

Energized Communities: Innovation Fund Workshop

September 2025

Agenda

- ⚡ Energized Communities Overview
- ⚡ Innovation Fund Approach
- ⚡ Application, Timeline & Resources
- ⚡ Program Terms, Reporting & Reimbursement Process
- ⚡ Q&A
- ⚡ Additional Resources: CPA's Customer Programs



The Communities We Serve



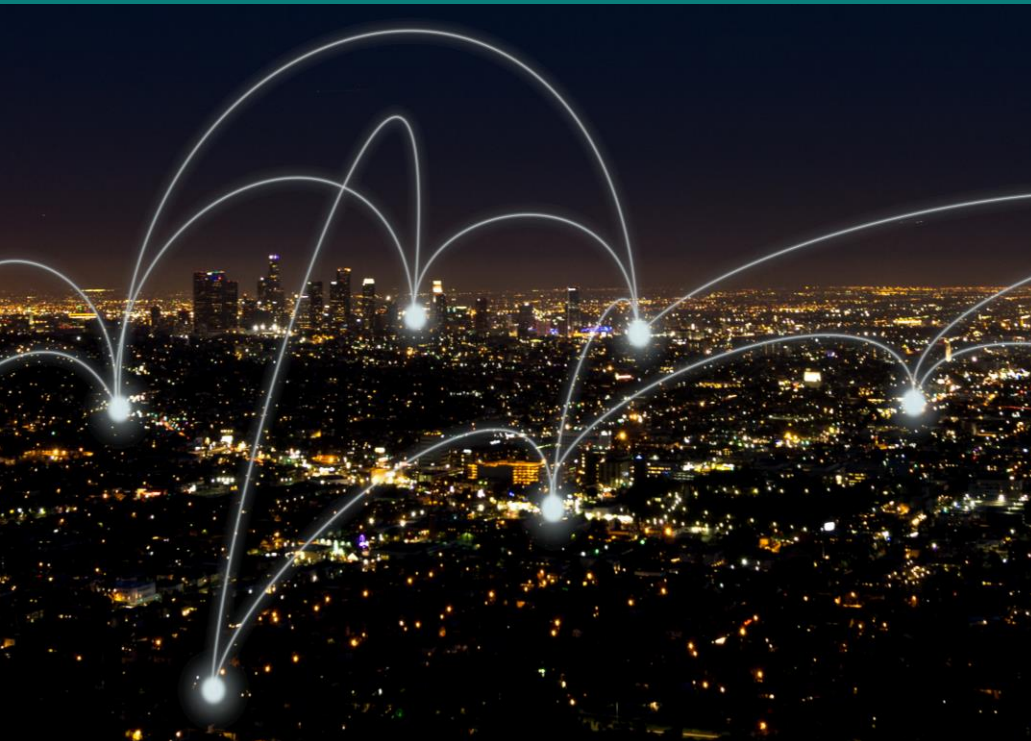
At CPA,
*Change is
Electric*

We believe in a clean energy future that is local, where communities are empowered, and customers are given a choice about the source of their energy.

Energized Communities

Program Objective:

Accelerate implementation of member agencies' sustainability and decarbonization goals through financial support and technical assistance



[cleanpoweralliance.org/
energized-communities](https://cleanpoweralliance.org/energized-communities)

Pathways to Electrification: Streamlined funding & technical assistance to implement electrification projects



Building Electrification Assistance

Funding and/or technical assistance to install electrification measures in municipal facilities



Electric Fleet Transition

Funding, planning, and technical assistance to install charging infrastructure for municipal fleets



Community EV Charging

Funding and technical assistance to support public EV charging at City or County owned sites



Innovation Fund

Member Agencies apply for up to \$250K to support decarbonization projects in their communities

What is the Innovation Fund?



\$2M in competitive funding for CPA's member agencies to apply for up to \$250,000



Selected projects will address a decarbonization challenge in the community



Funding will support projects that focus on resilience and grid management, electrification, and local clean energy procurement



Member agencies may submit applications during each funding cycle; maximum of one project per agency may be selected each cycle, up to \$250K

Goal: To fund decarbonization projects that support local government efforts to address equity needs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve climate and energy goals.



