



Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Regional Climate Action

A Path Toward Climate Action *with Community, For People*

community + human development

Advance Equity

Reduce Poverty

Build Sustainability

Civic Empowerment

- Equity + Access
- Climate Action
- Volunteerism + Engagement

Human Services

- Homelessness
- Health+ Wellbeing
- Recreation + Lifestyle

Neighborhood Development

- Housing
- Community Revitalization
- Quality of Life

Our responsibility is to serve as the catalyst for community partnerships, collaboration + change ensuring **equity, resilience + sustainability** for the most vulnerable El Pasoans by giving voice to the underrepresented, supporting a strong system of human services & investing in El Paso homes, families + neighborhoods.



Why Climate Action? Why Now?

As a result of the **November 2022 voter approved bond** the City of El Paso is moving forward with a comprehensive climate action plan.

The objective of that plan is:

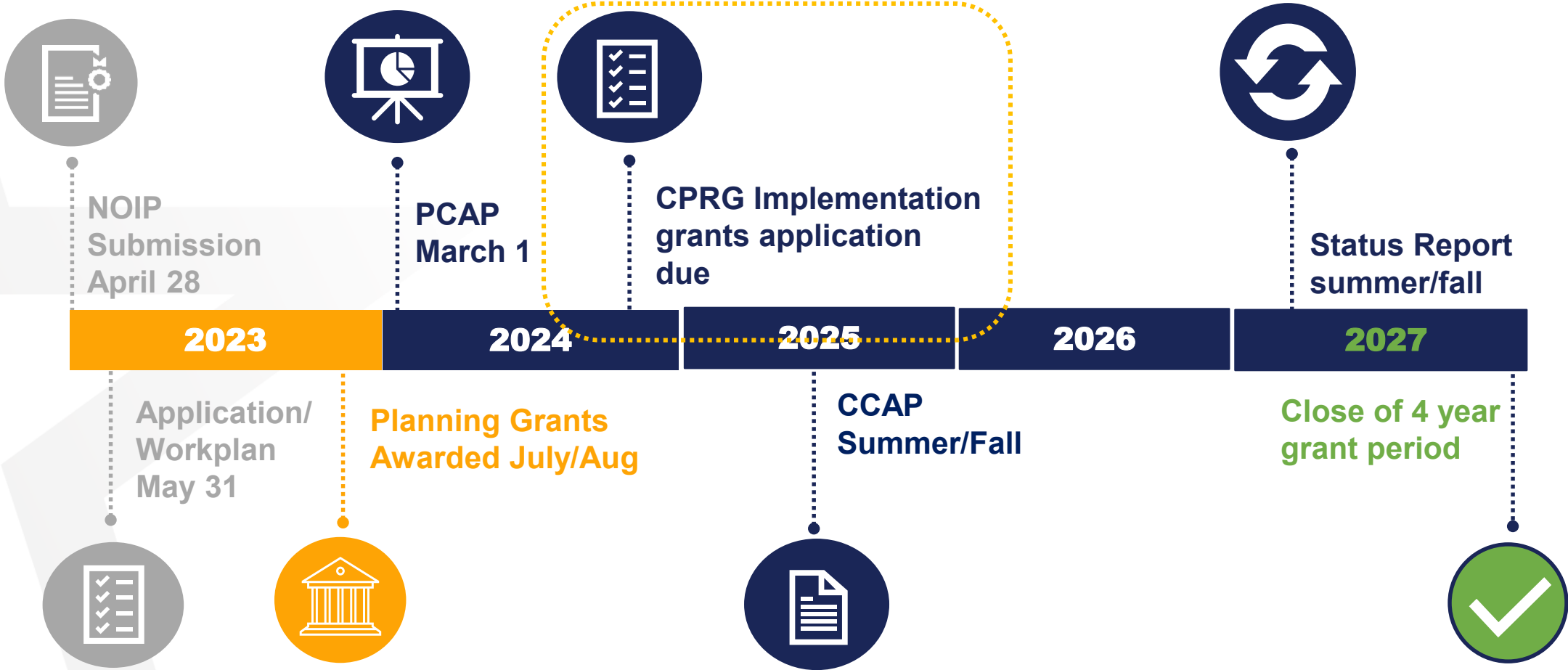
4 Critical Components:

1. Community-wide **inventory** of existing emissions;
2. a **resilience** and **adaptation** focus;
3. prioritized mitigation and adaptation **actions**;
4. **funding** mechanisms; and **implementation** pathway.

