



Community Climate Investment Entity

Request for Applications, Question and Answer Document

This document tracks the questions DEQ receives related to the [Community Climate Investment Entity Request for Applications](#) that is posted on the [Climate Protection Program website](#) along with the responses. It will be updated regularly. The deadline for applications is March 20, 2026.

Question 1

Section 2.6.3.5.3 is about sub-contractor or partner overview. Are the 10 or so bullet points in that section the specific information you're requesting in that overview?

Answer 1

Correct, the bullet points in that section are the information requested for the overview of any sub-contractor or partner listed in the application.

Question 2

Can you confirm that the responses to all of 2.6.2 are not included in the 30-page limit?

Answer 2

Correct, all responses to section 2.6.2 are not included in the 30-page limit.

Question 3

Can we get the attachments as editable Word documents or fill-in forms?

Answer 3

Yes, they are posted online in word format as well as the PDF format.

Question 4

Section 2.6.3.1 vs 2.6.3.1.1.1: Can you confirm that for 3.1 you are asking for a broad overview and for 3.1.1.1 you are asking for details on up to three specific projects above and beyond what may be mentioned in 3.1?

Answer 4

Yes, confirming that 2.6.3.1 is asking for a broad overview, which could include more than three projects in the list and that 3.1.1.1. is asking for details on up to three specific projects beyond what may be described above.

Question 5

Could an applicant participate in multiple applications such as lead one application and be a partner or subcontractor on another?

Answer 5

Yes, an applicant can participate in multiple applications.

Question 6

Section 3.9 on point and score calculations changed from a request for applications for CCI entities that was released in 2023 under a previous Climate Protection Program that was invalidated by the Oregon Court of Appeals in 2023. Specifically, the point allocation changed for financial information and the comprehensive management plan categories. Can you explain these changes?

Answer 6

While DEQ learned a great deal from the implementation of a previous Climate Protection Program that was invalidated in 2023, this is a completely independent and new process for selecting CCI entities. DEQ has determined that it is critical that any CCI entity have transparent and robust financial accounting, reporting, and auditing. This is reflected in the scoring.

The comprehensive management plan is also an important component of the scoring but some aspects of the comprehensive management plan will be delineated in the development of an agreement and future work planning with any approved community climate investment entities. This is reflected in the lower scoring for this category relative to financial information.

Question 7

Referring to sections 3.9 -11 on scoring and ranking – seem to be written for more of a conventional RFP where only one applicant would be selected. How will DEQ decide or what criteria will be used if multiple CCI entities are warranted? Are there factors other than the scores that will be considered, and if so what are those factors?

Answer 7

DEQ will use this request for application process to determine if one or more community climate investment entities are selected. If needed during the evaluation of applications, DEQ can do additional rounds of scoring to gain more clarity on the submitted applications, though that is not required. For example, the scoring committee may find a natural break in the scores on the applications and move forward with those top applicants.

Question 8

What are the requirements on the application for calculating the greenhouse gas emission reductions?

Answer 8

The application is looking for the approach the entity, subcontractors, or partners would take on calculating the emission reductions, approach to tracking, and approach to reporting on those reductions.

Question 9

Does DEQ have a preferred or set methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions reductions related to community climate investments?

Answer 9

DEQ does not have a set methodology that applicants are expected to use. The applicant should describe their approach for calculating emission reductions and the expertise they would use for this requirement.

Question 10

Does DEQ have opinions about technology or types of emission reduction projects such as rooftop solar energy generation or embodied carbon projects and reductions? Are projects required to be in Oregon?

Answer 10

It must be projects that reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. Applicants should be clear how the projects would be happening in Oregon. Additionally, there is not a preference among different types of eligible projects or sectors addressed. The applicant should be clear about what types of projects or sectors they have expertise in and/or where they plan to focus. Expertise is not limited to Oregon.

Question 11

Can a contractor be the source for calculating the greenhouse gas emission reductions related to a project?

Answer 11

Yes, the entity applying does not have to be the subcontractor or partner doing the emission reduction calculations, it can be a partner or subcontractor brought on with that expertise.

Question 12

Can organizations get credit for past work in the calculations around their emission reductions from a project? How well can an applicant translate in the application their functioning portfolio that they would be hoping to build.

