

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Financial Advisory Board

## Public Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023

Location: Virtual

Respectfully submitted by Edward H. Chu, EPA Designated Federal Officer  
Certified as accurate by Kerry E. O'Neill, Chair, Environmental Financial Advisory Board

NOTE AND DISCLAIMER: The minutes that follow reflect a summary of remarks and conversation during the meeting. Such ideas, suggestions, and deliberations do not necessarily reflect consensus advice from the Board. Formal advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisory reports or letters prepared and transmitted to the agency following the public meetings. Moreover, the Board advises that additional information sources be consulted in cases where any concern may exist about statistics or any other information contained within the minutes.

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## **Purpose**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Financial Advisory Board (EFAB or Board) is an advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to provide advice and recommendations to EPA on creative approaches to funding environmental programs, projects, and activities. The purpose of the meeting will be for EFAB to receive updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

The meeting was announced in the *Federal Register* (see appendix 1).

Please see appendix 2 for the agenda and appendix 3 for EFAB member names and affiliations.

## Welcome, Member Roll Call, and Review of Agenda

**Edward H. Chu** | FAB Designated Federal Officer

**Kerry O'Neill** | EFAB Chair

Edward H. Chu opened the meeting and shared that, per the *Federal Register* notice, the Board is not accepting oral comments. He explained how the public could submit written comments to [efab@epa.gov](mailto:efab@epa.gov). No written public comments were received prior to the start of the meeting.

Kerry O'Neill conducted the roll call.

### Roll Call

Ashley Allen Jones, present  
 Courtney L. Black, present  
 Steven J. Bonafonte, present  
 Angela Montoya Bricmont, present  
 Matthew T. Brown, present  
 Stacy Brown, not present  
 Theodore Chapman, present  
 Albert Cho, not present  
 Janet Clements, present  
 Lori Collins, present  
 Zachary Davidson, not present  
 Jeffrey R. Diehl, present  
 Sonja B. Favors, not present  
 Phyllis R. Garcia, not present  
 Eric Hangen, present  
 Edward Henifin, not present  
 Barry Hersh, present  
 Craig Holland, present

Craig A. Hrinkevich, present  
 Margot Kane, not present  
 Thomas Karol, present  
 George W. Kelly, present  
 Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, present  
 Cynthia Koehler, present  
 Colleen Kokas, not present  
 Joanne V. Landau, not present  
 Lawrence Lujan, present  
 MaryAnna H. Peavey, present  
 Dennis A. Randolph, present  
 Eric Rothstein, not present  
 Sanjiv Sinha, present  
 William Stannard, present  
 Marilyn Waite, present  
 David L. Wegner, present  
 Gwen Yamamoto Lau, not present  
 David Zimmer, present

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Program

**Jahi Wise** | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Acting Director

(Note: See appendix 4 for presentation slides.)

Jahi Wise thanked EFAB members for their feedback on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) program and said that EPA has received a tremendous number of comments from a wide range of stakeholders. He said that EFAB's recommendations are evident in the recently released implementation framework. He noted that the implementation plan was intended to provide initial guidance; it is not the final version that will be used to solicit applications. For that, EPA will issue a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). He urged EFAB members to provide comments as members of the public on the implementation framework soon, as the period for public comments would close May 12.

Jahi Wise reviewed key points of the GGRF, including that it is a \$27 billion program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act as an amendment to the Clean Air Act. He said it is comprised of two major funding streams: a \$7 billion bucket for zero-emission technology, and a \$20 billion bucket for projects for disadvantaged communities.

Jahi Wise said the three main objectives of the GGRF program are to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, bring benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, and mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment.

Jahi Wise then described the structure for the competitions outlined in the implementation framework, which is conceived as three competitive opportunities: (1) the National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF); (2) the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA); and (3) Solar for All. The NCIF will fund two to three national nonprofit organizations to partner with private capital providers to catalyze thousands of clean energy projects across the country. This competition will award about \$14 billion total. The CCIA will award \$6 billion to up to seven hub nonprofit organizations to provide awards or technical assistance to their local communities. Finally, the Solar for All competition will award about \$7 billion to up to 60 states, tribes, municipalities, and eligible nonprofit entities to support those entities in creating programs that enable low-income households to access low cost, locally generated clean energy.