1. Address the specific impacts of the global climate crisis as they relate to the **urban desert environment and vulnerable populations** of the Chihuahuan Desert.
2. Ensure consistent and transparent collaboration inclusive of all interested stakeholders and community members assuring **tangible results and appropriate public accountability**.
3. Pursue a **wide range of policy vehicles and funding resources** to advance the City of El Paso a leader in addressing the global climate crisis while balancing affordability and equity concerns for the community of El Paso.



Timelines + Deliverables



Funding

- Community Progress Bond (\$5m)
- CPRG (\$1 M)
- Solar For All (\$400 M)

Plans

- Plan El Paso
- Resilient El Paso
- Regional Housing Plan
- Community Health Assessment

Policy

- Landscape Ordinance
- Complete Streets

Partners

- Regional Governments
- Non Profit Organizations
- Community Advocates
- Philanthropy
- Private Business
- Utilities

Programs

- PDN C3
- PDN Climate Fellowship
- 915 Treekeepers
-



Our Toolkit...



Justice 40

- **40 percent of the overall benefits** of the CPRG investments must flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution
- **CPRG grant has to meet Justice 40** requirements as defined by the Federal Government
- **Community engagement** is a critical component of the Justice 40 Initiative. Federal Administration directed Justice 40 covered programs to **conduct meaningful engagement with stakeholders to ensure community members have an opportunity to provide input** on program decisions.
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#)



CPRG Program Highlights



1. Dual phase grant program: planning & implementation
- ~~2. Application/workplan due by **May 31, 2023.**~~
3. Eligible actions: CPRG funds are restricted to projects that are directly related to the development of plans to reduce climate pollution.
4. Non-competitive \$1M, additional \$4.6 B in competitive funding during implementation phase (Summer 2023).
5. No match.
- ~~6. MSA Letter of Intent Due **April 28, 2023**~~
7. City of El Paso, in discussion with regional partners, has stepped forward to act as MSA Lead for the EPA CPRG.



A Regional Approach

10 municipalities

2 counties

5 international ports of entry

15 census-designated places + unincorporated communities

5,587 square miles





- Having a metropolitan configuration represented by a range of **large urban communities to small cities and rural towns** punctuated by the expansive **west Texas open space** environment exacerbates that challenge in terms of community outreach and civic empowerment.
- Many communities within the MSA **lack trust in public institutions** due to years of underinvestment and sporadic engagement.
- This challenge presents an opportunity for the El Paso MSA to establish a **climate based civic empowerment framework** built to exemplify environmental justice as defined by Justice 40.

Key Lines of Effort



1

developing **technical deliverables** (GHG emissions inventory and projections, benefit analysis)

