

SLCFP 4-Year Strategic Plan

Read the Plan

We're excited to share our 4-Year Strategic Plan with all stakeholders which can be accessed and read on our website. SLCFP staff created this plan to help guide the coalition over the next four years with guidance from the Department of Energy. The plan can be accessed through the above link and is now available on our website with an open comment form for stakeholder input. Any additional comments or feedback can also be emailed directly to our Coalition. We will be submitting our first draft to the Department of Energy on October 30. Additional public comments will be included in our final draft that will be submitted in January 2024.

The Coalition also just underwent a 5-year re-designation with the Department of Energy on September 18 and we are proud to announce that we have been re-designated. We want to extend a thank you to all stakeholders who were a part of that re-designation. The re-designation process occurs around every 5 years with the Department of Energy and re-affirms commitment from the coalition and area stakeholders for promoting emissions reduction measures in the region.

EV Roundtable and Funding Overview

With so many funding announcements occurring within a 60-day application window, we want to make sure our region has enough time and resources to build competitive applications for future rounds of funding. This EV Readiness Roundtable will be a virtual roundtable on **Thursday, November 2 at 10:00 am**, and we will be going over anticipated EV and EVSE funding sources for 2024 and how to prepare. We will also have a presentation from Tulane University about their new EV Shuttles and the grant they received to help match funds to purchase the shuttles and corresponding equipment.

Register for EV Roundtable

Program and Funding Updates

The Regional Planning Commission, the host organization to the SLCFP has recently received a \$1 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CPRG program was created by the Inflation Reduction Act, and provides non-competitive planning grants to states, regions, tribes, and territories to complete climate action plans over the next four years. An additional \$4.6 in competitive grants will be available in 2024 to implement greenhouse gas reduction measures.

The RPC will utilize its planning grant to conduct climate action planning across nine parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa. A Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) will be completed by March, 2024 and will include a greenhouse gas inventory, list of priority emission reduction measures, and an analysis of potential benefits to low income and disadvantaged communities. In order to be eligible for the implementation grant funding potential emission reduction measures must be listed in the PCAP. By 2025, the RPC will complete a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) that will build on the PCAP and include additional emission reduction measures, community benefit analyses, and workforce planning analyses.

It is hoped that the PCAP and CCAP will provide a path forward for continually reducing green house gas emissions over the long term, thereby reducing the region's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. More information about the grants can be found here, and anyone interested in learning about the RPC's CPRG planning process can contact Tom Haysley.

EPA DERA

The <u>EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA)</u> grants are now open through December 1, 2023 for proposals that significantly reduce diesel emissions. Priority for funding will also be given to projects that engage and benefit local communities already overburdened by air pollution, protect grant funded investments from severe weather events caused by climate change, and applicants that demonstrate their ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$115 million during this grants cycle.

Tools and Resources Update

In August, the Department of Energy released an updated version of the <u>Alternative Fuel Life-Cycle Environmental and Economic Transportation tool (AFLEET)</u> developed by Argonne National Labs to help estimate GHG emissions and total cost of ownership of light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles. The online version now provides more options for comparing the total cost of ownership and total carbon footprint of Alternative Fuel Vehicles to an Internal Combustion Engine counterpart. A version is also available specifically for the CFI applications. Any stakeholder interested in additional assistance with the tool should reach out to the Coalition.

Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership

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ABOUT US

The <u>Southeast Louisiana Clean Fuel Partnership</u> is part of a network of almost 80 US Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide. We provide education, technical assistance, funding information and other services to assist vehicle fleet managers and personnel incorporate cleaner transportation options into their operations. For additional information on cleaner transportation options, please visit the U.S. Department of Energy's <u>Alternative Fuels Data Center</u> and <u>Clean Cities</u> websites.

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