

Clean Ports Program ‘Fast Facts’

What is the Clean Ports Program?

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides EPA with \$3 billion to fund zero-emission port equipment and infrastructure, as well as climate and air quality planning, at U.S. ports. This historic investment will improve air quality at ports and surrounding communities, help combat climate change, and support meaningful community engagement.

The goals of the Clean Ports Program are to:

1. Build a foundation for the port sector to transition over time to fully zero-emissions operations, positioning ports to serve as a catalyst for transformation change across the freight sector.
2. Reduce diesel pollution (criteria pollutants, GHGs, and air toxics) in near-port communities, especially those with environmental justice concerns.
3. Help ensure that meaningful community engagement and emissions reduction planning are port industry standard practices.

There are two funding opportunities being announced, one that supports zero-emission equipment and infrastructure and the other that supports climate and air quality planning activities:

- **The Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition** (“ZE Technology Competition”) will fund zero-emission port *equipment and infrastructure* to reduce mobile source emissions (criteria pollutants, air toxics, and/or greenhouse gases) at U.S. ports, delivering cleaner air for communities across the country. Approximately \$2.8 billion is available.
- **The Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition** (“Planning Competition”) will fund climate and air quality *planning activities* at U.S. ports; including emissions inventories, strategy analysis, community engagement, and resiliency measure identification, all of which will build the capacity of port stakeholders to continue to reduce pollution and transition to zero-emissions (ZE) operations over time. Approximately \$150 million is available.

Who is eligible to apply?

For both NOFOs, the eligible applicants are:

- Port authorities
- State, regional, local, or Tribal agencies that have jurisdiction over a port authority or port
- Air pollution control agencies
- Private entities that:
 - Apply in partnership with an eligible entity above, *and*
 - Own, operate, or use facilities, cargo-handling equipment, transportation equipment, or related technology of a port.

What are the eligible activities?

Eligible activities for the **Planning** Competition include:

- Emissions inventory and accounting practices (one or more required)
- Stakeholder collaboration and communication, including workforce planning analysis, with a focus on near-port communities
- Strategy analysis and goal-setting
- Resiliency planning

Eligible expenses for the **ZE Technology** Competition include:

- ZE Mobile Equipment that Serves a Port
 - Cargo handling equipment (e.g., terminal tractors, forklifts, top handlers, side picks, straddle carriers)
 - Drayage trucks
 - Locomotives and railcar movers
 - Harbor craft and other vessels (e.g., commercial and Tribal fishing vessels, tugs, ferries, patrol boats, workboats, dredges, pilot boats, barges)
- ZE Infrastructure Serving Mobile Equipment
 - Shore power for marine vessels
 - Electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure as well as battery energy storage systems serving port equipment purchased as part of the applicant's grant award
 - Solar and wind power generation systems that are installed to primarily power mobile equipment, including port equipment purchased as part of the applicant's grant award
- ZE Technology Deployment Support Activities
 - Project-specific public engagement
 - Safety planning, operational planning, workforce training, and protocol development
 - Project management, administrative costs, and performance monitoring
 - Collection and analysis of in-use operational data to optimize/refine ZE technology implementation
 - Infrastructure testing
 - Permit application

All projects must focus on or serve a water port or dry port as defined below:

- **Water Port:** places on land alongside navigable water (e.g., oceans, rivers, or lakes) with one or more facilities in close proximity for the loading and unloading of passengers or cargo from ships, ferries, and other commercial vessels. This includes facilities that support non-commercial Tribal fishing operations.
- **Dry Port:** an intermodal truck-rail facility that is included in the 2024 Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Intermodal Connector Database based on meeting the criteria set in 23 CFR 470. These criteria include having more than 50,000 20-foot equivalent units per year or 100 trucks per day, or comprising more than 20 percent of freight volumes handled by any mode within a State.

Please see the NOFOs for more details on eligible and ineligible activities, including what would not qualify as “serving a port” for the ZE Technology Competition. A list of eligible dry port facilities is available on the Clean Ports Program website.

