

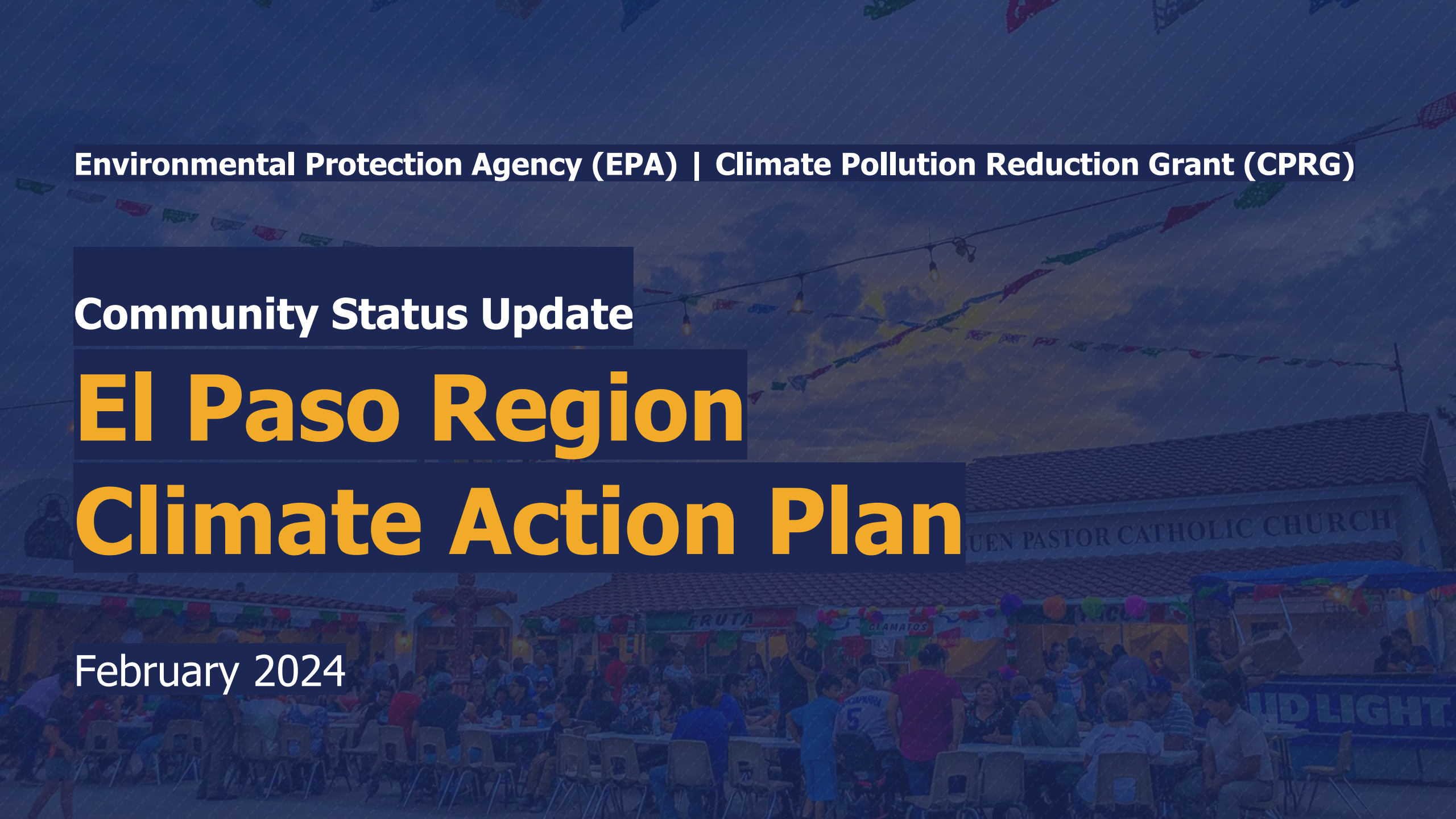
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Community Status Update