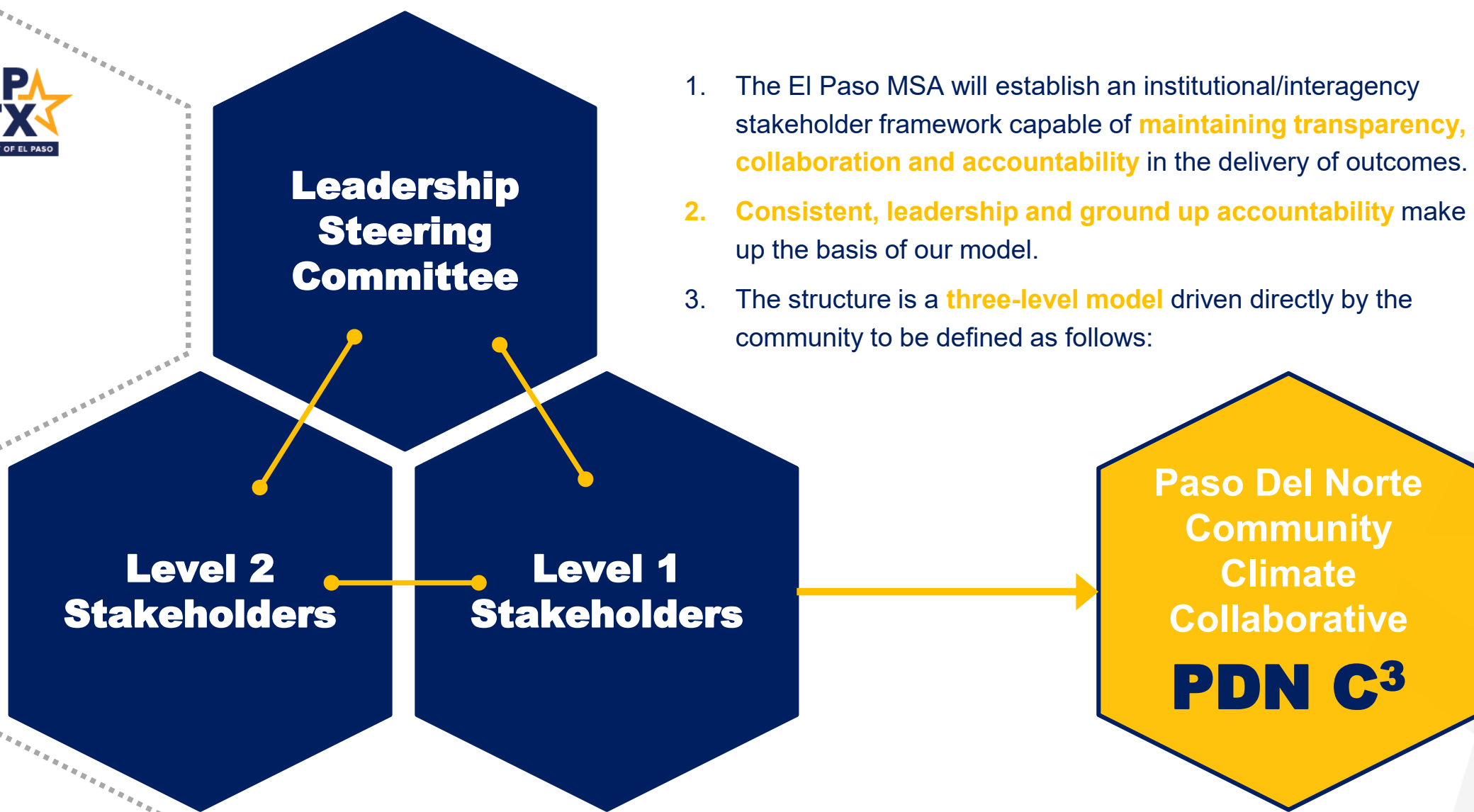
2

engaging with community to gather feedback about **priorities, concerns and desired outcomes** in their neighborhoods related to climate pollution

3

follow up on measuring impact and benefit as well as **follow through with a consistent presence** within affected communities.





1. The El Paso MSA will establish an institutional/interagency stakeholder framework capable of **maintaining transparency, collaboration and accountability** in the delivery of outcomes.
2. **Consistent, leadership and ground up accountability** make up the basis of our model.
3. The structure is a **three-level model** driven directly by the community to be defined as follows:

Civic Empowerment for Action



Paso Del Norte Climate Fellowship



Created by the City of El Paso Office of Climate and Sustainability, the fellowship is scheduled to launch in March of 2024, it will provide the cornerstone to our community ability to **do more than reach people, but rather to empower them from within their own neighborhood.**

The mission of the fellowship is to **work across the partner network** leveraging level 2 stakeholders such as Frontera Land Alliance, the El Paso Community Foundation, Eco El Paso, the Community First Coalition and promotora groups.