Innovation Fund Project Categories

Projects should focus on one or more categories in alignment with CPA's Board-approved program pillars:

Resilience & Grid Management

Reduce energy use during periods of peak demand and/or support clean energy resiliency projects

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) electric school bus fleet that charges batteries for facility or grid use
- ⚡ Rebates or incentive programs for energy management devices



Electrification

Electrification of the building and transportation sectors

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Clean transportation options: EV carshare, e-bike share with mobile solar and/or electric charging hub
- ⚡ Electric equipment library for community members to experience appliances and devices



Local Clean Energy Procurement

Support community and customer adoption and installation of clean energy systems

Sample projects include:

- ⚡ Mobile battery electric storage systems
- ⚡ Provide career-track training to build the skills necessary to meet electric utility industry needs



Application, Timeline & Resources

What should my agency keep in mind when applying?

Projects should be outside of the scope of the Pathways to Electrification building, fleet/EV, and community EV charging projects

Proposals should align with at least one of CPA's Board-approved program pillars and include key milestones and project benefits

Projects must be implemented in one of CPA's partner communities, and project sites must be located in CPA's service area and receive electric service from CPA

Applications should demonstrate a reasonable ability to complete the proposed project within two years

Selected agencies will approve a participation agreement with CPA

Consider any requirements to inform or receive approval from Council/Board for submissions

Streamlined application, responses should not exceed 5-pages

Innovation Fund Application Sections

Project Details	Required Sections (Response should not exceed 5 pages)
Project Summary	Summarize the proposed project and how it will address a decarbonization challenge in your community.
Mission Alignment	Describe how the proposal is aligned with CPA's mission and at least one of the Board-approved program pillars (resilience and grid management, electrification, and local procurement).
Feasibility	Confirm ability to complete the project within two years, and include key milestones, budget resources, and partners that may support project completion.
Project Benefits	What are the benefits to the community, the member agency, and/or CPA if this project is selected? Indicate if the project will utilize income-qualified thresholds, or benefit customers enrolled in public assistance programs.
Budget	Provide a quarterly budget and explain why the proposed budget is needed to implement this project. If any additional funding is needed, or expected to complete project, please describe (if applicable).
Metrics	How will you measure the success of this project? List any anticipated quantifiable achievements or results.



Innovation Fund: Scoring Criteria



Mission Alignment

How well does the project align with CPA's decarbonization goals and address at least one of the Board-approved program pillars of resilience and grid management, electrification, and local procurement?

Weighted scoring: 30%



Feasibility

Does the proposal present a reasonable ability to complete the project within two years, with a sufficient budget and other partners as needed?

Weighted scoring: 20%



Project Benefits

Does the project demonstrate a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or other performance measures that illustrate sustainability improvements in the community?

Weighted scoring: 50%

Project Benefit Considerations:

- Does the project utilize income-qualified thresholds, or benefit customers enrolled in public assistance programs?
- Are there anticipated operational or other community cost savings associated with the project?



Innovation Fund Timeline





CPA support offered during application process

- ⚡ Website with application materials and resources
- ⚡ 1:1 sessions with applicants to provide opportunity for Q&A and application feedback
- ⚡ Two workshops to address Q&A
- ⚡ Online resources include:
 - Application template and guidelines
 - Sample project list
 - Presentation materials



Program Terms, Reporting, & Reimbursement Process

Program Terms: What to Expect

- ⚡ Member agencies will execute a participation agreement with CPA detailing the project scope, budget, and expected milestones
- ⚡ Project sites/program recipients must be enrolled in CPA service, and stay with CPA for the duration of the program to be eligible for program benefits
- ⚡ Funding for projects that involve issuing rebates/incentives to participants can only be directed to CPA customers
- ⚡ Project should be completed within 2 years



Reporting & Reimbursement Process

Reporting:

- ⚡ Attend check-ins every other month and participate in a one-year post award interview
- ⚡ Provide status reports every six months and a project wrap-up summary after completion, subject to CPA's review

Reimbursement:

- ⚡ Verify approved activities and expected budget with CPA before work commences
- ⚡ Submit invoices and/or other documentation to show expenditure of funds, or work completed, on approved activities



More Questions?

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