EPA Discretionary Grant Opportunity

Clean Ports Program (CPP) Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released two Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) for the Clean Ports Program. These notices cover the:

- **Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition**
- **Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition**

The program aims to assist the port sector to transition to fully zero-emissions operations, reduce diesel pollution in adjacent communities, and ensure meaningful community engagement as a maritime industry standard practice.

Up to $3 billion is available through these competitions. Up to $150 million is available through the Climate and Air Quality Planning Program; $2.79 billion is available through the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition program.

Funding is available for ports as well as private-sector entities operating at a port to initiate and implement health and environmental mitigation efforts to reduce air quality impacts on surrounding communities.

This document describes this grant opportunity. More information, including the complete NOFO, is available on Grants.gov and from EPA's CPP grant program webpage.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities for the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition include zero-emission mobile equipment (locomotives and railcar movers, harbor craft, cargo handling equipment), shore power for marine vessels, solar and wind power generation systems, electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure, as well as safety planning project management, and project-specific public engagement.

Eligible activities for the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition include: emissions inventory, community collaboration and communication, strategic analysis, and resiliency planning.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications Due:

May 28, 2024
11:59 p.m. EDT

Optional Notice of Intent to Apply:

March 28, 2024

EPA anticipates notification of selection in September 2024.

Scan to see our current Grant Program Summaries:

March 18, 2024

Minimum Project Cost and Award Size

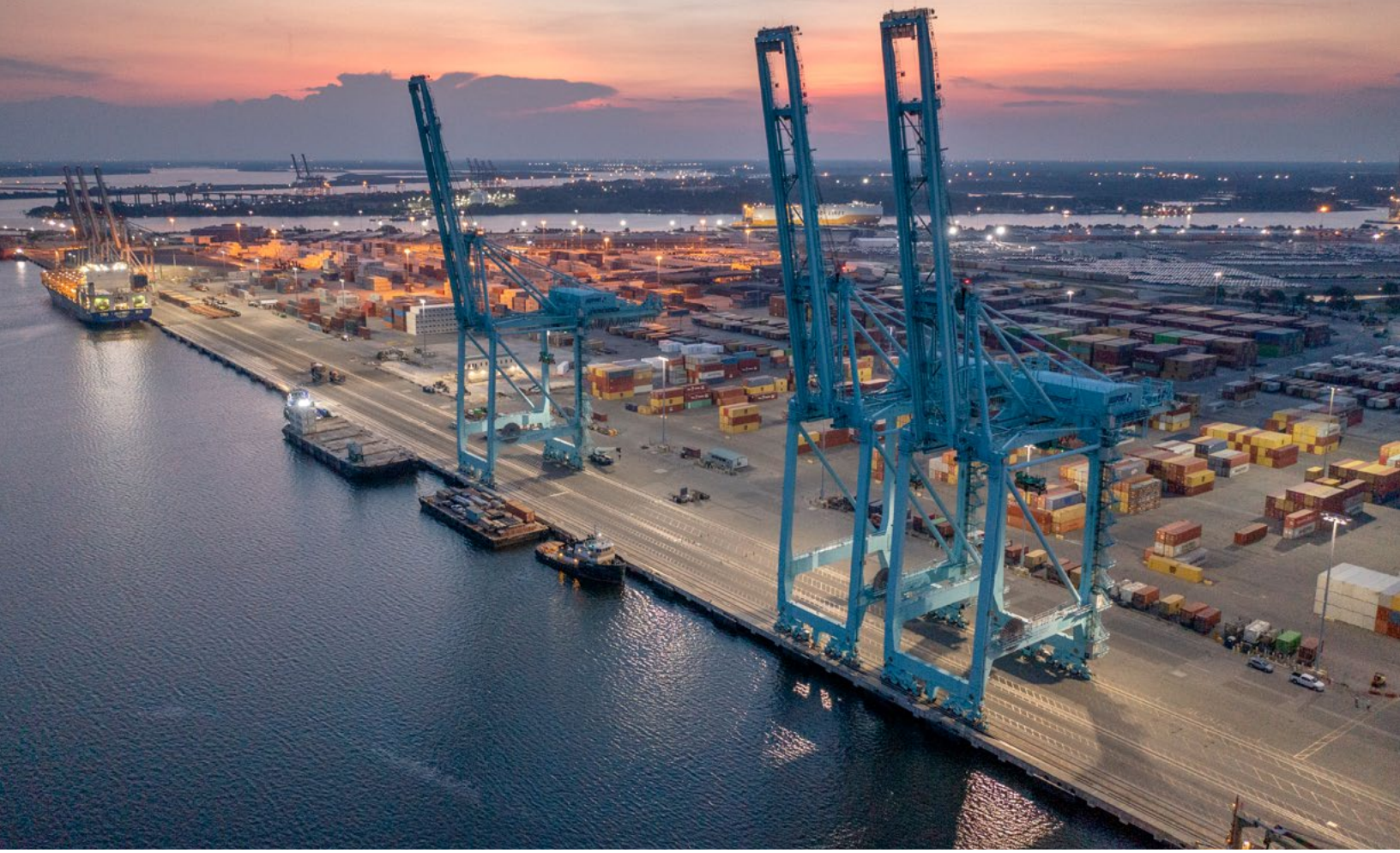
EPA anticipates awarding 50 to 70 grants or cooperative agreements under the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition. To ensure port type diversity in the award pool, EPA plans to grant a minimum of 10 planning awards for projects taking place at small water ports. The project minimum amount is $200,000 and the project maximum is $3 million.

