



Summary

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Climate Challenge provides resources to help state departments of transportation (SDOTs) or other public sector stakeholders explore the use of Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) as a standard practice to inform pavement material and design selection for enhancing sustainable pavement practices and quantify the emissions and impacts of those practices.

The Climate Challenge is administered by FHWA's Sustainable Pavements Program (SPP).

Program Funding

Through the program, funding of at least \$65,000 per state is made available to support or offset the costs of implementing innovative sustainable pavements practices in SDOTs or other public sector stakeholders. Incentive funding for eligible projects is for the Federal share of 80 percent, up to \$500,000 per SDOT. The 20 percent non-Federal match may come from project sponsors or other allowable fund sources.

Project proposals and requests for Climate Challenge funding must be received by the FHWA SPP prior to August 1, 2022. Climate Challenge funds which are not requested by a SDOT will be directed toward other Climate Challenge recipients. SDOTs or other public sector stakeholders may combine funding with other programs such as [Demonstration to Advance New Pavement Technologies Pooled Fund](#).

Eligibility Requirements

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

To be eligible for FHWA Climate Challenge funding, the SDOTs or other public sector stakeholders must submit an application to the FHWA SPP demonstrating the goals of the Challenge. The Climate Challenge participants must agree to comply with all applicable laws and regulations including the provisions of Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 200, including financial management standards and audits.

The SDOTs are the primary recipients of the Climate Challenge awards since the funds are obligated via

the Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS). Other public sector stakeholders such as MPOs, local governments or tribal governments are eligible to receive Climate Challenge funding as subrecipients to a SDOT.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

The requirements for eligibility of a project or activity are as follows:

- SDOTs or other public sector stakeholders must explore the use of LCA and EPDs as a standard practice to inform pavement material and design selection for enhancing sustainable pavement practices and quantify the emissions and impacts of those practices and demonstrate collaboration among various stakeholders;
- the project/activity must align with TIDP goals;
- the project/activity must be eligible for Federalaid assistance and adhere to applicable federal requirements; and
- the project/activity must be started as soon as practical (preferably within six months, but no later than one year) after notification of approval for Climate Challenge funding and the funds must be expended within two years..

In accordance with applicable Federal regulations, there are some activities which are not allowable/eligible for Federal reimbursement under this program: food; promotional items; conference attendance; conference/exhibit booth space rental; or equipment, including computer equipment/software.

How to Apply

The solicitation of Climate Challenge applications is open from July 1st and prior to August 1, 2022.

All proposals should be submitted to the FHWA SPP.



TO APPLY FOR FHWA CLIMATE CHALLENGE SDOTs

To apply for FHWA Climate Challenge funding, SDOTs must submit a SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance and as appropriate, either a SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs or SF-424C Budget Information for Construction Programs. These forms can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/sf-424-family.html>.

Other Public Sector Stakeholders

Other public sector stakeholders are encouraged to work with SDOTs and will only be able to receive funding as subrecipients to a SDOT. Other public sector stakeholders can also submit a SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance independently if they only seek to receive FHWA technical assistance. Technical Assistance in this context may include opportunities with FHWA such as training, specification reviews, peer exchanges, and demonstrations (e.g., LCA Pavel Tool Demo).

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

An eligible application is one that provides the information required in sections 8a, 8f, 9, 15, 17, and 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance. In section 15, eligible applications must include supporting documentation that outlines the following:

- project scope, including goals, objectives, deliverables, and outcomes;
- a project cost estimate commensurate with the project scope;
- a plan to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders such as:
 - academia,
 - consultants,
 - contractors,
 - industry organizations, (including EPD program operators, and material manufacturers); and
- any requests for FHWA technical assistance to support the project.

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the applicant associated with the Climate Challenge are as follows:

- ensure that proposal(s) comply with the program requirements outlined above;
- identify/obtain 20 percent matching funds from project sponsors or other allowable fund sources; and
- submit proposal to the SPP via fhwaclimatechallenge@dot.gov.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the recipient associated with the Climate Challenge are as follows:

- comply with eligibility requirements for use of the funds;
- obligate the awarded funds to the project within 6 months of fund allocation;
- report progress to SPP; and
- provide information for project case studies which includes a description of the project, results of the project, challenges, and lessons learned.

For more information, please contact FHWA SPP at fhwaclimatechallenge@dot.gov



**SUSTAINABLE
PAVEMENTS
PROGRAM**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/climatechallenge>