

Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board

From: Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director;

Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Subject: Resolution endorsing the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan

Background: The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG) is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program providing grants to states and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CRCOG is the lead agency for the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown MSA and has been awarded \$1 million in noncompetitive planning funds to develop regional climate action plans.

The first deliverable, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) was adopted by the Policy Board in February 2024. The second deliverable is a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) that refines the actions identified in the PCAP and includes greenhouse gas (GHG) emission projections, estimated GHG reductions, and “co-benefits” and “disbenefits” for each identified strategy. Throughout this process, CRCOG and RiverCOG staff worked with our consultant partners, Dewberry, to develop the CCAP, which was submitted to EPA for review in July 2025.

Following concerns identified by Policy Board members at the November 19 meeting regarding the solar energy action – *E1. Support an Increase in Solar Projects in the Region, Creating 900 Megawatts Across the Region* – and specifically citing concerns around utility scale solar, CRCOG staff drafted a revised resolution. Based on overlap with CRCOG’s draft Legislative Agenda, this revised resolution was discussed at the Legislative Committee meeting of December 3, 2025. Following the meeting, CRCOG and RiverCOG staff worked with our consultant to revise the plan language for that action. Revisions include:

- Specifying municipal building rooftops and parking lots as priority locations for solar installation
- Specifying deployment of agrivoltaics (also known as dual-use solar) in appropriate locations, with a priority for previously disturbed or marginal farmland
- Support towards lifting solar caps only for commercial rooftop solar (as opposed to all solar caps)
- Expanded conversation regarding the Connecticut Siting Council
- Expanded conversation regarding the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and

agrivoltaics

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The Greater Hartford Region Comprehensive Climate Action Plan includes emission reduction measures across a range of sectors that can be implemented by municipalities and other regional stakeholders. The CCAP provides a flexible roadmap for municipalities seeking strategies to reduce emissions.

Financial/Operational Impact: CPRG-related activities are conducted at no cost to member towns.

Project Schedule: The CCAP was submitted to EPA in late July 2025. In September, EPA program staff confirmed the CCAP met program requirements, and EPA accepted the plan. The third and final phase of the project is a Status Report, due in 2027.

Recommendation: CRCOG staff recommends the Policy Board approve the attached resolution endorsing the final Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

Attachments:

- [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan \(CCAP\)](#)
- Resolution

**RESOLUTION
ENDORISING THE COMPREHENSIVE
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CCAP) FOR THE
HARTFORD-EAST HARTFORD-MIDDLETOWN MSA**

WHEREAS, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 appropriated \$5 billion to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP), to be administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023, EPA announced availability of \$250 million for the first phase of the program, which issued non-competitive planning grants, administered as cooperative agreements, to fund development and expansion of climate action plans (Plans) that will include programs, policies, measures, and projects that will achieve or facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in its capacity as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for two-thirds of the municipalities within the Hartford MSA, has received \$1 million and entered into a cooperative agreement with EPA; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG in partnership with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and Dewberry have completed a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown MSA;

WHEREAS, CRCOG's Policy Board affirms each member municipality shall have ultimate discretion whether to pursue and implement any proposed measure in the CCAP and that any endorsement of the CCAP shall not supersede any current or future proposed legislative proposals put forward to the Connecticut General Assembly on behalf of member municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The plan may be marked Final and dated December 2025, and study recommendations may henceforth be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board, at its meeting on December 17, 2025.

BY: _____
Rodney Fournier, Secretary

DATE: _____