption, which are described further in Section 4. The Innovation Hub is designed to address these barriers by funding state-based projects and community-based Quick Start Grant projects that support heat pump adoption for LMI households and disadvantaged communities. 100% of Innovation Hub funding will serve LIDACs. Table 3 summarizes key features of the Innovation Hub.

Table 3 Innovation Hub Program Features

¹⁷ Jachman, M. (2024, March 9). *Are HVAC Contractors Getting the Message on Heat Pumps?* Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration News (ACHR News). <https://www.acrnews.com/blogs/17-opinions/post/154290-are-hvac-contractors-getting-the-message-on-heat-pumps>.

¹⁸ U.S. DOE (Department of Energy). (2020). *LEAD (Low-Income Energy Affordability Data) Tool*. Energy.gov. <https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/lead-tool>. (hereinafter DOE LEAD Tool).

Program Features	
State Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 large-scale, multiyear projects in each coalition state to address specific state priorities and develop scalable solutions to overcome LIDAC barriers. • Examples might include: heat pump strategies for multifamily buildings and mobile homes, networked geothermal systems, heat pump technologies to address specific housing barriers (e.g., 120V HPWHs for housing with limited electric panel capacity), inclusive financing, hydronic system replacement options, and interventions to make heat pumps standard practice within state low-income programs. • Modeled on TECH Clean California's regional pilots.
Quick Start Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bottom-up” annual grants for smaller-scale, community-based pilots. • Simple, accessible application process to invite creative ideas that expand access to heat pumps for LMI households and LIDACs. • Modeled on TECH Clean California's Quick Start Grants.
EJ Engagement in Design and Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from environmental justice (EJ) and community groups involved in the design of the state pilots and selection criteria for Quick Start Grants, with stipends to support their time. • Community-based groups can apply for Quick Start Grant funding. • Shared outcomes and learnings from pilots and grant-funded projects.

Resource Hub Features

The Resource Hub will serve as the Accelerator’s central repository for data and resources. Currently, each of the five coalition states offers various programs promoting heat pump adoption, but there is no mechanism to share data, best practices, lessons learned, and other information across state lines or scale the successes being achieved in states like Maine. Since the states already have well-established consumer brands, such as Mass Save and Efficiency Maine, the Resource Hub will not seek to establish a new brand or portal for consumers. Instead, it will serve as a central portal for distributors, contractors, program implementers, and other stakeholders in the heat pump supply chain to access relevant data and educational resources. The Regional Implementer will collaborate closely with existing heat pump programs (Efficiency Maine and utility energy efficiency programs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire) to collect resources and insights from these programs to share across the region, and to provide resources for these programs to disseminate information within their customer and contractor networks. Table 4 summarizes key features of the Resource Hub.

Table 4 Resource Hub Program Features

Program Features	
Data Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website hosting publicly accessible aggregate or anonymized data, including: market data (ASHP, GSHP, and HPWH sales and full-category HVAC and water heater sales), wholesale and installation cost data (as available), and program participation data. • Maps and tools for regional trend analysis, synthesizing publicly available information from each coalition state on building decarbonization policy and programs, housing stock and fuel sources, available incentives, and electricity and fuel costs. • Modeled after the TECH Clean California Public Data Portal and the Midwest ASHP Collaborative.¹⁹
Educational Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-based, easily searchable repository of educational resources for distributors, contractors, program implementers, and other stakeholders. • Contractor training resources covering topics such as: trainings on cold-climate heat pumps, quality installation practices, sizing tools and guidance, emerging heat pump

¹⁹ TECH Clean California. (2024). <https://techcleanca.com/public-data/> and Midwest ASHP Collaborative. (2024). <https://www.mwalliance.org/midwest-ashp-collaborative>.

Program Features	
	<p>technologies, whole-home installation, multifamily options, and customer sales and support techniques for heat pumps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer resources covering topics such as: selecting a heat pump, assessing operating cost impacts, cold-climate tools, operating and maintaining a heat pump, and developing a plan to fully electrify your home. • Policy and program resources including: market studies and program evaluations from across the region; resources on topics such as rate design and grid impacts; and insights and best practices from successful heat pump programs.
LIDAC Outreach & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilayered outreach and engagement with groups representing LMI households and disadvantaged communities. Stipends to support community participation. • Collected resources for equitable building electrification policies and programs.