Jahi Wise said that by law, all funds must be obligated by September 2024. To meet that deadline, EPA intends to issue the NOFO in early summer 2023, with the window for applications open until fall 2023. He said EPA could then make awards in the winter, spring, and summer of 2024.

Prior to taking Board member comments, EPA staff Satyam Khanna, Elizabeth Charchenko, Nicole Steele, and Arianna Menzelos introduced themselves.

## **EFAB Member Questions and Comments**

Kerry O'Neill invited questions and comments from the Board on the NCIF.

Eric Hangen asked whether NCIF awardees can invest in indirect recipients. He asked if there was a way to encourage grant recipients to invest in a shared technical assistance (TA) platform to help drive demand; for example, by providing debt instruments to an indirect recipient. Jahi Wise said responding will require precision; they will make a note of the question and may put out a frequently asked questions (FAQ) response. Jahi Wise added that, conceptually, EPA expects that awardees will work with community lenders. Regarding market development, Jahi Wise said he would like to hear more about what models or pathways EFAB may be able to share.

Lori Collins asked how the NCIF will use tools such as incentives, loan buy-downs, and so on, to attract private capital. Jahi Wise said EPA is looking for suggestions from EFAB but also from applicants to propose how they will bring private capital into their projects.

Marilyn Waite recommended that the request for proposal (RFP) clarify the types of TA needed across the board and noted that there are gaps in the market that may require TA. She said there is a need for specialized training and ongoing support, particularly for projects that have not yet been brought to scale, such as solar on condominiums. She also asked whether the funding amounts were finalized. She said that a powerful leverage is to add \$1 to a balance sheet of a depository institution, which could lend out \$15–\$20. She asked if such a transaction could happen under the current rules. Jahi Wise noted that

balance sheet capitalization from an EPA award is a technical process that EPA would need to think through and be precise about that. He said that the NCIF and CCIA are intended to support each other.

Sanjiv Sinha said that clean technology means different things to people and asked if EPA has defined clean technology and whether it includes urban reforestation efforts. Jahi Wise said the terms have been defined and that each of the competitions describes qualified projects. Jahi Wise said that projects that will be funded by the NCIF are defined by principles, and awardees must design investment frameworks that align with those principles. The CCIA provides a narrower scope of projects that includes distributive generation and storage, retrofitting buildings, and decarbonizing transportation. He said the Solar for All program is focused on residential community solar, including storage and upgrades.

Ashley Allen Jones thanked EPA for being responsive to input. She said that in her experience with women-owned businesses, national investment funds were tightly connected to accelerators. She said that showcasing projects that came out of accelerators was a successful practice.

Margot Kane asked how EPA plans on looking at NCIF applicants in terms of their ability to reach and engage underrepresented and low-income communities and complete projects in these communities. Jahi Wise said that applicants must describe how they intend to bring capital to low-income and marginalized communities, their accountability mechanisms for engaging these communities, and how their operations include and reflect these communities. He said that EPA tried to embed accountability for engagement throughout the various elements of the competition.

David Wegner said that a lesson taken from implementing the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is that there must be a significant effort to collaborate with and educate communities. He asked how smaller communities and nontraditional recipients of EPA funding will learn about GGRF funding opportunities. He asked whether target communities will have sufficient TA in time to apply for some of this funding. Jahi Wise said the program is intentionally designed to address this challenge by creating a national network of institutions that invest in these communities, including investments of TA and other resources. He said that GGRF doesn't exist in a vacuum but is a part of the Administration's larger climate investment. Regarding TA specifically, Jahi Wise mentioned the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) program, which was created specifically to address the need for community capacity building.

Kerry O'Neill turned the discussion to the CCIA bucket.

Marylin Waite raised the issue of current high interest rates, which she said is killing a lot of clean energy projects. She encouraged EPA to be flexible and open to creativity. She also recommended removing the \$5 million cap on community lenders.