Answer 12

No, community climate investments must go towards future projects. This could include projects or programs that exist today and would be ramped up or expanded geographically with these investments. Greenhouse gas emission reductions will need to be tracked and reported against future investments. The project experience section in the application would be where an applicant can describe previous work and projects that align with the goals of the community climate investments.

Question 13

Is it disqualifying if a nonprofit does not have *audited* financial statements at the time of application?

Answer 13

An applicant must have audited financial statements to be submitted with the applicant materials.

Question 14

Referencing Attachment D, question 2. Given the unique nature of the Climate Protection Program, sharing experience with “similar scope, timeline, and budget” can be a challenging question to answer. The agreement is for \$0 and the scope is quite large. Can you clarify what information you may be seeking in this section?

Answer 14

DEQ acknowledges the unique nature of the request for applications. A potential applicant might provide examples of contracts and agreements where the entity has had to demonstrate flexibility and navigate many moving pieces. Another option could be using examples of contracts and agreements where the entity has had to estimate and report on greenhouse gas emission reductions from specific projects. Another could be highlighting contracts and agreements where transparency and reporting of funds was a priority.

Question 15

Referencing 2.3.2 eligible expenses. An approved community climate investment entity will start incurring costs ahead of receiving community climate investment funds, such as developing the workplan. Can these expenses be reimbursed by future community climate investments received?

Answer 15

Eligible uses of funds include activities such as administering CCI funds as stated in the program rules (OAR 340-273-0930(4)). If an applicant is approved as a third-party community climate investment entity through this request for application process, DEQ would consider the cost to develop work plans as administering funds and an eligible use of CCI funds.

Question 16

In the overview slides, it was mentioned that this program does not relate to the electricity sector, but can you clarify why solar projects could be funded by the program?

Answer 16

The Climate Protection Program does not regulate the electricity sector, but community climate investments can be used for any projects that reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. This includes emissions from many different sources, such as homes, buildings, facilities, or transportation. This could include things like energy efficiency projects, installation of heat pumps, or installation of solar and storage.

Question 17

If there are multiple community climate investment entities selected, how would their work be delineated? Would it be different project types, different geographies, different population types, or would the entities be required to coordinate?

Answer 17

If multiple applicants are approved as community climate investment entities, it would depend on the expertise of those entities. DEQ is open to seeing what all the applicants bring forward and if there are multiple entities, DEQ would have a role in leading that coordination amongst the multiple approved entities.

Question 18

Section 1.1. states that the term ranges from a minimum of three years and a maximum of 10 years. Can you clarify or elaborate on this?

Answer 18

The minimum agreement length would be three years because DEQ acknowledges that it may take a few years to be established as a community climate investment entity. It is possible that the initial agreement could be more than three years and that would be determined after an applicant is approved and DEQ negotiates the agreement with that entity.

Question 19

What is the 4.5% community climate investment fee vs. the admin costs of the organization?

Answer 19

The 4.5% fee will go to support DEQ's administration and oversight of the community climate investment program and will be collected every six months from the approved entities and will be based on any investments that have come in during the previous six months. There will also be expenses incurred by the approved entity or entities related to administration of the program, this is different than the 4.5% fee.

Question 20

Attachment D, question 5, what is the "proposed agreement period"?

Answer 20

Proposed agreement period would be at a minimum of three years.

Question 21

Is there a requirement to be able to provide services throughout the state as a community climate investment entity? Is there a requirement for a minimum geographic service area?

Answer 21

Community climate investments must be prioritized for Oregon's environmental justice communities. It is not a requirement that an entity provide services throughout the state or have a minimum geographic service area, but the program will seek to provide benefit to communities throughout Oregon.

Added Feb. 9, 2026

Question 22

If CCI funds are deployed as loans, how should loan repayments be treated? Are they required to revolve throughout the balance of the term of the agreement? Do repayments count as CCI funds subject to the same restrictions, or can they be re-deployed flexibly? Is there any guidance on whether revolved loan capital may ever become unrestricted?