El Paso Region

Climate Action Plan

February 2024



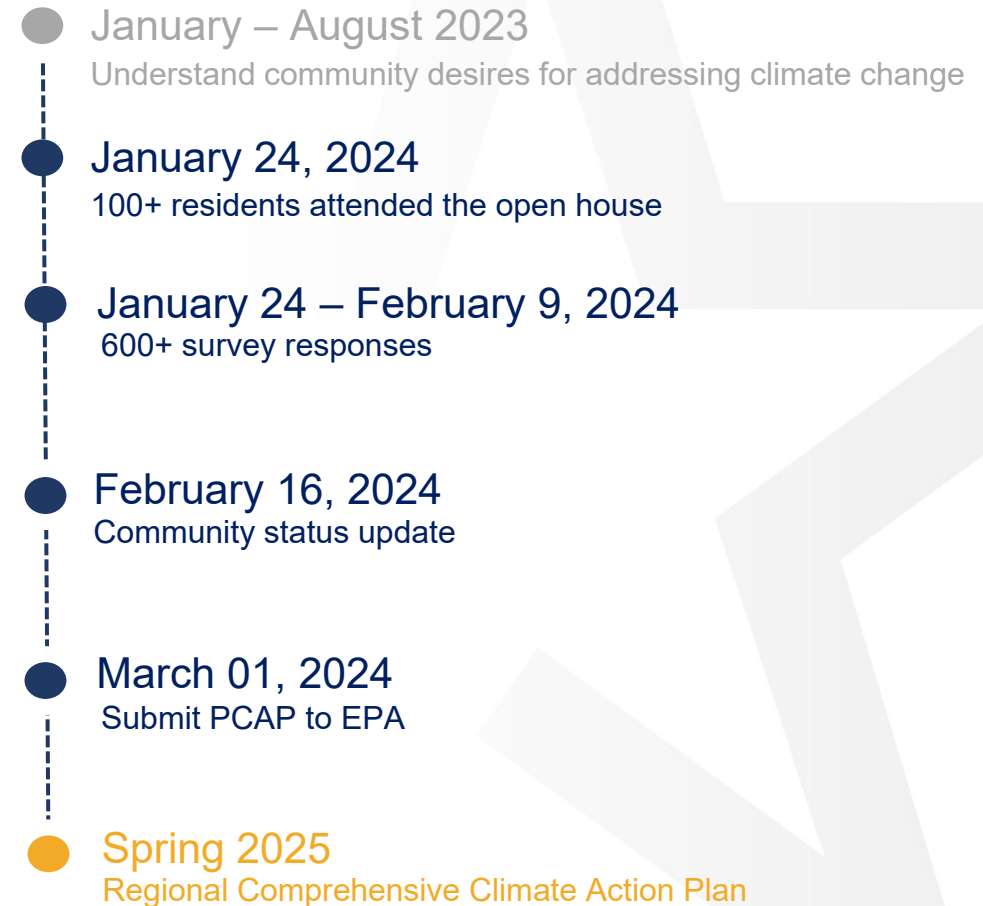
Purpose of This Update

On January 24th, the City of El Paso hosted a Community Open House and a public survey, to get input for the Region's Climate Action Plan and gather input on projects and priorities to include in the EPA's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

This status update, is intended to continue the discussion and show transparency on how feedback gathered thus far has helped inform the PCAP.

This status update provides an overview of the following topics:

- Recap of information shared during the Community Open House
- Feedback on what we heard from the El Paso and Hudspeth residents
- Outlines priority measures that are important to the community as projects are being evaluated for EPA grant consideration



Status Update

What is this effort for?

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

What will be submitted to the EPA?

Priority Climate Action Plan Components

Who has been involved?

Inter Governmental Coordination & Community Engagement

What was learned from the Open House & Survey?

Priority Measures

What is next?



The Region

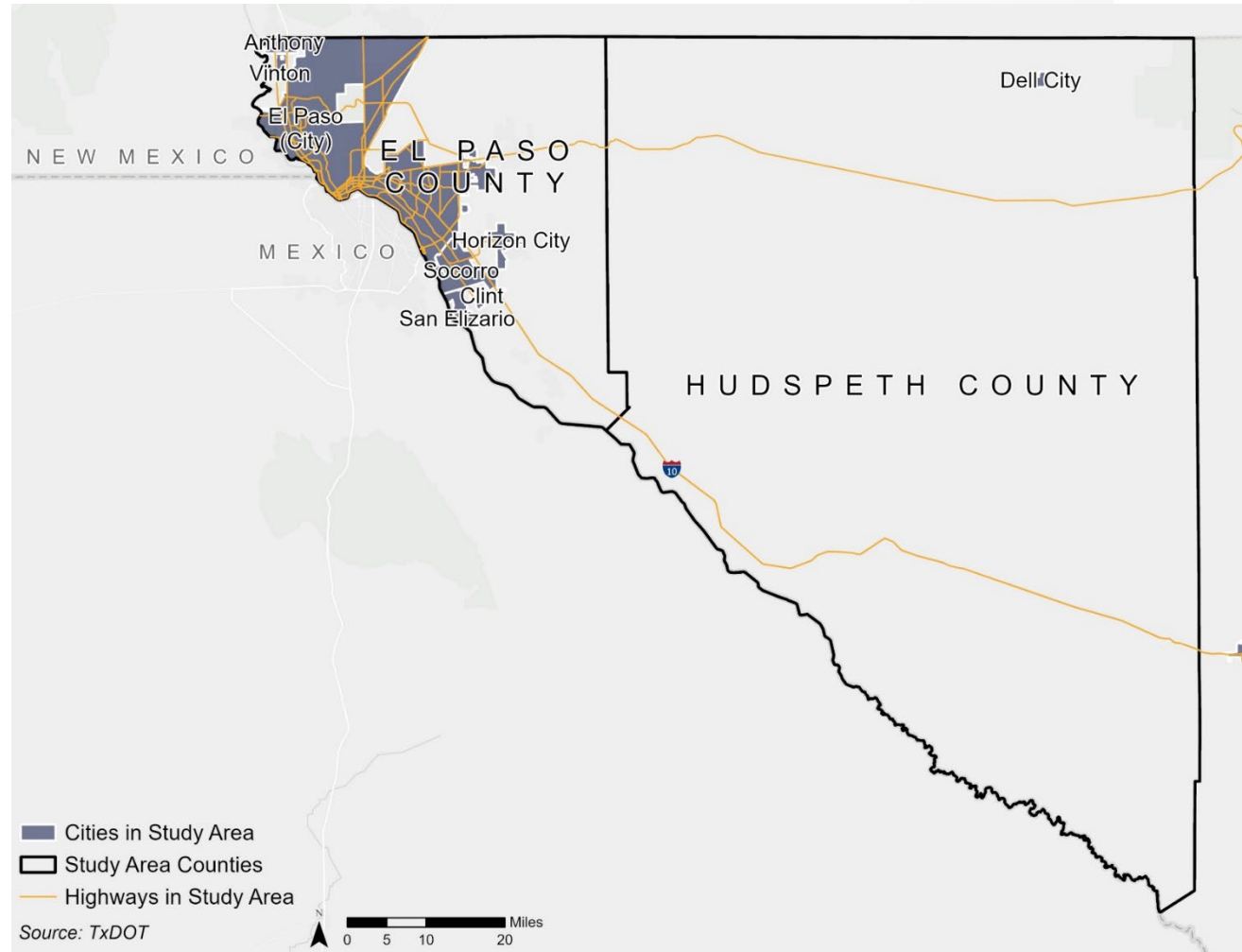
10 municipalities

02 counties

05 international ports of entry

5,587 square miles

15 census-designated places + unincorporated communities



What is this effort for?

**Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
(CPRG) Program**

EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)



In 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program to help counties within the U.S.A help reduce climate pollution.

As a Phase 1 CPRG Planning Grants, the region was awarded \$1M to develop a climate action plan. There are three deliverables which must be submitted to meet grant requirements.

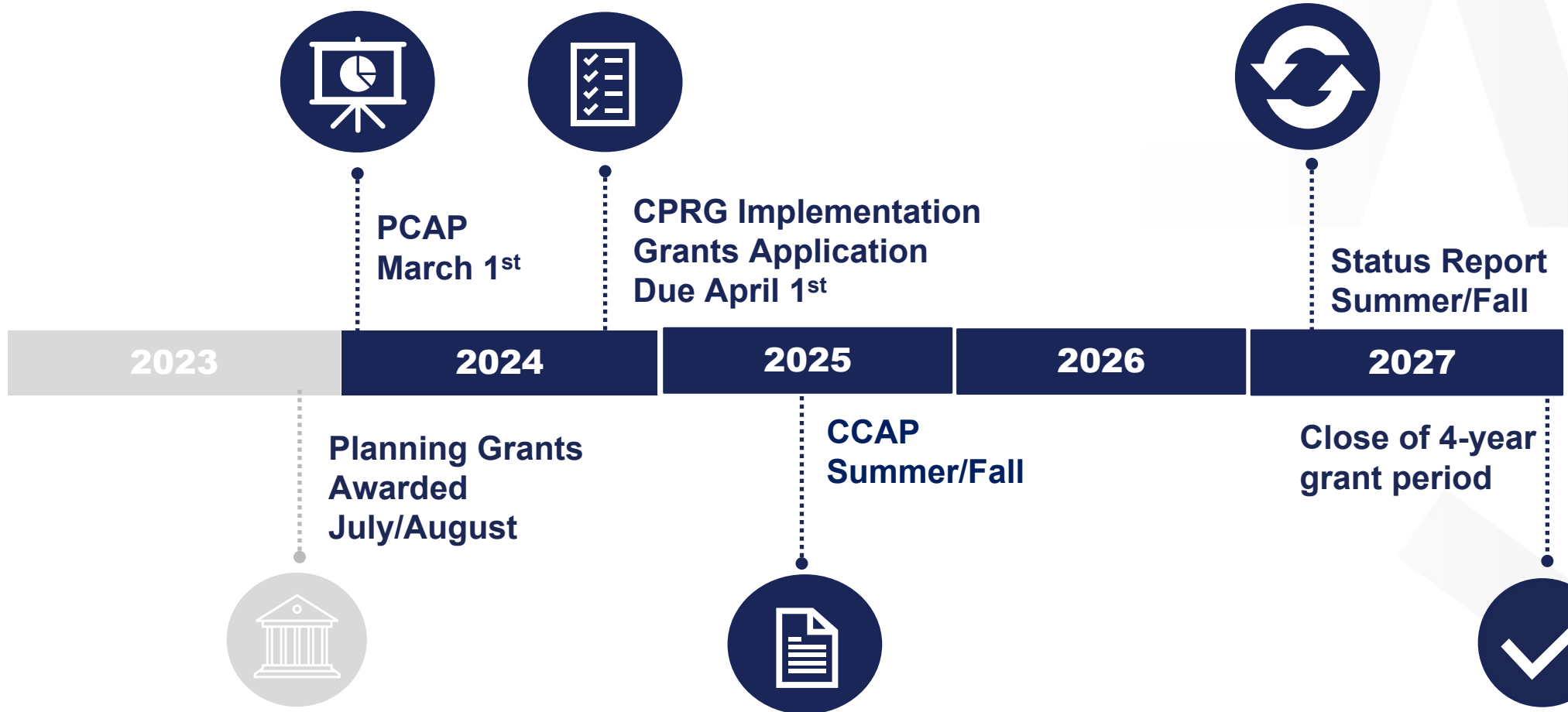
Phase 1 Planning Grants:

- Develop a regional climate action plan
- The first deliverable, PCAP needs to be submitted by March 1st to be eligible for Phase 2