The table below summarizes award tiers for large ports, small ports, and Tribal ports as part of the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition.

Tier	Port Type	Applicant Type	EPA Funding Range Per Award	EPA Share of Total Project Cost (Maximum)	Mandatory Applicant Share of Total Project Cost (Minimum)	Anticipated Number of Awards
Tier A	Water ports only	Any eligible entity	$150,000,000 - $500,000,000	80%	20%	5-10
Tier B	Water or dry ports	Any eligible entity	$10,000,000 - $149,000,000 Projects at small water ports: $5,000,000 - $149,000,000	90%	10%	25-70
Tier C	Water or dry ports	Tribal applicants only	$2,000,000 - $50,000,000	100%	0%	2-10

Within the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition, EPA uses the following definitions to distinguish among water ports, small water ports and dry ports:

- **Water Port:** places on land alongside navigable water (e.g., oceans, rivers, or lakes) with one or more facilities in close proximity for the loading and unloading of passengers or cargo from ships, ferries and other commercial vessels. This includes facilities that support non-commercial Tribal fishing operations.
- **Small Water Port:** A water port located in a port area to and from which the average annual tonnage of cargo is less than 8,000,000 short tons for the most recent three calendar years of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data (2019, 2020, 2021), or a water port located outside of the port areas in USACE tonnage datasets.
- **Dry Port:** an intermodal truck-rail facility that is included in the 2024 Federal Highway Administration Intermodal Connector Database. Eligibility criteria include having more than 50,000 20-foot equivalent units per year or 100 trucks per day or comprising more than 20% of freight volumes handled by any mode within a state.



Expenditure Timeframes

The estimated project start date for awards under both NOFOs is December 1, 2024.

The Climate and Air Quality Planning Program has an estimated period of performance for up to three years. The Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition has an estimated period of performance for up to four years.

Eligible Recipients

The following entities are eligible to receive funding through this program:

- Port authority
- State, regional, local, or Tribal agency that has jurisdiction over a port authority or port
- Air pollution control agency
- Private entity that applies in partnership with an eligible entity above, and owns, operates, or uses facilities, cargo-handling equipment, transportation equipment, or related technology of a port.

STATUTORY EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

For both competitions, EPA will consider applications using a scored evaluation based on the following criteria:

- Project Summary and Approach
  - › Partnerships and Collaboration
  - › Risk Mitigation
- Environmental Results
  - › Project Outputs and Outcomes
  - › Performance Measures
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
  - › Staff Expertise
- Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities
  - › Community Engagement
  - › Nonattainment Area
- Project Sustainability
  - › Baseline Source Emission Inventory and Plan for Reduction
- Job Quality and Equitable Workforce Development
  - › Support and expansion of access to high-quality jobs
- Budget
  - › Detail
  - › Reasonableness of Costs

PROJECT OUTCOME CRITERIA

Within both competitions, EPA will the following anticipated outcomes within the narrative of the application:

- Understanding of Current Port Emissions
- Strategic Long-Term Investments to Reduce Emissions
- Climate Change, Resiliency and the Environment
- Increased Stakeholder Participation
- Quality of Life, including Worker Safety and Job-Quality

While a benefit-cost analysis is not required, both competitions require identification of "outcomes." The NOFO defines outcomes as the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health related, or programmatic in nature, but must also be quantitative. Desired outcomes provided include:

- Improved Air quality
- Tons of pollution avoided annually
- Net reduction in gallons of fuel used annually and/or over the lifetime of the equipment
- Increased capacity of the ports to improve resilience
- Financial plan to implement emissions reduction strategy

The NOFO offers specific examples of outcomes for each competition.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

EPA encourages applicants to use the optional Supplemental Application Cover Sheet, which is provided as a template on the Clean Ports Program website.

Project narratives must describe the following project features:

- Basic project information, including description, location and parties
- Project costs, including grant funds, sources and uses of all project funding
- Alignment with project outcome criteria (described in further detail above)
- Quantitative Outcomes
- Project readiness and environmental risk
- Details of how project addresses EPA priority considerations outlined in the NOFO

HDR's Infrastructure Finance and grant writing professionals stand by ready to support project sponsors applying for funding from the Clean Ports program.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact:
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