Eric Hangen supported Marylin Waite's suggestion to lift the \$5 million cap. He added that developing infrastructure to deliver TA nationally would be vastly more efficient than an atomized approach. He identified organizations using technologies to do remote energy audits and said that investments in TA for such technologies won't come with small grants. He suggested raising TA from 5% to 10% of the bucket.

Angela Montoya Bricmont asked for EPA's thoughts on the definitions of "community" and "low-income and disadvantaged communities". She noted that some state definitions are inclusive, and some are not. Jahi Wise said that EPA provides guidance in the implementation framework. He said the terms are

defined in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. He said EPA expects known low-income and disadvantaged communities to be included.

David Wegner asked if EPA is developing measures of success to ensure financial and other program objectives are achieved. Jahi Wise replied that every competition and transparency and accountability and reporting framework intends to get that information. Data collected will include greenhouse gas reduction impacts, air pollution reduction impacts, capital mobilized, equity impacts, and much more. Jahi Wise said EPA knows the program will be scrutinized and that the agency has a comprehensive set of reporting metrics in the implementation framework. Kerry O'Neill emphasized the need to standardize tools and methodologies.

David Zimmer cautioned that at times it will be difficult to get local municipalities to provide timely financials, especially at the end of the year. He said that, in his experience, some entities are up to two years late with financial information required annually.

Ed Chu mentioned that the TCTAC awards have been granted and are approximately \$10 million per center. The TCTACs, in partnership with nonprofits, universities, and other groups, will ensure nearly 100 institutions across the country will be funded to provide TA. He said EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) is also offering climate pollution reduction grants for decarbonization projects. Ed Chu added that at least two of the Environmental Finance Centers are co-located with TCTACs.

## Updates on EFAB Exploratory Workgroups

**Edward Chu** | EPA Chief Financial Officer

Ed Chu said that there are no formally approved charges at this point. He said the water system rate structuring exploratory workgroup has a meeting planned for June 16. Cynthia Koehler clarified that the exploratory workgroup's interest is broader than rate restructuring and includes state revolving fund (SRF) funding opportunities to address affordability and equity. She said they are close to sharing a revised draft of the charge to the exploratory workgroup. Janet Clements clarified that EPA had narrowed its priorities with the water charges.

Ed Chu said that the next step is for this exploratory workgroup to present a draft proposal of the final charge that the Board could vote on. He said that the plan is to have a hybrid public meeting in the fall, so there will have to be a meeting between now and then for the group to decide whether to approve the charge. He said he will follow up with Cynthia Koehler and Janet Clements to talk about the process. Kerry O'Neill asked if it would be possible to do a virtual meeting to approve the charges prior to the fall meeting. Ed Chu said yes. Currently the exploratory workgroup is waiting for EPA's Office of Wastewater Management to get back to the exploratory workgroup on certain issues.

Ed Chu said that EPA's Office of Science and Technology and Office of Water has another potential project for EFAB relating to investment tax incentives for water reuse infrastructure. If EFAB is interested in this, they could form another exploratory workgroup. Kerry O'Neill said EPA is looking for ideas on how to incentivize water reuse infrastructure. Ed Chu asked members who are interested in exploring the issue further to raise their hands. Dave Wegner, Dennis Randolph, Janet Clements, Cynthia, Angela Bricmont, Jeff Diehl, and George Kelly volunteered. Kerry O'Neill asked members who would be interested in co-chairing the group to reach out to her, Ed Chu, and Tara Johnson.

Angela Montoya Bricmont moved to form an exploratory workgroup; Sanjiv Sinha seconded the motion. Kerry O'Neill called for a voice vote. The motion passed. Kerry O'Neill commended the workgroup for their ongoing hard work and engagement.

Ed Chu then raised the issue of the other exploratory project on environmental funding efficiency for communities in need. Ed Chu said the three potential clients were the Office of the Chief Financial Officer; OAR, and the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR). Ed Chu said these potential clients have been very hard to engage because they are busy.

Gwen Keyes Fleming said having data or lessons learned from the TCTACs, or any models in place, would be helpful to the exploratory workgroup going forward. Craig Holland reminded members that he's rolling off the Board in early June. He recommended continuity on the group so that they don't duplicate efforts.