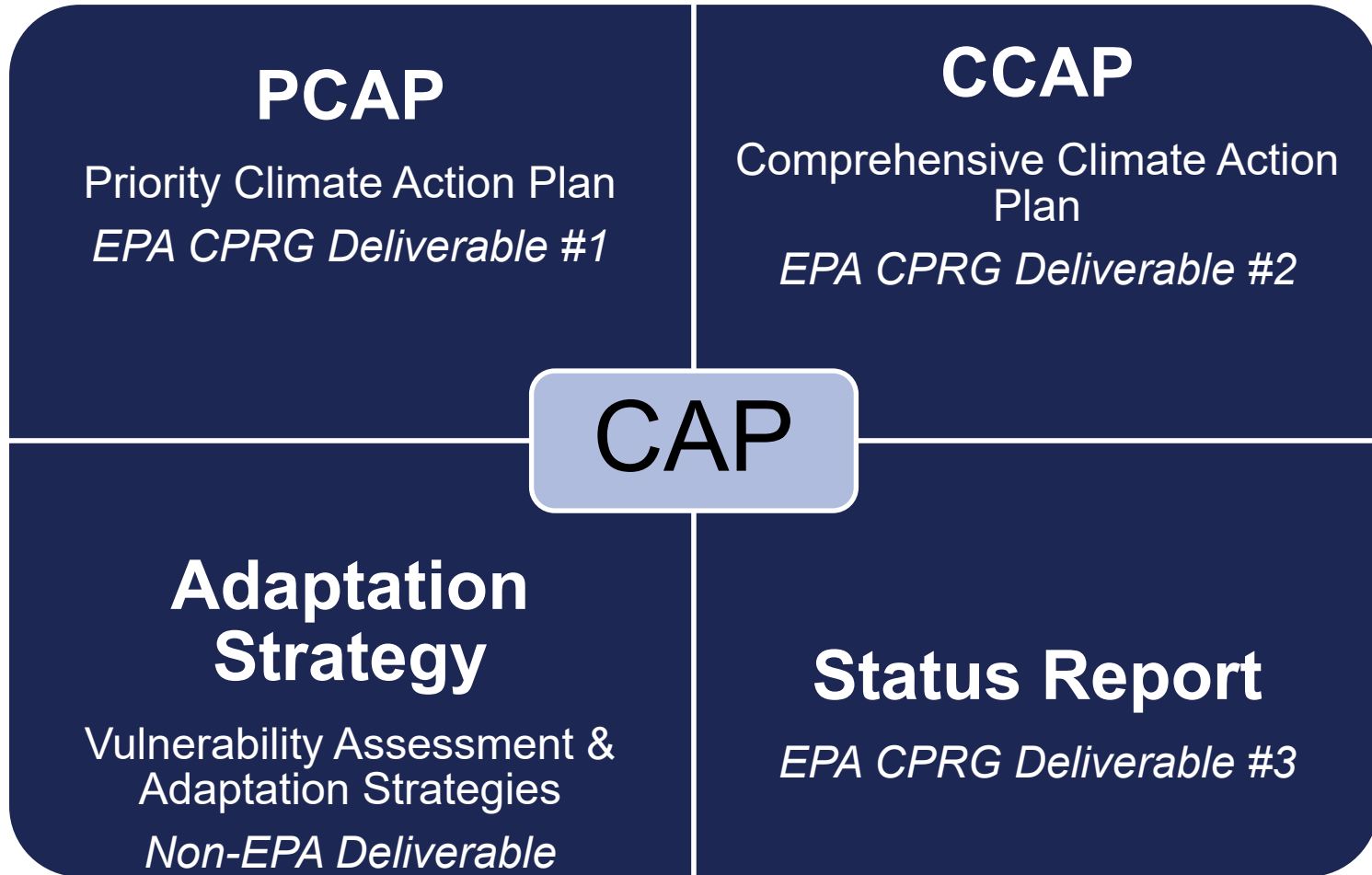
Phase 2 Implementation Grants:

- There is a \$4.6B budget for Phase II grants.
- Grant selections are competitive and will be reviewed & awarded by the EPA.
- Individual projects are eligible for up to \$500M
- Applications to apply for a slice of the \$4.6B budget are due April 1st!

