



Heartland Environmental Justice Center

a thriving communities technical assistance center

The Heartland Environmental Justice Center supports individuals and organizations who serve in communities that are experiencing environmental injustice across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and adjoining Indigenous Nations.

The Heartland EJ Center is a first-stop resource for communities seeking help with pressing environmental justice and energy equity challenges. We offer no cost, customized support to strengthen communities' ability to identify challenges, plan and implement solutions, and work towards achieving their community goals.

How We Can Help

The Heartland Environmental Justice Center seeks to listen and engage in ways that are tailored to the communities that we serve. We learn from communities about their burdens, barriers, priorities, and opportunities. Our team responds by working alongside communities to identify community needs, think strategically about planning, solutions, and funding, and link communities with appropriate resources.

Our support varies in scope and scale depending on community need. Most of our services can be categorized as custom support and training, such as:

- Light-touch guidance, like navigating communities to existing training resources;
- Medium-touch support, such as preparation for grant applications, facilitating a community needs assessment, or building a project budget;
- Intensive assistance, like policy analysis or technical and engineering expertise.

Not sure how we can help? Not sure what you need? No problem. We can help identify the challenges that your community faces. Even if your environmental and energy initiatives are outside the scope of what the Heartland EJ Center can support, we can provide you with external resources and connect you with other organizations that may be able to help.

How Do We Do It?

Every community and organization addressing environmental and energy equity challenges has unique and evolving needs. Our program managers, community program coordinators, and partners can support these needs by providing resources, training, and connections.

Our Partners

- Center for Rural Affairs
- Climate + Energy Project
- Community Engineering Corps
- Environmental Protection Network
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Kansas Rural Center
- Kansas State University Engineering Extension
- Metropolitan Congregations United
- Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center

Contact Heartland EJ Center to learn more about how we can help.

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Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

EPA is providing \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, Tribes and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other harmful air pollution.

Reducing GHG emissions is a critical step to fighting climate change which causes:



GHG emissions are the **primary contributor** to climate change.



Transportation **28%**



Electric Power **25%**



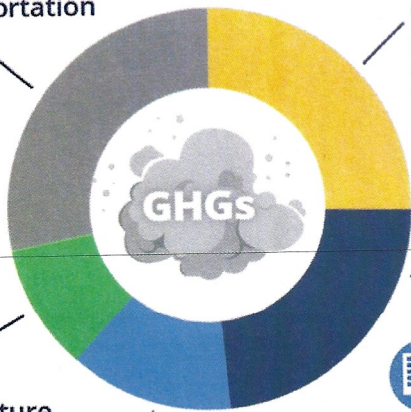
Agriculture **10%**



Industry **23%**



Residential and Commercial **13%**



Percentages may not add up to 100% due to independent rounding.



PROGRAM BENEFITS



Spurs economic growth and creates jobs by growing or supporting new industries



Reduces energy demand and bills, especially for low-income and disadvantaged communities



Improves public health by reducing air pollution

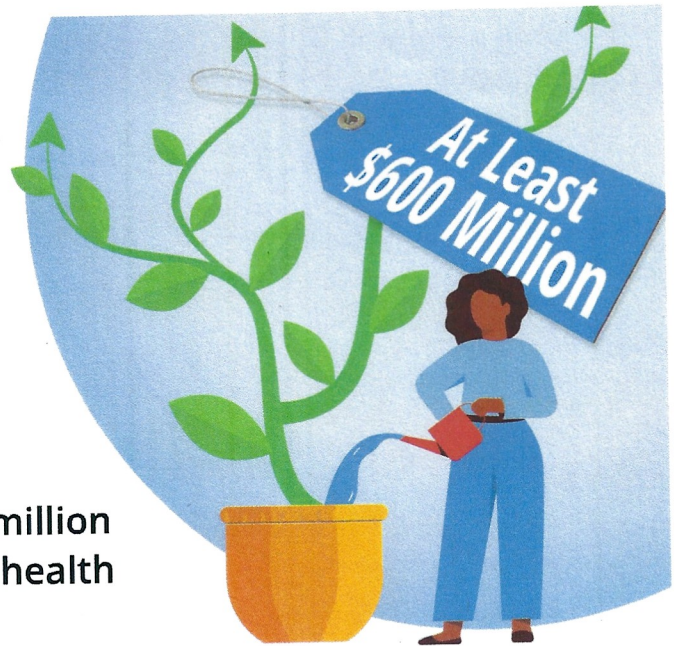
*United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

For more information, please visit **Climate Pollution Reduction Grants | US EPA**



Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (TCGM) Program

EPA's TCGM program provides at least \$600 million to address environmental justice and public health issues in underserved communities.



TCGM cooperative agreements are collaborations between EPA and 11 grantmakers around the nation to reduce the burden of the federal grants application process and distribute federal funds to potential applicants working to address environmental justice issues.

1,000+ Thriving Communities Subgrants distributed by grantmakers will:



Support capacity-building through assessment, planning and project development.



Increase efficiency and reduce barriers to accessing federal grant funding.



Encourage meaningful involvement of community members in decision-making that may affect their communities.

For more information, please visit
[Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program | US EPA](#)





Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA will invest about \$2 billion for environmental and climate justice activities benefiting communities most impacted by climate change, legacy pollution and historical disinvestments.



About \$2 Billion

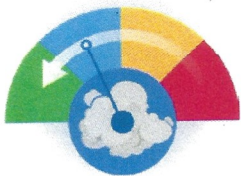
The Community Change Grants are designed to:



Engage disadvantaged communities in government processes.



Invest in place- and community-based initiatives.



Reduce pollution with community-led pollution monitoring, prevention and remediation.



Increase climate resilience and community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.



Community Change Technical Assistance Program

Through the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA's \$200 million technical assistance program will help eligible entities apply for and manage Community Change Grants.

For more information on this EPA Inflation Reduction Act program, please visit [Community Change Grants Program | US EPA](#)

