

EPA Announces \$20 Billion in Awards Under Groundbreaking Green Finance Program; GGRF Equity Alliance Calls for Continued Commitment to Environmental Justice

April 4, 2024

WASHINGTON – Today, the **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Equity and Governance Best Practices Alliance** (“the [GGRF Equity Alliance](#)”) congratulates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the eight awardees of the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)’s (GGRF) National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) and Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA).

Of the awardees announced today, two out of three of the NCIF awardees and two out of the five CCIA awardees have committed to prioritizing equity and environmental justice by taking the [GGRF Awardee Best Practices for Equity and Governance Pledge](#) (“the Best Practices Pledge”). Taking the Best Practices Pledge means that awardees commit to prioritizing direct benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, requiring community engagement, providing accountability to local communities, operating with transparency, and applying robust safeguards.

The GGRF Equity Alliance emphasizes that in order to build trust with communities, it is essential that EPA provides transparency to stakeholders by publicly releasing key information, including work plans, offers a mechanism for community members to raise concerns with EPA, and ensures that GGRF dollars do not support projects that use fossil fuels or cause other harmful pollution. The GGRF Equity Alliance looks forward to continuing to work with the awardees to operationalize the Pledge, supporting community groups in bringing their projects to life, and ensuring proper accountability to the public.

In March 2023, the GGRF Equity Alliance called on all applicants to the GGRF’s NCIF and CCIA competitions to sign onto the Best Practices Pledge. Pledge-takers publicly commit to robust governance structures and processes that advance equity and environmental justice, including measures that provide meaningful accountability to local communities. **Over 60 environmental, community, advocacy organizations, and other allies have joined this call by endorsing the Pledge.**

The Pledge aims to ensure that future GGRF awardees prioritize community voices in every step of the implementation process—from the creation of governance structures to project selection to reporting. At the heart of the Pledge is a commitment to extend decision-making power to the frontline and fenceline communities hit hardest by climate change impacts.

Pledge-takers commit that they will ensure that funds are not only deployed to communities that have been excluded from access to capital and climate benefits, but that members of those communities will determine how funds are used where they live and work. By providing communities with a seat at the head of the table, awardees can guarantee that funds flow to projects with the greatest impact.

“This is a historic investment in environmental and economic opportunities for communities all too often excluded from the clean energy transition. The GGRF Equity Alliance congratulates EPA and the awardees, and we plan to continue our work to achieve equitable and community-centered implementation of GGRF,” said **Sylvia Chi, Senior Policy Analyst at Just Solutions**.

“The Pledge sends a clear signal that by meaningfully including, resourcing, and working with communities, signatories are committed to transformational change to improve the lives of frontline communities, who are most harmed by the climate crisis,” said **Sonia Kikeri, the National Director of Civic Infrastructure at Emerald Cities Collaborative**. “The GGRF will only work if awardees prioritize and invest in community-led and community-designed projects, and the awardees who have signed the Pledge have promised to do just that by reshaping how federal funding reaches the ground.”

“For this GGRF opportunity to be truly transformative for historically underinvested communities, we need the principles of the Pledge to be fully realized,” said **Monica Palmeira, Climate Finance Strategist at The Greenlining Institute**. “We look forward to supporting awardees in centering racial and environmental equity throughout the implementation process.”

For more information about the GGRF Equity Alliance or Pledge, please contact:

Sylvia Chi, Just Solutions, sylvia@justsolutionscollective.org

Sonia Kikeri, Emerald Cities Collaborative, skikeri@emeraldcities.org

Monica Palmeira, The Greenlining Institute, monica.palmeira@greenlining.org

—

About the GGRF Equity Alliance

The Alliance was formed in March 2023, with the goal of ensuring that equity and environmental justice remain central to every aspect of the GGRF. Since then, the Alliance has worked with allied organizations and key stakeholders in the GGRF ecosystem to develop the [GGRF Best Practices for Equity and Governance Guide](#) and the [GGRF Awardee Best Practices for Equity and Governance Pledge](#). Core partners in the Alliance include Just Solutions, the Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund, Communities First, Friends of the Earth U.S., the Greenlining Institute, Emerald Cities Collaborative, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Rewiring America.