EPA Established Timeline



Climate Action Plan (CAP) Components

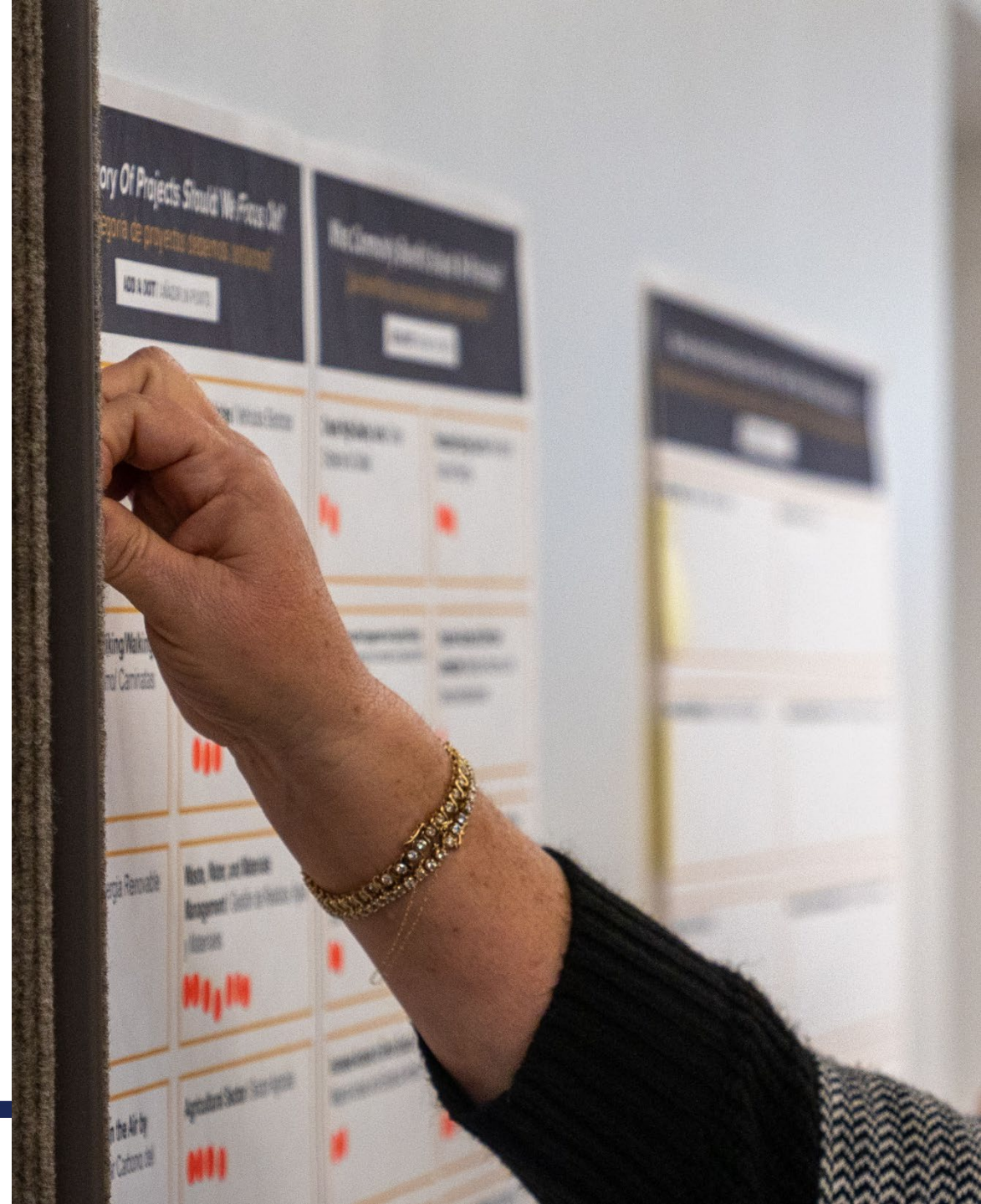


**What will be submitted to
the EPA on March 1st?**

Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP)

PCAP Components

1. Plan Introduction
2. Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory
3. Overview of Phase II Stakeholder and Community Engagement
4. Priority Measure Selection Methodology
5. Technical Analysis Introductions
 - GHG reductions, authority to implement, Low Income and Disadvantage Communities (LIDAC) analysis
6. Priority Measures
 - Description, project ideas from residents, implementation-ready projects, GHG reduction potential, authority to implement, LIDAC impacts, progress metrics



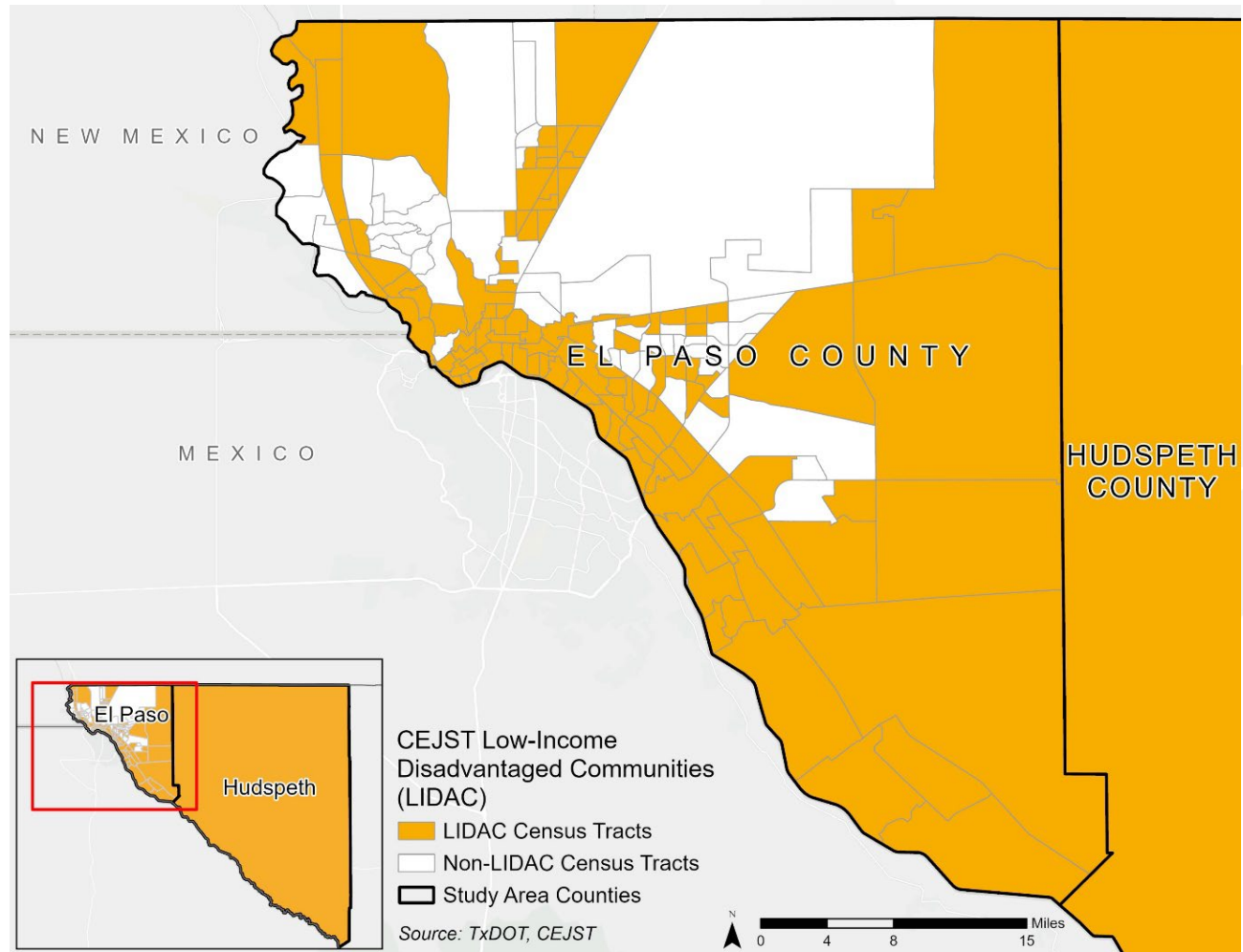
Analysis Underway for Priority Measures

- Potential to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** produced in the region
- Benefits and disbenefits of measures on **low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs)**
- Agencies' **authority to implement** measures

Low-income & Disadvantaged Communities

Orange shading on map illustrates disadvantaged census tracts in El Paso region from EPA's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

Nearly **70% of region's census tracts** are identified as disadvantaged, which includes 65% of region's residents



Who have been involved?

