

Resources from the 2023 Federal Policy Briefing

EGA has compiled resources from the Federal Policy Briefing to support you in effective partnership and strategy. We've organized them by issue area. You can click on the link to each issue area below to be brought to the corresponding section of resources.

1. [Energy](#)
2. [Rural Climate Action](#)
3. [Conservation](#)
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6. [Environmental Equity & Justice](#)
7. [Tools for Strengthening Organizational Resilience & Equity](#)

A Look Back: [How did we get to this opportune moment of billions in federal investments for communities and the environment?](#)



ENERGY

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) invests \$369 billion dollars in clean energy, environmental justice, and climate to put the US on a path of 40% emission reductions by 2030.

Clean Energy Federal Funding Highlights

- **\$27 billion in the IRA towards the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund \(GGRF\)](#)**, to finance climate and clean energy projects that benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities. EPA will oversee the distribution of resources through GGRF, and is expected to open funding in early summer 2023. EPA is also distributing [billions more](#) in grants from IRA and IIJA provisions, including **\$2.8B in Environmental & Climate Justice Block Grants**.
- The IRA has appropriated **\$11.7B in loans to clean energy projects** through DOE's Loan Programs Office (LPO), expanding LPO's loan authority by \$100 billion. [LPO's programs focus on](#) providing loans to four main categories: commercializing innovative technologies, clean energy infrastructure, tribal energy development, and advanced technology vehicle manufacturing.
- A summary of the climate and energy investments from the IRA can be found [here](#). **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes an additional [\\$62 billion](#) in clean energy investments** to DOE.

Resources

- **Grantee resource:** [NDN Collective](#) has developed a texting tool that communicates grants and RFIs from the IRA and IIJA **available for Tribes and disadvantaged communities**. Text IRA4TRIBES to 50302 to receive more information.
- Check out EGA's highlights and lowlights of the \$369 billion in IRA funding [here](#).
- EPA shares [Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act](#) (Current as of March 1, 2023)
- [One-pager of DOE resources](#) shared with the EGA community.
- [The White House Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook](#)
- [The White House Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook](#)
 - [White House Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Technical Assistance Guidebook](#)

RURAL CLIMATE ACTION

The IIJA, IRA, and [CHIPS](#) Act invests \$62 billion combined in rural infrastructure and climate action. \$19.5B from the IRA invests in farmers to lead regenerative agriculture and conservation initiatives. Currently, the 2023 Farm Bill is moving through Congress, and will determine funding for the next five years to critical food and farm programs.

Policy goals highlighted during the Briefing panel "Rural Climate Action - Federal Opportunities for Rural Self Determination:"

- Inclusion of the [Justice for Black Farmers Act](#) in the 2023 Farm Bill
- Eliminate matching funds in the 2023 Farm Bill
- Eliminating USDA's 3-year limit for new and beginning farmers, an additional barrier to sustaining agriculture in rural communities.

Resources

- [“Black farmers call for justice from the USDA”](#). This article shares background on the class action lawsuit led by Black farmers against the USDA.
 - List of 1890 [Land-Grant Institutions](#)
 - [National Black Food & Justice Alliance](#)
 - [National Black Farmers Association](#)
 - The [Rural Democracy Initiative](#) and [Rural Climate Partnership](#) are providing funding and technical assistance to help rural communities build capacity.
 - Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders (SAFSF) is organizing opportunities for funders to plug into the [Farm Bill](#).
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CONSERVATION

Billions of dollars in the IIJA and IRA are being appropriated to advance conservation and restoration initiatives. The Biden Administration’s 30x30 goal sets a bar for using these funds to conserve 30% of domestic lands and waters by 2030. The [America the Beautiful Initiative](#) was launched by the administration in May 2021 to guide **locally-led conservation efforts** towards 30x30.

The [America the Beautiful for All Coalition](#) is advancing equity in the America the Beautiful Initiative and 30x30. The Coalition recently launched their [2023 policy agenda](#). They invite EGA members to build power as a partner to advance a just vision of 30x30. Learn more about their [workgroups](#).

Resources:

- Learn about recent and upcoming conservation legislation in this [one-pager of resources from US Representative Raúl Grijalva](#), Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources
 - March 2023: The Department of the Interior is implementing [more than \\$2 billion dollars](#) from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to restore lands and waters in the United States. The DOI has released a [restoration and resilience framework](#) to guide implementation.
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TRANSPORTATION

Nearly \$700 billion of combined investments between the IIJA and IRA will directly impact US transportation infrastructure.

