**Energized Communities Innovation Fund**

**Round 2 Application**

CPA invites our partner communities, agencies who have voted to be a CPA member, to submit their best decarbonization project plans that promote energy equity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help reach climate goals. The Innovation Fund is a competitive funding opportunity to advance CPA’s Board-approved program pillars of: resilience and grid management, building or transportation electrification, and local clean energy procurement efforts in communities served by CPA.

CPA’s partner communities may submit one project that covers one or multiple program pillars or program areas of focus. Only one project per member agency, with an award amount of up to $250,000 (funding may not exceed project cost), may be submitted and awarded during this funding cycle. Member agencies that were selected in the first funding cycle are eligible to apply for another project if their initial project budget did not exceed $250,000, for an amount totaling no more than $250,000 combined.

The Round 2 application period opens on August 25, 2025 and closes on October 8, 2025.  All CPA’s partner communities may apply. This will be a competitive selection process based on the responses to the questions in the Innovation Fund Application. CPA anticipates selecting four (4) projects per funding cycle. CPA reserves the right to select additional projects or fewer projects depending on availability of funds.

See details at cleanpoweralliance.org/energized-communities.

**Completed applications are due on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.**
Send questions and applications to EnergizedCommunities@cleanpoweralliance.org.

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| **Project Categories** | **Refer to category descriptions below and sample projects on our**[**website.**](https://cleanpoweralliance.org/energized-communities/)(Member agencies may submit an application that falls within one or multiple program areas. Projects may not overlap with the scope of CPA’s [Pathways to Electrification](https://cleanpoweralliance.org/pathways-to-electrification/) programs.) |
| **Resilience and Grid Management** | Resilience projects leverage clean energy systems and technologies to provide back-up power during outages or grid emergencies. Grid management projects would reduce or shift energy use from periods of peak demand or high costs.  |
| **Electrification** | Projects that promote, enable, or provide electrification of buildings or transportation in CPA communities. |
| **Local Clean Energy Procurement** | Projects that support community and customer adoption and installation of clean energy. |

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| **Recipient Requirements - Innovation Fund award recipients will:** |
| 1. Enter into a participation agreement with CPA that details the project scope, budget, and expected milestones
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| 1. Submit invoices and/or other documentation to show expenditure of funds on approved activities
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| 1. Attend check-ins every other month with CPA staff and participate in a one-year post award interview
 |
| 1. Provide status reports every six months and a project completion summary subject to CPA’s review
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**What should my agency keep in mind when applying?**

* Projects may not overlap with the scope of the Pathways to Electrification building, fleet, and community EV charging projects.
* Applications should focus on project implementation and demonstrate a reasonable ability to complete the proposed project within two years of the project being selected for the Innovation Fund.
* Applicants must consider and disclose any requirements to inform or receive approval from City Councils or governing boards prior to submitting project applications.
* 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.

**Tell us about your project:**

Member Agency Name:

Applicant’s Name and Title:
Applicant’s Email:

Project Title:

Funding Amount Requested:

**Respond to each section below; combined responses should not exceed five pages.**

1. **Project Summary:** Summarize the proposed project and how it will address a decarbonization challenge in your community.
* What is the challenge and how will this project address it?
* Who are the key stakeholders or partners to implement this project?
* Describe how this aligns with your agency’s goals and strategies.
* Note: Project sites must receive CPA service to be eligible, and recipients of direct incentives must be CPA customers. If a specific site or customer segment (e.g. renters, property owners, businesses) is known, please provide those details.

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| <Insert response here.> |

1. **Mission Alignment:** Describe how the project is aligned with CPA's mission and at least one of the Board-approved program pillars of (1) resilience and grid management, (2) electrification, and/or (3) local procurement.

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| <Insert response here.> |

1. **Feasibility:**
	* Provide a project timeline and include key milestones​. All projects must be completed within two years of the execution of the participation agreement with CPA.
	* List any known risks or dependencies that could impact project success.
	* Briefly describe any member agency approval processes required to execute participation agreement and implement steps in the proposal.

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| <Insert response here.> |

1. **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 the project, please describe (if applicable).​

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| <Insert response here.> |

1. **Project Benefits:** What are the benefits to the community, the partner community (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 (e.g. customers enrolled in CARE (California Alternate Rates for Energy) or FERA (Family Electric Rate Assistance) programs).
* Will the project result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions through energy efficiency, electrification, production of clean energy, or another method?
* What is the scale of the project impacts, how many people will benefit from the project and to what extent?
* Are there anticipated operational cost savings associated with the project after completion?

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| <Insert response here.> |

1. **Metrics:** How will you measure the success of this project?List any anticipated quantifiable achievements or results. Include metrics that illustrate the scale of the project and expected impacts of the work in your community.

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| <Insert response here.> |

**Submit any questions and completed applications to** **EnergizedCommunities@cleanpoweralliance.org**

**by Wednesday, October 8, 2025.**