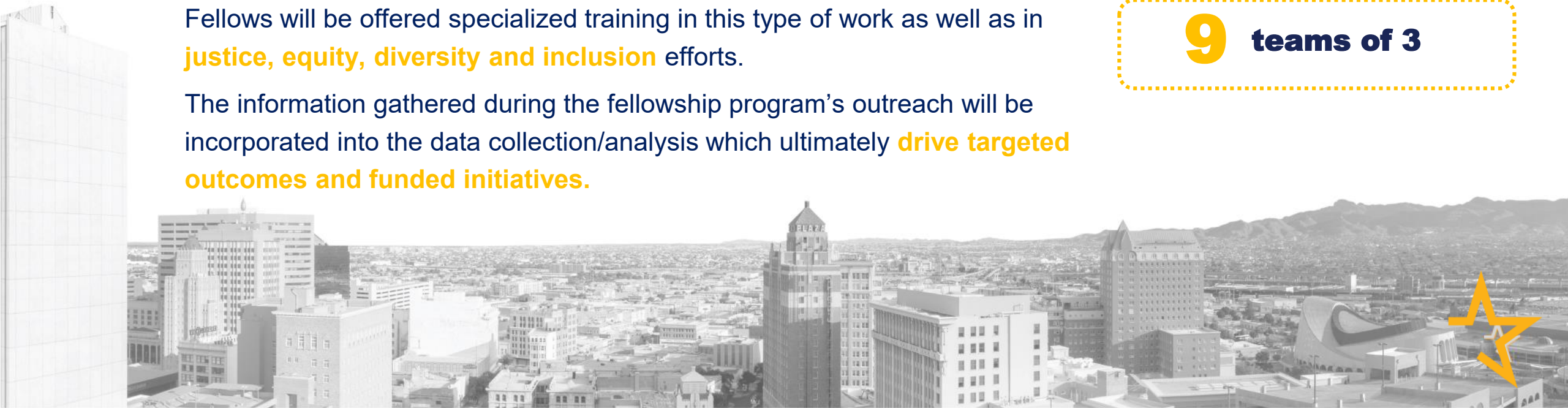
Fellows will be offered specialized training in this type of work as well as in **justice, equity, diversity and inclusion** efforts.

The information gathered during the fellowship program's outreach will be incorporated into the data collection/analysis which ultimately **drive targeted outcomes and funded initiatives.**

27 fellows

2 years

9 teams of 3



Output Measures

EPA Requirements

- Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), March 1, 2024.
- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Summer-Fall 2025
- Status Report

Summer-Fall 2027

- Fellowship Established and Number of Fellows successfully completing the program
- Four (4) Climate Innovation Teams events attended

Summer-Fall 2027

- Municipal staff trained on the selected methodology to calculate GHG emissions and emissions projections.
- Demographics of Engaged Residents (Focus on youth, seniors and low-moderate income)
- Awareness of community programming + regional climate change impacts
- Number of Community Partners engaged and connected with climate initiatives
- Ratio of number of events to number of community members in attendance and engaged
- Overall reach of climate communications (including social media)

These measures allow us to stay on track, comply with federal requirements. They are also part of the formula that allows our team to ultimately measure outcomes.



Community Impact

- Tons of pollution (GHG and co-pollutants) reduced over the lifetime by the measures identified.
- Tons of pollution (GHG and co-pollutants) reduced in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Tons of pollution (GHG and co-pollutants) reduced annually.

Climate

People

- Enhanced community engagement and participation on climate related activities.
- Impact on climate related health concerns within our region
- Establish consistent community presence

Economy

Governance

- Creation of jobs related to the identified measures.
- Activation of Key Industry Clusters
- Shifts in Active Energy Clusters

- Improved staff capacity across the MSA to address the impacts of climate change.
- Establish long-term regional collaboration
- Build community trust



MISSION



Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community

VISION



Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



VALUES

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,
Accountability, **P**eople