Answer 22

If an applicant proposes to deploy CCI funds as loans as a part of their approach and that applicant is approved as a CCI entity, the specifics of loan repayment would be clarified in the agreement between the CCI entity and DEQ. Without understanding the specifics in the question of unrestricted loan capital, the agreement set between the CCI entity and DEQ would clarify if and when revolved loan capital may become unrestricted. All applicants, if they are proposing to deploy funds as loans or otherwise, are asked in the application to demonstrate how their approach would achieve the required greenhouse gas emission reductions through that approach.

Question 23

Is there any expectation that program funds be returned at the end of the program term or at the conclusion of the CCI entity's participation?

Answer 23

If there are funds that are not connected to an approved workplan and the CCI entity ceases to be a CCI entity, those funds will be required to be redirected towards another approved CCI entity. Any scenarios such as this will be clearly defined in the agreement between an approved CCI entity and DEQ.

Question 24

Under what conditions may either DEQ or the CCI entity terminate its participation and what are the rules around returning undeployed vs. deployed funds?

Answer 24

If DEQ approval is suspended, revoked, or voluntarily withdrawn, DEQ may require the entity to transfer any uncommitted CCI funds to another CCI entity and provide proof to DEQ that the transfer has been made. If a transfer of funds is required, DEQ will determine allowable expenses for the transition of projects and the remaining funds.

Question 25

How often does DEQ expect to competitively select CCI partner participation? Is there a certain number of years expected, with renewal provisions?

Answer 25

The agreement between DEQ and any selected CCI entities will be a minimum of three years with renewal provisions for up to ten years. DEQ can release another request for applications for interested CCI entities at any time. Due to the timeline of the release of a request for applications and selection of approved entities, DEQ does not anticipate releasing another request for application for at least two years.

Question 26

Should interest earned on the required CCI separate interest-bearing account be treated as CCI funds (subject to the same restrictions), or can interest be allocated differently?

Answer 26

Interest earned on any CCI funds held in an interest-bearing account must follow the same eligible uses of the CCI funds as described in the following definition of community climate investments:

“Community climate investments,” “community climate investment funds” or “CCI funds” means money paid by a covered entity to a community climate investment entity to support implementation of community climate investment projects and any interest that accrues on the money while it is held by a CCI entity or subcontractor.

Question 27

Does DEQ impose any limit or allowable percentage for administrative costs charged to CCI funds? Or will this be determined during the workplan review?

Answer 27

A percentage of CCI funds may be used for any approved CCI entity to administer the program. This percentage will be determined in the process of setting the agreements with any approved CCI entities and their subsequent workplans.

Question 28

What reporting and monitoring framework will DEQ use to verify that CCI entities meet the requirement to direct at least 15% of project funds to federally recognized Tribes and Tribal communities? How frequently will this requirement be assessed, and do CCI entities need to maintain the 15% proportion continuously during deployment, or only at specific reporting milestones? Because Tribal projects may involve longer timelines or episodic funding opportunities, how will DEQ accommodate timing differences when evaluating compliance?

Answer 28

As described in OAR 340-273-0930, any approved CCI entities must submit to DEQ an annual report. The date of submission of an annual report will be determined in written agreement as described in OAR 340-273-0920 (2). The annual report must describe its CCI-related activities and finances for the preceding year. DEQ and any approved CCI entities will work together to determine how to report on projects that benefit Tribes and Tribal communities in Oregon.

Question 29

How does DEQ intend to define the legal status and liability exposure of an approved CCI entity under the program participation agreement? Specifically, in situations where a lawsuit challenges the Climate Protection Program or the community climate investments structure, how would responsibility for defense and liability be allocated between DEQ and the CCI entity? Could DEQ provide the anticipated indemnification language that will be included in the program participation agreement, and, if available, a template or draft of the agreement itself?

Answer 29

DEQ believes we have the authority to implement the Climate Protection Program as it is described in the program rules. If any lawsuits are filed challenging DEQ's authority to implement the CCI program DEQ will defend these lawsuits and will not expect the CCI entity to pay anything for that defense. DEQ does expect the CCI entity to cooperate fully with DEQ in defense of the program.

As noted above in previous questions, many details will need to be specified in the agreement with any approved CCI entity and DEQ.

Single point of contact for this request for applications

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