

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 25, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Update on CECAP Grant Activities**

The Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability (OEQS), the Office of Government Affairs (OGA), and other City departments are aggressively pursuing grant funds to help implement initiatives that support the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). This includes grants funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and grants and tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

During fiscal year 2023, and as we head into fiscal year 2024, City staff has identified, applied for, and received significant funding to achieve CECAP goals. Below is a listing of grants that have been awarded, are pending, or have applications in the planning stage.

## **Buildings**

Staff has worked to secure grant funding for solar panels on the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (MLK Jr. Community Center) and will be applying for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds in the fall, which can fund a wide range of programs.

1. Energy Efficiency and Block Grant
  - Amount: \$1.1M
  - Timeline: Applications due fall 2023
2. DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Community Project
  - Amount: \$4M solar project at MLK Jr. Community Center
    - Requires \$2M in local funds, planned enhancement request for FY25 budget.
  - Timeline: Application submitted August 18, 2023; project completion in FY26
3. IRA tax credits
  - Timeline/Amount: To be determined.

## **Energy**

Staff are currently working with Harris County, Dallas County, and other partners on a state-wide application for the Solar for All program to install solar panels on properties in low-income and disadvantaged communities. OEQS and OGA will continue to identify funding sources for community solar and micro-grid resilience.

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Solar for All (Part of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund)
  - Amount: \$25-\$400M
  - Funds state-wide programs for installation of solar on eligible residential homes
  - Timeline: Harris County Submitted Notice of Intent in August 2023; Application is due September 2023

### **Transportation**

Equipment and Fleet Management (EFM) pursues funding for fleet electrification and other lower-emission technologies as funding becomes available, and determines which vehicles are eligible for replacement. Recently, EFM received nearly \$700K to replace 28 light duty vehicles.

OEQS manages several Volkswagen Settlement awards for public EV charging infrastructure at City facilities. The City has also partnered with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) on grant applications to provide for public EV charging throughout the region, and to identify and pilot strategies to ensure the resilience of EV charging infrastructure.

The City regularly pursues funding for pedestrian and bike trails to encourage non-vehicular modes of transportation, including partnering with outside non-profit organizations to improve access for pedestrians and bicyclists through projects such as the recently awarded \$6M for the 5-mile Creek Trail, and improvements in the Southwest Medical District that will turn concrete roads into community green spaces.

1. Government Alternative Fuel Fleet Grant Program
  - Awarded \$678K to replace 28 light duty trucks with electric vehicles
2. RAISE
  - Awarded \$6.4M to complete design and engineering on 5 Mile Creek Trail
3. FHWA Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant
  - Amount: \$700 million nationwide
  - Partnered with NCTCOG on a regional application for public charging along high traffic corridors
  - Timeline: Application submitted June 2023
4. TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Program
  - Amount: \$100K-25M depending on project type and location
  - Submitted 3 applications to improve pedestrian and non-vehicular traffic facilities
  - Timeline: Applications submitted June 2023
5. Office of Energy and Transportation Ride and Drive Electric
  - Amount: Up to \$1.5M per applicant
  - Partnering with NCTCOG for region-wide EV charging resiliency study and demonstration project
  - Timeline: Applications due August 2023
6. Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program
  - Amount: 100% of incremental cost of all-electric replacement vehicles
  - Timeline: Applications due August 31
7. Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods
  - Amount: \$3.35B available nationwide under 2 programs
  - Funds projects that improve equity and access in neighborhoods affected by transportation infrastructure, including complete streets and green spaces like deck parks
  - Timeline: Applications due September 2023

### **Zero Waste**

The Department of Sanitation Services (Sanitation) is anticipating a grant award for \$163K for a study to determine the best location and configuration of a regionally accessible composting facility at McCommas Bluff landfill.

1. NCTCOG Solid Waste Implementation Grant
  - Sanitation anticipates an award of \$163K to implement study at McCommas Bluff

### **Water**

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) plans to apply for funding under the WaterSMART program to implement advanced metering infrastructure which will aid in water conservation efforts City-wide.

1. WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
  - Up to \$5M to implement projects that aid in water and energy conservation in water distribution systems
  - Timeline: Applications due Fall 2023

### **Green Space**

OEQS has recently been awarded \$1.5M under the EPA's Brownfields program to conduct testing and assessments and to provide loans and grants to clean-up contaminated sites in the South Dallas and Fair Park neighborhoods. These sites can then be redeveloped into, for example, commercial zones or green spaces.

The Forestry team at the City has received funding for the City-wide tree inventory, and the Park and Recreation Department regularly applies for funds to add green space and improve the City's 10-minute walk score, to bring a park within a walkable distance to every resident.

1. NOAA Heat Island Mapping Campaign
  - Technical assistance for heat mapping to identify heat islands
  - Timeline: Mapping occurred in August 2023
2. USDA Forestry Community Projects Funding
  - Amount: Awarded \$750K to accelerate work on the City-wide Tree Inventory
  - Timeline: Currently in negotiations
3. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant
  - Amount: Awarded \$600,000
  - Timeline: Ending on 9.30.2023
4. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant
  - Amount: Awarded \$500,000
  - Timeline: Awarded Summer 2023
5. EPA Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Grant
  - Amount: Awarded \$1 million
  - Timeline: Awarded Summer 2023
6. TCEQ Point Source Reduction
  - Submitted for cleanup and water quality testing along Coombs Creek
  - Timeline: Applications submitted July 2023

7. Texas Park and Wildlife Local Parks Grant Program
  - Up to \$1.5M for parks and trails
  - Submitted for Community Park at Fair Park
  - Timeline: Application submitted August 2023

### **Healthy Food**

OEQS regularly works with community gardens and urban farms throughout the City to support applications to improve access to healthy foods and implement the Urban Agriculture Plan. The partner organizations are typically the best primary applicant for this funding.

1. Urban Agriculture and Innovation Partnership
  - Timeline: Applications due Spring 2024
2. Local Food Promotion Program
  - Timeline: Applications due Spring 2024
3. Farmer's Market Promotion Program
  - Timeline: Applications due Spring 2024
4. Regional Food System Partnership Program
  - Timeline: Applications due Spring 2024

### **Air Quality**

OEQS has received funding from the EPA under their Environmental Justice program to conduct neighborhood-level air monitoring and improve health outcomes in equity neighborhoods. This complements regional regulatory air quality monitoring funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

1. EPA SEJCA Grant
  - Amount: Awarded \$200,000 for air monitoring and health outreach in equity areas
  - Timeline: Ending in 2024
2. EPA EJ Government-to-Government Program (formerly SEJCA)
  - Amount: Up to \$1M
  - Submitted for air quality monitoring and health outreach in equity areas
  - Timeline: Application submitted April 2023
3. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
  - Amount: \$1M
  - Partnered with NCTCOG for region-wide climate pollution reduction planning
  - Timeline: Applications submitted April 2023
4. TCEQ Ambient Air Grant/Contract
  - Amount: Awarded \$434,000
  - Timeline: Ending on 8.31.2024
5. TCEQ Rockwall and PM 2.5 Air Monitoring Grant/Contract
  - Amount: Awarded \$101,542.86
  - Timeline: Ending on 8.31.2024
6. TCEQ FY Whole Air (BioWatch) Grant/Contract
  - Amount: Awarded \$440,760.88

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- Timeline: Ending on 8.31.2024
7. TCEQ ARPA Pass-through Funding
- Amount: Awarded \$113,942.00

We will continue to keep City Council updated as the BIL and IRA continue to be rolled out in the coming months and years. If you have any questions, please contact Carlos Evans, director of the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability (OEQS) at [carlos.evans@dallas.gov](mailto:carlos.evans@dallas.gov) or Carrie Rogers, director of the Office of Government Affairs (OGA) at [carrie.rogers@dallas.gov](mailto:carrie.rogers@dallas.gov).



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