**Inter Governmental Coordination &
Community Engagement**

Meetings with Regional Leadership Steering Committee (LSC)

35+ Implementation Ready Projects were identified by **project partners**:

- City of El Paso
- Horizon City
- Town of Clint
- City of San Elizario
- Village of Vinton
- Hudspeth County
- Town of Anthony
- El Paso County
- El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Rio Grande Council of Governments
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- City of Socorro

Community Input Received

Preliminary Community Survey

Input on climate concerns and priorities

Project Survey With LSC Partners

Input on projects for the CAP

Community Roundtables

Community meetings to gather input on climate and sustainability topics and what they wanted to see on the CAP



Community Input Received

95+ Attendees

Attended the **Climate Open house** on January 24th

600+ Responses

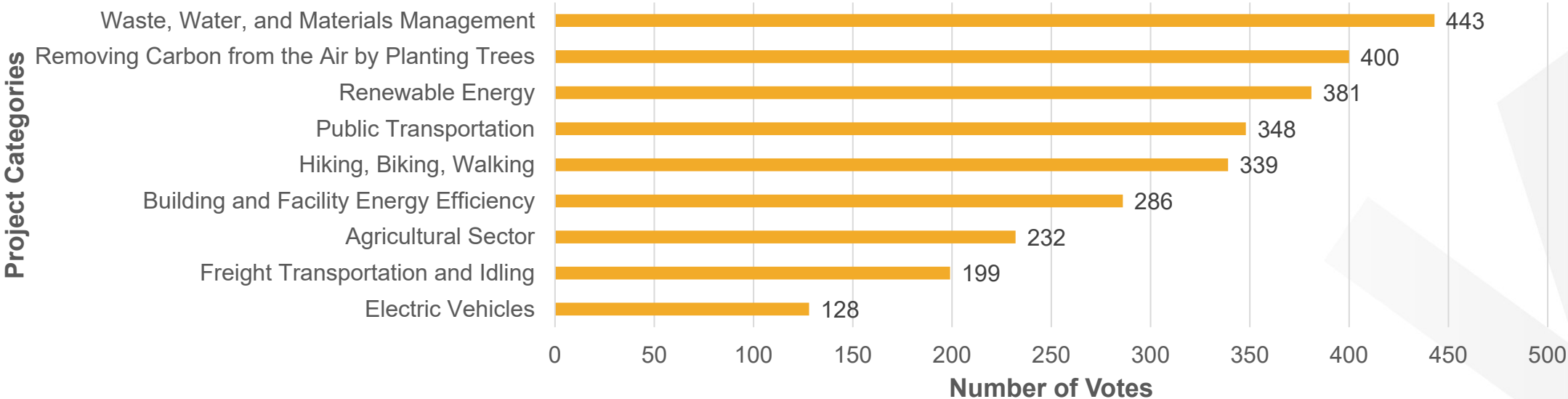
Received through the **Community Survey open** from January 24th to February 9th



What we heard from the community

We asked, what category of projects should we focus on?

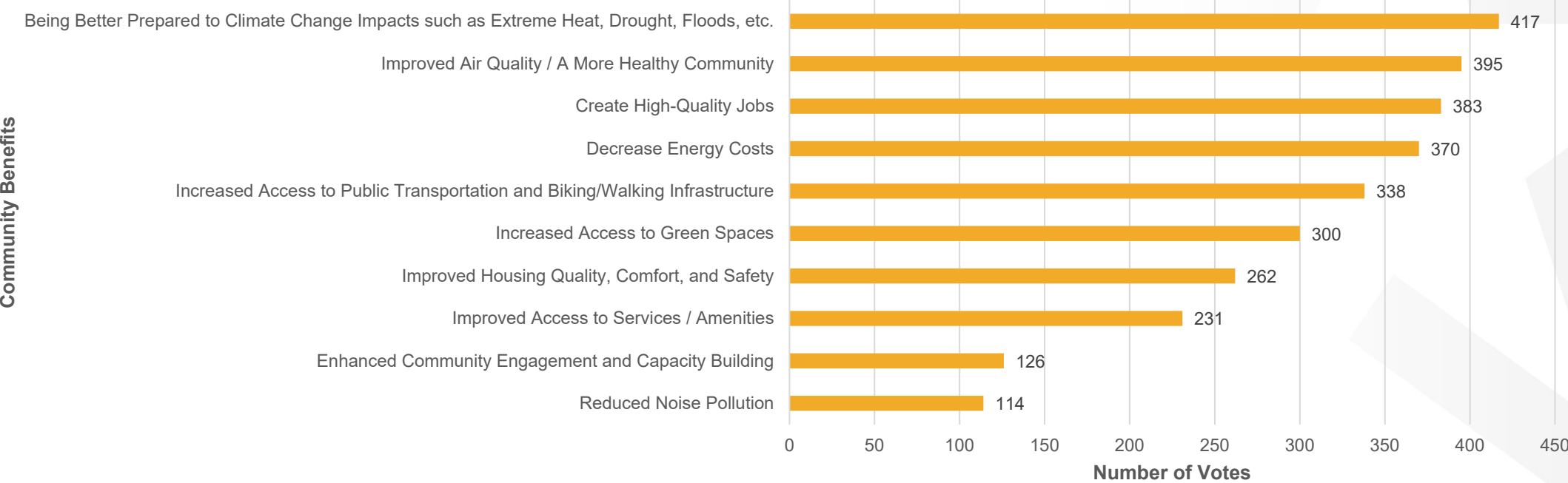
Most number of votes were for **Waste, Water, and Materials Management** and **Removing Carbon from the Air by Planting Trees**