Transportation Funding Highlights

- **\$400.7 billion** from the IRA and IIJA is allocated to driving-related transportation such as electrical vehicle (EV) production, constructing roadways, driving safer, and new fuel technology.
- **\$150 billion** in IIJA to transit and rail systems
- **\$27 billion** in IRA and IIJA to eighteen new programs reconsidering community design and local transportation
 - **\$3 billion** to reconnecting communities cut apart by highways through the [Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants](#)

Resources

- DOT Announcement: [Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever Awards from Program to Reconnect Communities](#)
 - [DOT Equity Action Plan](#)
 - DOT [Thriving Communities Program](#) provides tools to ensure communities can access the historic funding from the IIJA
 - DOT [mailing list](#)
 - EGA member, **TransitCenter**, shares insights on [Using Highway Dollars for Public Transportation](#)
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WATER

The IIJA and IRA offer opportunities to scale up water infrastructure in the US. This is an opportunity to address water inequity and scarce water supply in drought-impacted communities. The IIJA delivers over [\\$50 billion to EPA](#) to improve water infrastructure - the single largest investment in water by the federal government. The IRA provides an additional [\\$4 billion in drought relief](#), including \$550 million earmarked for national water programs to communities without reliable access to water; and \$12.5 million in emergency drought relief for tribes.

Resources

- [Provisional Map of Nationwide Water Utilities](#) by the Environmental Policy Innovation Center
- [Closing the Water Access Gap in the United States: A National Action Plan](#). (2019). Report by U.S. Water Alliance and Dig Deep.
- [Advancing Racial Equity Across The Water Sector: A Toolkit for Utilities](#). (2022). Report by U.S. Water Alliance.
- [White House Plan on Global Water Security](#)

Resources from the concurrent session: “Now the Fun Begins: Leveraging Immense Public Funds to Protect Water in the Face of Climate Change:”

- [BlueCommons](#) is a “first-of-its-kind *Blue Bank*” financing projects that address water scarcity and sustainability challenges. A fiscally-sponsored project by EGA member, **New Venture Fund**.
- EGA member, **Water Foundation’s** [Water Solutions Fund](#) is “pooling and aligning philanthropic resources and working with the field to ensure that the new federal funding realizes its full promise by focusing on policy, projects, and power.”
- [Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal Communities](#) is advancing universal access to clean, safe drinking water for all Native communities in the United States.
- [Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#) is a federal-state partnership financing community water infrastructure projects.

Additional Resources from the International Water and Sanitation Caucus:

- [International Water and Sanitation Caucus Fact Sheet](#)

- [Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2014](#)
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ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY & JUSTICE

The Justice40 Initiative was created by the Biden Administration to redress decades of underinvestment in disadvantaged communities. Justice40 is a federal goal to allocate 40 percent of benefits from federal investments to “disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.” During this once-in-a-generation opportunity for communities to access billions in federal funds, we must hold the government accountable to equity and justice.

RESOURCES

- **Grantee opportunities (submit by 04/07 in advance of 4/14 deadline):**
 - [Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving \(EJCPS\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#)
 - [Environmental Justice Government-to-Government \(EJG2G\) Cooperative Agreement Program](#)
 - [“Environmental Equity Report Card for Agencies Gets Final Touches”](#) (via Bloomberg Law)
 - California Environmental Justice Alliance [EJ Scorecard](#) is an example of a scorecard created by local environmental justice organizations
 - An omnibus of essays by environmental leaders on navigating federal laws & initiatives for sustainability and equity across environmental issues. Topics covered include climate justice, sustainable cities, transportation, water, policy and funding, green banks, environmental health, equity, and more. Check it out here: [Resilience Matters: Collective Action for Healthier Communities](#). (via Island Press Urban Resilience Project)
 - [White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council \(IAC\) website](#) - The IAC is chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and consists of representatives from more than 20 federal agencies coordinating interagency efforts for environmental justice in federal programs and policies.
 - White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. (May 13, 2021). [Justice40 Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool & Executive Order 12898 Revisions Interim Final Recommendations](#).
 - Success Story: [State Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr. and the ReGenesis Project](#). Summary by the American Planning Association.
 - [Resources from the ReGenesis Institute](#)
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Tools for Strengthening Organizational Resilience and Equity

As we contend, strategize, and collaborate for just resource distribution, it’s more important than ever that we strengthen our organizations’ resilience and equity practice. This requires us to invest in people infrastructure, strive for racial equity, promote generative conflict, and engage in practices that strengthen our capacities to meet challenges. Below are resources to support you on this journey.

RESOURCES

- Organizational Resilience - Read Maurice Mitchell's essay in The Forge on [Building Resilient Organizations](#).
 - [Listen to a recording of Maurice reading his article, "Building Resilient Organizations," here.](#)
 - Operationalizing racial equity:
 - [Toward climate justice—A 10+ year evolution](#) This resource outlines the Surdna Foundation Environment program's 10+ year journey to a strategy centered in racial justice and the lived experience of low-wealth communities and communities of color.
 - EGA's [Racial Equity POV](#) is our staff, board, member, and institutional commitment to shift systems towards racial equity
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*Thank you to the EGA community and our partners
for attending the 2023 Federal Policy Briefing!*