Ed Chu said that he would invite OAR, OEJECR, and Office of Water to share with the Board how they structure TA programs, what challenges they face, and what success they're seeing. He said the Office of Chemical Safety is also focused on providing TA. He said he'd like to have such a meeting before the fall meeting.

Ed Chu also reported that the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee is not quite ready to engage EFAB but will likely be ready by July.

## **Recap and Wrap-Up**

**Edward H. Chu** | FAB Designated Federal Officer

**Kerry O'Neill** | EFAB Chair

Kerry O'Neill thanked EFAB.

Ed Chu iterated that he thinks there will be at least one additional virtual meeting prior to the fall meeting. He said they are looking for sites for the public meeting in the fall; the meeting will be held outside D.C. He thanked the members who are rolling off the Board in June and said there will be a call for new members later this year, as half the members have terms ending in June 2024.

Ed Chu also expressed his appreciation to the Board for their service and for their recommendations, which have a positive influence on public policy.

## **Adjourn**

Ed Chu adjourned the meeting.



## Appendix 1. Federal Register Announcement



23420

Federal Register / Vol. 88, No. 73 / Monday, April 17, 2023 / Notices

On July 1, 2022, EPA published the RFS annual rules for 2020, 2021, and 2022. *Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: RFS Annual Rules*, 87 FR 39600 (July 1, 2022) (“2020–2022 RFS Annual Rule”). On July 20, 2022, CBD filed a petition for review of the 2020–2022 RFS Annual Rule challenging whether EPA complied with the consultation requirements of ESA section 7(a)(2), 16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2); the CAA, 42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(2)(B)(ii)(I); and the APA, 5 U.S.C. 706. On September 27, 2022, CBD filed a motion for summary vacatur of the 2020–2022 RFS Annual Rule. *Center for Biological Diversity v. Environmental Protection Agency*, Case No. 22–1164 (D.C. Cir.), Doc. 1966328.

Under the proposed settlement agreement, EPA would commit to complete its ESA section 7(a) consultation for the RFS rule subsequent to the 2020–2022 RFS Annual Rule that EPA proposed on December 30, 2023. *Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Standards for 2023–2025 and Other Changes*, 87 FR 80582 (December 30, 2022) (“2023–2025 RFS Set Rule”). If either the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service issues a biological opinion in connection with this ESA consultation, EPA would also agree to issue a determination addressing any conservation recommendations, terms and conditions of any incidental take statement, and/or reasonable and prudent alternatives within the time frames set forth in that biological opinion. CBD would agree to dismiss with prejudice its challenge to the 2020–2022 RFS Annual Rule within five days of receiving notice from EPA that it has terminated the ESA section 7(a) consultation for the 2023–2025 RFS Set Rule.

The proposed Settlement Agreement also includes standard language regarding resolution of costs and attorneys’ fees, stipulation of extensions, lapses in appropriations, disputes in implementation, preservation of Agency discretion, and the CAA section 113(g) process.

In accordance with section 113(g) of the CAA, for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of this document, the Agency will accept written comments relating to the proposed settlement agreement. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed settlement agreement if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the CAA.

### III. Additional Information About Commenting on the Proposed Settlement Agreement

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OGC–2023–0212, via <https://www.regulations.gov>. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from this docket. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit to EPA’s docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. For additional information about submitting information identified as CBI, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document. Note that written comments containing CBI and submitted by mail may be delayed and deliveries or couriers will be received by scheduled appointment only.

