

Air Quality Grants

Using funds from its near-nonattainment area air quality planning grant, CAPCOG is able to support local, eligible projects within the Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that help reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions which contribute to ground level ozone pollution in the region. The funding was authorized under Rider 7 to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ's) appropriations for the 2016-2017 biennium. The Austin-Round Rock MSA counties include Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson.

Current grant opportunities

CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Grant

CAPCOG \$210,500 of available funding for 2016 and 2017 projects under the Regional Air Quality Grant. The funding is to support the goals of the regional Ozone Advance Program (OAP) Action Plan. **The deadline to submit grant applications is Aug. 19, 2016.**

These goals of OAP include the following:

- Remain in attainment of the 2015 8-hour ozone (O₃) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 70 parts per billion (ppb).
- Continue reducing the region's 8-hour O₃ design value to avoid being designated nonattainment for a new ozone NAAQS.
- Put the region in the best possible position to bring the area into attainment of an O₃ standard expeditiously if it does violate an ozone standard or gets designated nonattainment.
- Reduce the exposure of vulnerable populations to air pollution when the region experiences high O₃ levels.
- Minimize the costs to the region of any potential future nonattainment designation.

Eligible Recipients

Except for state and federal agencies, any organization which is a member of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) may apply for a grant. Organizations can join the CAC as either a general, or supporting member depending on the type of organization, and the organizations level of commitment.

Eligible Activities:

Activities that reduce the O₃-forming emissions of NO_x or volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the Austin-Round Rock MSA

- **Example 1:** solar panels, which reduce emissions from power plants
- **Example 2:** financial incentives for employees to carpool/vanpool
- **Example 3:** financial incentives for special events or construction firms to rent/use Tier 4 non-road equipment

Activities that shift ozone-forming emissions to periods less likely to contribute to high O₃ in the Austin-Round Rock MSA

- **Example 1:** energy storage systems that would reduce the need to dispatch high-emission peaker power plants in the middle of high O₃ days
- **Example 2:** financial incentives to construction and landscaping firms to reschedule work when TCEQ declares an O₃ Action Day for the region

Activities that assist in the tracking and reporting of activities that generate NO_x or VOC or activities that reduce NO_x or VOC emissions in the Austin-Round Rock MSA

- **Example 1:** fleet management software that enables real-time tracking of engine idling, vehicle speeds, routes, etc.
- **Example 2:** incentives to commuters to report/track their commuting patterns/habits
- **Example 3:** “smart meters” or sub-metering systems that would enable more fine-scale data collection of electricity, natural gas, or water consumption

Activities that assist in providing alerts or information to populations sensitive to O₃ pollution

- **Example 1:** giving personal ozone monitoring devices to schools, senior centers, hospitals, etc.
- **Example 2:** production of outreach and education materials targeted at sensitive populations helping them understand the air quality index (AQI)

> [Read the full CAPCOG Regional Air Quality Grant Request for Applications.](#)

> [Download the CAPCOG Local Emission Reduction Grant Program application and forms.](#)

The request for applications opened July 8, 2016 and ends Aug. 19, 2016.

All submitted grant applications can be reviewed. Applications must be submitted to Matt Holderread, CAPCOG Regional Services Division grants coordinator.

> [Submit an application to Matt Holderread.](#)

Grant updates

Completed - The CAPCOG Air Quality Program is hosting a grant writing workshop at the following time and location. The air quality program staff will discuss how organizations can apply and qualify for the grant funding.

9 a.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2016
CAPCOG Pecan Room
6800 Burleson Road
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, TX 78744

[> Register to attend the workshop.](#)

[> Read the workshop agenda.](#)

[> Review the Grant Workshop Presentation.](#)

Additional Documents

[> Download a CAC Supporting Membership Request Letter Template \(.docx\).](#)

[> Download a CAC Supporting Membership Resolution Template \(.docx\).](#)

[> Read a Q&A on becoming a CAC Member.](#)

[> Read the CAC Bylaws.](#)

Previous funding opportunities

The Local Emissions Reduction Grant

CAPCOG has allocated about \$240,000 from its 2016-17 near-nonattainment area air quality planning grant for the CAPCOG Local Emission Reduction Grant Program. **The deadline to submit grant applications was extended to 5 p.m. April 15, 2016.**

Organizations, such as local governments, regional government agencies, businesses, trade associations, institutions, and other nonprofit organizations, may apply for a grant if they have eligible activities in the Austin-Round Rock MSA. Except for the Texas Department of Transportation, which has made explicit commitments under the region's Ozone Advance Program Action Plan, state and federal agencies are not eligible to apply for this grant. Organizations participating in the region's Ozone Advance Program Action Plan will have an opportunity to receive more funding per ton of emissions reduced.

The grant targets commuter emission reduction projects and capital investment technology projects that reduce emissions.

Examples of commuter emission reduction projects include:

- Carpooling
- Vanpooling
- Mass transit

Examples of capital investment technology projects that reduce emissions include:

- Solar panel installations
- Replacing less energy-efficient equipment with more energy-efficient equipment
- Early replacement of older, higher-emitting stationary engines, boilers, process heaters, or water heaters with new, lower-emitting models
- Improving the efficiency of industrial processes to reduce fuel combustion requirements
- Incentivizing retrofitting older, higher-emitting stationary or mobile engines with NOx pollution control devices above the cost of completing the retrofit.

[> Read the full CAPCOG Local Emission Reduction Grant Program Request for Applications \(RFA\).](#)

[> Download the CAPCOG Local Emission Reduction Grant Program application and forms.](#)

The request for applications opened Feb. 16, 2016 and ends April 15, 2016.

All submitted grant applications can be reviewed. Applications must be submitted to Matt Holderread, CAPCOG Regional Services Division grants coordinator.

[> Submit an application to Matt Holderread.](#)

Grant updates

CAPCOG has released an addendum to its Local Emission Reduction Grant Program RFA along with a Question and Answers packet. The Q&A answered a variety of questions to include funding and project type inquiries. CAPCOG also has made available a draft template for a resolution to join the Clean Air Coalition as a supporting member.

[> Read the addendum that includes a new grant application deadline.](#) (Updated Feb. 29, 2016)

[> Read grant program Q&A.](#) (Updated March 11, 2016)

[> Download the resolution draft template.](#) (Updated Feb. 26, 2016)