What we heard from the community

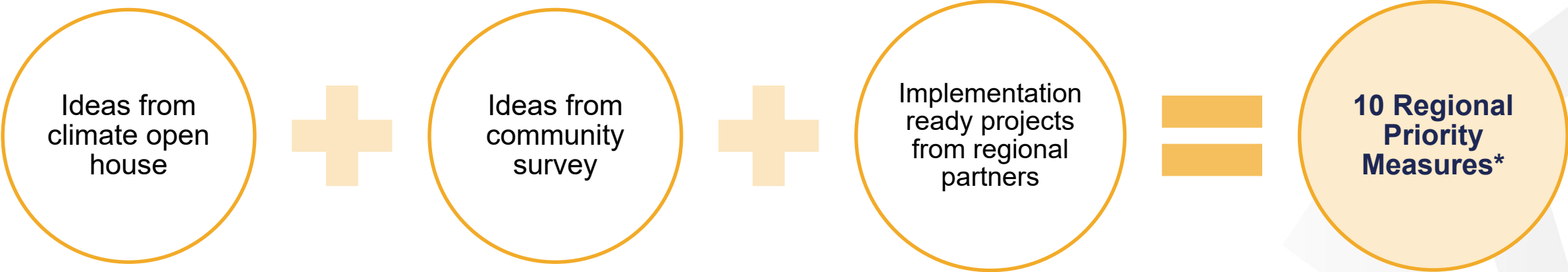
What community benefits should we prioritize?

Most number of votes were for **Being Better Prepared to Climate Change Impacts such as Extreme Heat, Drought, Floods, etc.** and **Improved Air Quality / A More Healthy Community**



Regional Priority Measures Based on Community Input

We heard over **200+ unique ideas** from the community! And **35+ Implementation Ready Projects** were identified by project partners. With this information **10 Regional Priority Measures** were identified!



* The 10 Regional Priority Measures reflects the community's feedback and reflects what the community would like the region to prioritize.

Regional Priority Measures

Transportation

Expand & Improve Transit Service

Optimize Freight Transportation

Expand & Improve Active Transportation Infrastructure

Support the Electric Vehicles Transition

Carbon Sequestration

Increase Native Trees & Natural Spaces

Multiple Sectors

Promote Sustainable Food Production & Distribution

Waste

Evaluate Sustainable Waste Management Practices

Transportation/Buildings & Facilities

Utilize Sustainable Land Use Planning

Energy Generation

Install Renewable Energy Systems

Buildings & Facilities

Increase Energy Efficiency & Decarbonize Buildings

The following slides provide an overview of each regional priority measure and examples of project idea shared by the community through the open house and survey.

Carbon Sequestration

Increase Native Trees & Natural Spaces

El Paso region can plant more vegetation and increase the amount of natural spaces, like community gardens and parks, to lower urban heat, increase wildlife habitat, and improve comfort for pedestrians.

Community Ideas

- Promote planting native trees and vegetation
- Develop community gardens
- Develop greenways and parks
- Improve irrigation systems



Multiple Sectors

Promote Sustainable Food Production & Distribution

El Paso region can promote a circular economy with sustainable, self-sufficient food production and distribution.

Community Ideas

- Support sustainable agricultural practices
- Utilize hydroponics and aquaponics agriculture
- Expand local food production and distribution systems
- Construct local food hubs



Waste

Evaluate Sustainable Waste Management Practices

El Paso region can transition to a circular economy and help residents, local businesses to reduce the amount of waste produced and increase how much is recycled, composted, or reused.

Community Ideas

- Implement community-wide composting
- Improve recycling systems to accept more waste types
- Improve frequency and quality of recycling services
- Enhance community waste clean-ups
- Discourage food waste and other commercial waste



Transportation Expand & Improve Transit Service

El Paso region can expand transit services in the community, including buses, shuttles, trolleys, railcars and other travel modes.

Community Ideas

- Increase bus rapid transit, dedicated bus lanes, and transit priority projects
- Provide free public transit
- Expand transit service areas and frequency
- Develop transit centers or plazas



Transportation Optimize Freight Transportation

El Paso region can improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion and noise with optimized freight transportation routes that reduce travel times and idling.



Transportation Expand & Improve Active Transportation Infrastructure

El Paso region can improve and expand infrastructure that helps residents walk, ride, and roll within the community.

Community Ideas

- Expand sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and greenways
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Develop dedicated bike lanes or off-street bike lanes
- Create safer streets for bicyclists



Transportation/Buildings & Facilities

Utilize Sustainable Land Use Planning

El Paso region can promote creation of vibrant places where the community members do not have to rely on cars to get around. Envision El Paso, the comprehensive plan for El Paso from 2012 is currently being updated. This will serve as the guidance document for future development.