If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an email address or other contact information in the body of your comment. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. Any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket and made available in EPA’s electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

Use of the <https://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA’s preferred method for receiving comments. The electronic public docket

system is an “anonymous access” system, which means EPA will not know your identity, email address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked “late.” EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

**Gautam Srinivasan,**  
*Associate General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2023–08070 Filed 4–14–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–10904–01–OW]

#### Public Environmental Financial Advisory Board Virtual Meeting

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces a public meeting of the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB). The meeting will be conducted in a virtual format via webcast. The purpose of the meeting will be for the EFAB to receive updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Written public comments may be provided in advance. No oral public comments will be accepted during the meeting. Please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further details.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 11, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be conducted in a virtual format via webcast only. Information to access the webcast will be provided upon registration in advance of each meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tara Johnson, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency; telephone number: (202) 564–6186; email address: [efab@epa.gov](mailto:efab@epa.gov). General information concerning the EFAB is available at <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efab>.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background:* The EFAB is an EPA advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, to provide advice and recommendations to EPA on innovative approaches to funding environmental programs, projects, and

activities. Administrative support for the EFAB is provided by the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center within EPA's Office of Water. Pursuant to FACA and EPA policy, notice is hereby given that the EFAB will hold a public meeting via webcast for the following purpose: Receive updates on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

*Registration for the Meeting:* To register for the meeting, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efab#meeting>. Interested persons who wish to attend the meeting via webcast must register by May 10, 2023. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

*Availability of Meeting Materials:* Meeting materials, including the meeting agenda and briefing materials, will be available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efab>.

*Procedures for Providing Public Input:* Public comment for consideration by EPA's federal advisory committees has a different purpose from public comment provided to EPA program offices. Therefore, the process for submitting comments to a federal advisory committee is different from the process used to submit comments to an EPA program office. Federal advisory committees provide independent advice to EPA. Members of the public may submit comments on matters being considered by the EFAB for advice as the Board develops its advice and recommendations to EPA.

*Written Statements:* Written statements should be received by May 8, 2023, so that the information can be made available to the EFAB for its consideration prior to the meeting. Written statements should be sent via email to [efab@epa.gov](mailto:efab@epa.gov). Members of the public should be aware that their personal contact information, if included in any written comments, may be posted to the EFAB website. Copyrighted material will not be posted without explicit permission of the copyright holder.

*Accessibility:* For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities or to request accommodations for a disability, please register for the meeting and list any special requirements or accommodations needed on the registration form at least 10 business days prior to the meeting to allow as

much time as possible to process your request.

**Andrew D. Sawyers,**  
Director, Office of Wastewater Management,  
Office of Water.  
[FR Doc. 2023-07971 Filed 4-14-23; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-1270; FR ID 136147]

### Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

**DATES:** Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before June 16, 2023. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email [PRA@fcc.gov](mailto:PRA@fcc.gov) and to [nicole.ongele@fcc.gov](mailto:nicole.ongele@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418-2991.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Control Number:* 3060-1270.

*Title:* Protecting National Security Through FCC Programs.

*Form Number:* FCC Form 5640.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently-approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business or other for profit entities.

*Number of Respondents and Responses:* 3,500 respondents; 6,584 responses.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.5-12 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual, semiannual, and recordkeeping requirements.

*Obligation to Respond:* Mandatory and required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 1603-1604.

*Total Annual Burden:* 20,236 hours.

*Total Annual Cost:* \$472,500.

*Needs and Uses:* The

Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires the "preservation and advancement of universal service." 47 U.S.C. 254(b). The information collection requirements reported under this collection are the result of the Commission's actions to promote the Act's universal service goals.

On November 22, 2019, the Commission adopted the *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Report and Order, Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 34 FCC Rcd 11423 (2019) (*Report and Order*). The *Report and Order* prohibits future use of Universal Service Fund (USF) monies to purchase, maintain, improve, modify, obtain, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by a company that poses a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.

On March 12, 2020, the President signed into law the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (Secure Networks Act), Public Law 116-124, 133 Stat. 158 (2020) (codified as amended at 47 U.S.C. 1601-1609), which, among other measures, directs the FCC to establish the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program). This

## Appendix 2. Agenda

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Environmental Financial Advisory Board