When is the application period?

Both Clean Ports Program NOFOs opened on February 28th, 2024, and will remain open until May 28th, 2024.

For both competitions, the EPA requests submittal of an optional informal notice of an Intent to Apply by March 28, 2024 to cleanports@epa.gov. Please use the subject line “Notice of Intent to Apply: Zero-Emission Technology Deployment” or “Notice of Intent to Apply: Climate and Air Quality Planning.” Please include in the body of the email the name of the applicant, the estimated dollar amount of the anticipated funding request, and a sentence or two summarizing the project (if known). Submission of Intent to Apply is optional and non-binding.

What are the grant funding levels and anticipated number of awards?

Under the **Planning** Competition, the EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$150 million total to 50 to 70 grants or cooperative agreements, subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. The amount of federal funding requested per application must be at least \$200,000 and must not exceed \$3,000,000. Awardees are not required to provide a cost share/matching funds.

Under the **ZE Technology** Competition, the EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$2.8 billion total to 32 to 90 grants or cooperative agreements, subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. The EPA expects to award grants within three tiers in the ZE Technology Competition, based on project size and applicant type. Please see details of these three tiers in the table below, including awardee cost share/match requirements:

Grant ranges and match requirements for ZE Technology Deployment Competition

Tier	Port Type	Applicant Type	EPA Funding Range per Award	EPA Share of Total Project Cost (Maximum)	Mandatory Applicant Share of Total Project Cost (Minimum)	Anticipated Number of Awards
Tier A	Water ports only	Any eligible entity	\$150,000,000 - \$500,000,000	80%	20%	5-10
Tier B	Water or dry ports	Any eligible entity	\$10,000,000 - \$149,999,999 (projects at small water ports: \$5,000,000 - \$149,999,999)	90%	10%	25-70
Tier C	Water or dry ports	Tribal applicants only	\$2,000,000 - \$50,000,000	100%	0%	2-10

For territory applicants (the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), up to \$5 million of the applicant cost share will be waived, in accordance with the policies of the Omnibus Territories Act.

To ensure geographic and port type diversity, the EPA plans to award (subject to the quantity and quality of applications):

- a minimum of one award in each of the EPA's *ten Regions* under each Competition,
- at least \$250 million in ZE Technology projects and at least 10 Planning projects at *small water ports*,
- at least two ZE Technology projects and at least two Planning projects implemented by *Tribal agencies*, and
- ZE Technology and Planning projects at both water and dry ports (with a maximum of \$250 million total in ZE Technology projects at *dry ports*).

Please see the NOFOs for more details on the number and amounts of awards.

How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on a number of criteria, including:

- **Environmental Justice, Justice40 and Nonattainment Areas:** EPA will award priority points for projects in disadvantaged communities that have nonattainment and/or air toxics concerns. EPA will also award priority points for meaningful community engagement activities before applying, during the project, and for efforts to ensure engagement after project completion.
- **Workforce and Labor:** EPA will award priority points for projects that support high-quality jobs and workforce training.

- **Partnerships and Coordination with Complementary initiatives:** EPA will award priority points for applicants with partners to effectively implement the project, and for coordination with other programs or larger initiatives to support the project and broader program goals.
- See each NOFO for more details on these and *other evaluation* criteria, including those related to Project Summary and Approach, Environmental Results, and Budget.

How to apply:

Application packages must be submitted electronically to the EPA through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) no later than **May 28, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)** in order to be considered for funding. For more information, please visit the Clean Ports Program website: <https://www.epa.gov/ports-initiative/cleanports>

What if I have additional questions about the program?

The EPA will provide answers to Frequently Asked Questions by periodically updating a Questions and Answers document on our Clean Ports Program website: <https://www.epa.gov/ports-initiative/cleanports>. If you have additional questions, please email cleanports@epa.gov. The deadline to submit questions is **May 6, 2024**.