Community Ideas

- Create walkable, high density, mixed-use developments
- Reduce road widening
- Close streets to vehicle traffic
- Remove parking minimums



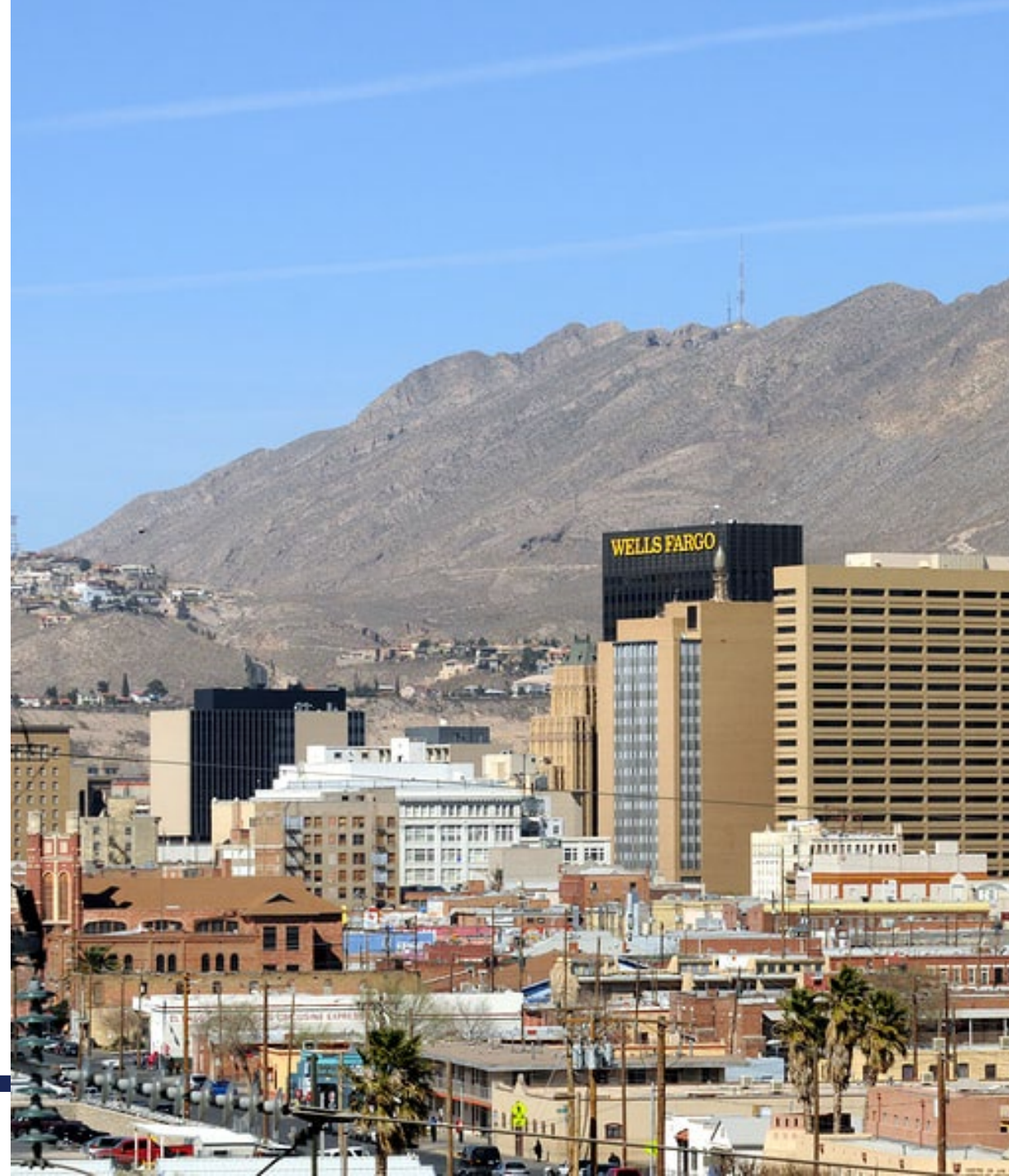
Buildings & Facilities

Increase Energy Efficiency & Decarbonize Buildings

El Paso region can support improvements to buildings that improves energy efficiency to lower utility bills and help replace high emissions equipment and appliances with lower emissions options.

Community Ideas

- Increase building energy efficiency and improve building envelopes
- Promote sustainable new construction
- Promote light colored pavements or roofs
- Upgrade water and sewer infrastructure



Energy Generation

Install Renewable Energy Systems

El Paso region can help lower electricity emissions by installing solar, wind, or other renewable energy generation and storage systems locally.

Community Ideas

- Install solar shade structures (e.g., over parking lots, canals, etc.)
- Install solar on public buildings or public land
- Incentivize private installations of solar, especially for LIDAC communities



Transportation

Support the Electric Vehicles Transition

El Paso region can support transitioning vehicle trips to zero- or low-emissions options to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle fleets, like buses, delivery vans, and maintenance vehicles. And support transition of personal vehicles.

Community Ideas

- Incentivize purchasing electric vehicles (EVs)
- Transition municipal fleets to EVs, hybrids, or alternative fuel vehicles
- Install more public fast charging stations



What is Next?

Climate Listening Hours*

* Each session is intended to be casual one-on-one conversations; please attend the session that is most convenient to you!

Have more question? Want to learn more about the project process?

City of El Paso staff will be available at two different locations and time to answer any questions, and listen to any concerns or ideas you may have!

CLIMATE LISTENING SESSION #1

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Location: Center for Civic Empowerment
17th floor, Blue Flame Building, 304 Texas Ave

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Scan this QR Code to attend virtually >>



CLIMATE LISTENING SESSION #2

IN-PERSON

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024

Location: Memorial Library (in person), 3200 Cooper

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Once the PCAP is submitted to the EPA on March 1st 2024, we will begin to develop the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Stay tuned for future public workshops and events!

To learn more contact:

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- Fernando Berjano BerjanoFL@elpasotexas.gov