[Public Meeting](#)  
Virtual Platform

May 11, 2023  
1:00-3:00 pm Eastern Time

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1:00 pm	<b>WELCOME, MEMBER ROLL CALL, AND REVIEW OF AGENDA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward H. Chu – EFAB Designated Federal Officer</li> <li>Kerry O’Neill – EFAB Chair</li> </ul>
1:05 pm	<b>GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND PROGRAM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jahi Wise – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Acting Director</li> </ul>
1:25 pm	<b>EFAB MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS</b>
2:10 pm	<b>UPDATES ON EFAB EXPLORATORY WORKGROUPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward H. Chu – EFAB Designated Federal Officer</li> </ul>
2:40 pm	<b>RECAP AND WRAP-UP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward H. Chu – EFAB Designated Federal Officer</li> <li>Kerry O’Neill – EFAB Chair</li> </ul>
3:00 pm	<b>ADJOURN</b>

## Appendix 3. EFAB Members

### Ed Chu, Designated Federal Officer Tara Johnson, Alternate Designated Federal Officer

NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION	PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTED	CURRENT TERM	DATE APPOINTED
<b>Kerry O'Neill, EFAB Chair</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Inclusive Prosperity Capital, Inc.	Stamford, Connecticut (EPA Region 1)	Environmental/ Non-governmental Organization	July 20, 2021– June 15, 2023	July 28, 2020
Ashley Allen Jones	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, i2 Capital	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Courtney L. Black	Deputy Finance Director, City of Kent	Kent, Washington (EPA Region 10)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Steven J. Bonafonte	Assistant District Counsel, The Metropolitan District of Hartford	Hartford, Connecticut (EPA Region 1)	Legal	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Angela Montoya Bricmont	Chief Finance Officer, Denver Water	Denver, Colorado (EPA Region 8)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Matthew T. Brown	Chief Financial Officer and EVP, Finance and Procurement, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Stacy Brown	President and Chief Executive Officer, Freberg Environmental, Inc.	Denver, Colorado (EPA Region 8)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Theodore Chapman	Investment Banking Analyst, Hilltop Securities, Inc.	Dallas, Texas (EPA Region 6)	Business – Financial Services	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	September 25, 2017
Albert Cho	Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy and Digital Officer, Xylem, Inc.	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Janet Clements	President and Founder, One Water Econ	Loveland, Colorado (EPA Region 8)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Lori Collins	Owner and Principal, Collins Climate Consulting	Charlotte, North Carolina (EPA Region 4)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Zachary Davidson	Director of Underwriting, Ecosystem Investment Partners	Baltimore, Maryland (EPA Region 3)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020

NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION	PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTED	CURRENT TERM	DATE APPOINTED
Jeffrey R. Diehl	Chief Executive Officer, Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank	Providence, Rhode Island (EPA Region 1)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Sonja B. Favors	Industrial Hazardous Waste Branch Chief, Alabama Department on Environmental Management	Montgomery, Alabama (EPA Region 4)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Phyllis R. Garcia	Treasurer, San Antonio Water System	San Antonio, Texas (EPA Region 6)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Eric Hangen	Senior Research Fellow, Center for Impact Finance, Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire	Danby, Vermont (EPA Region 1)	Academic	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Edward Henifin	General Manager (retired), Hampton Roads Sanitation District	Virginia Beach, Virginia (EPA Region 3)	State/Local Government	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	June 15, 2018
Barry Hersh	Clinical Professor and MSRED Chair, School of Professional Studies, New York University	New York, New York (EPA Region 2)	Academic	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Craig Holland	Senior Director of Urban Investments, The Nature Conservancy	Arlington, Virginia (EPA Region 3)	Environmental/ Non-governmental Organization	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	September 25, 2017
Craig A. Hrinkevich	Public Finance Team – New Jersey Managing Director, Robert W. Baird & Company, Inc.	Red Bank, New Jersey (EPA Region 2)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Margot Kane	Chief Investment Officer, Spring Point Partners LLC	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (EPA Region 3)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Thomas Karol	General Counsel Federal, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	Legal	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
George W. Kelly	Global Client Strategy Officer, Earth Recovery Partners	Denver, Colorado (EPA Region 8)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming	Partner, DLA Piper LLP	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	Legal	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022

NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION	PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTED	CURRENT TERM	DATE APPOINTED
Cynthia Koehler	Executive Director, WaterNow Alliance	San Francisco, California (EPA Region 9)	Environmental/ Non-governmental Organization	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Colleen Kokas	Executive Vice President, Environmental Liability Transfer, Inc.	Lahaska, Pennsylvania (EPA Region 3)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Joanne V. Landau	President and Chief Investment Officer, Kurtz Realty Corp.	Croton-on-Hudson, New York (EPA Region 2)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
Lawrence Lujan	Executive Director, Taos Public Utility Service	Taos, New Mexico (EPA Region 6)	Tribal Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
MaryAnna H. Peavey	Grants and Loans Bureau Supervisory, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	Boise, Idaho (EPA Region 10)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Dennis A. Randolph	City Traffic Engineer, City of Kalamazoo Public Services Department	Kalamazoo, Michigan (EPA Region 5)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2024	July 28, 2020
Eric Rothstein	Principal, Galardi Rothstein Group	Montreat, North Carolina (EPA Region 4)	Business – Financial Services	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	September 25, 2017
Sanjiv Sinha	Chief Sustainability Officer, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.	Ann Arbor, Michigan (EPA Region 5)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
William Stannard	Chairman of the Board, RAFTELIS	Kansas City, Missouri (EPA Region 7)	Business – Financial Services	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	June 15, 2018
Marilyn Waite	Managing Director, Climate Finance Fund	Washington, District of Columbia (EPA Region 3)	Business – Financial Services	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
David L. Wegner	Senior Consultant on Water, Climate Change, and Asset Risk Assessment, Water Science and Technology Board, National Academy of Sciences	Tucson, Arizona (EPA Region 9)	Business – Industry	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022



NAME	AFFILIATION	LOCATION	PERSPECTIVE REPRESENTED	CURRENT TERM	DATE APPOINTED
Gwen Yamamoto Lau	Executive Director, Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority	Honolulu, Hawaii (EPA Region 9)	State/Local Government	June 21, 2022 – June 15, 2025	June 21, 2022
David Zimmer	Executive Director, New Jersey Infrastructure Bank	Lawrenceville, New Jersey (EPA Region 2)	State/Local Government	July 28, 2020 – June 15, 2023	June 15, 2018

## Appendix 4. Presentation Slides



### DISCLAIMER

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**EPA is not currently accepting applications for this competition.** This document—and the related Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Implementation Framework, released April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023—is intended to provide prospective applicants with information on potential application components and grant requirements, but this description does not supersede the text in the NOFO that will be posted on Grants.gov pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.204. Prospective applicants should note that EPA intends to publish the NOFO as early as June 2023 to formally request applications.

**This document is a summary of the material in the Implementation Framework document available on EPA.gov/GGRF.** Please refer to the Implementation Framework material for additional information.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON EPA.GOV/GGRF



# GGRF WAS CREATED IN THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT

## Overview of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Statute

Fund Name	Eligible Applicants	Use of Funds	LIDAC Requirements
<b>Zero Emissions Technology</b> <i>\$7.00 billion</i>	States, Tribal and municipal governments, and 'eligible recipients' (defined below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants, loans, other forms of financial assistance as well as technical assistance</li> <li>Funds for low-income and disadvantaged communities to benefit from zero-emissions technologies</li> </ul>	100% of funds must enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies
<b>General Assistance &amp; Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities</b> <i>\$19.97 billion</i>	<p>Eligible recipient defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A nonprofit that provides capital, including by leveraging private capital</li> <li>Does not take deposits other than from repayments and other revenue from using these grant funds</li> <li>Is funded by public or charitable contributions</li> <li>Invests in or finances projects alone or with investors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct investments in qualified projects—which is any project activity that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution in partnership with the private sector or a project which assists communities in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollution</li> <li>Indirect investments through funding and technical assistance to establish new or support existing public, quasi-public, and nonprofit entities that provide financial assistance to qualified projects at the state, local territorial, or Tribal level</li> </ul>	~40% of funds for financial and technical assistance in low-income and disadvantaged communities

Source: Inflation Reduction Act

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON EPA.GOV/GGRF



# THE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND (GGRF) HAS THREE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

## The three Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund program objectives



### Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants

Tackle the climate crisis and protect public health by supporting the climate goals of the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50-52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by no later than 2050



### Deliver benefits to American communities—especially low-income and disadvantaged communities

Maximize the benefits of GGRF investments to Americans; every GGRF competition will align with the President's Justice40 requirements, ensuring that 40% of the overall benefits from a program flow to disadvantaged communities



### Mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment

Catalyze market transformation by addressing the barriers to mobilizing private capital into clean projects in undercapitalized markets and facilitating tens of thousands of clean technology projects that deliver tangible benefits to millions of American households




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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON EPA.GOV/GGRF



## TO ACHIEVE THESE THREE OBJECTIVES, THE GGRF PROGRAM WILL RUN THREE GRANT COMPETITIONS

### Overview of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund competition structure

	 <b>National Clean Investment Fund</b>	 <b>Clean Communities Investment Accelerator</b>	 <b>Solar for All</b>
<b>Competition description</b>	Fund 2-3 national nonprofits to partner with private capital providers to deliver financing at scale catalyzing tens of thousands of clean technology projects	Fund hub nonprofits to rapidly build clean financing capacity of networks of community lenders to finance pollution-reducing projects in low-income & disadvantaged communities	Support states, territories, Tribal & municipal governments, & nonprofits to expand access to solar for low-income & disadvantaged communities by priming markets for investment
<b>Number and type of grantees</b>	2-3 national nonprofits	2-7 hub nonprofits	Up to 60 states, Tribal & municipal governments, & eligible non-profit entities
<b>Funding available</b>	Nearly \$14B	\$6B	\$7B
<b>Expected impacts</b>	Historic public sector investment with the scale to attract private capital leverage in clean projects, supporting the 2030, 2035, & 2050 climate goals of the United States and catalyzing tens of thousands of clean technology projects	Robust pipeline of thousands of community-led clean projects with meaningful benefits, generated by hundreds of community lenders capitalized by GGRF to start or expand clean lending in underserved communities	Energy bill savings and energy resiliency for millions of underserved American households via states, Tribal & municipal governments, & other recipients creating new or expanding existing low-income solar programs across the country

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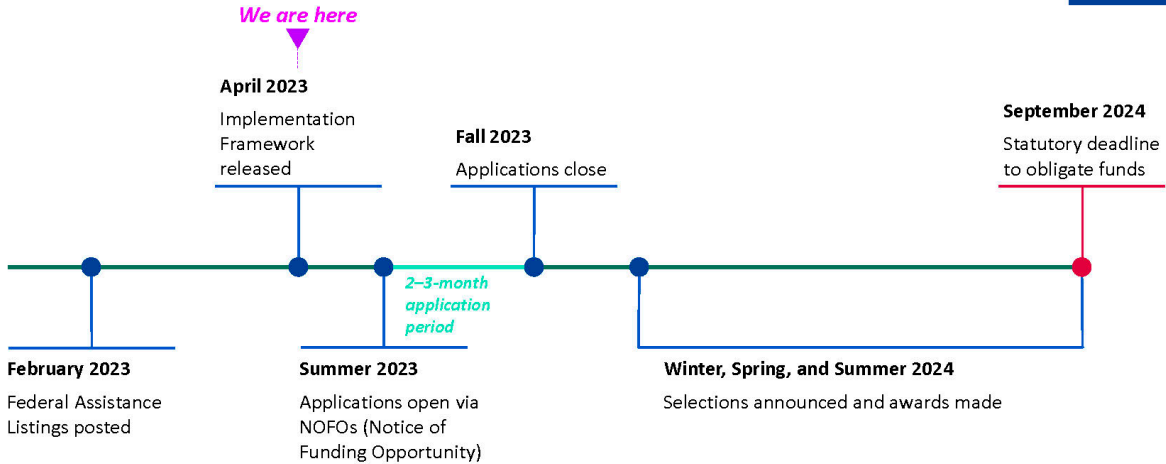
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT ON EPA.GOV/GGRF



## EPA PLANS TO LAUNCH GGRF COMPETITIONS AS EARLY AS JUNE 2023, TARGETING MAKING AWARDS IN 2024

### Tentative GGRF competition timeline

Tentative



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