



New England Heat Pump Accelerator (CPRG) Grant: Status Report

EMT Board

October 1, 2025

Background: New England Heat Pump Accelerator

- Maine is part of a coalition of five states (with CT (lead), RI, MA, and NH) that was a successful applicant to the EPA for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) funds
 - The coalition was awarded \$450M last summer
 - The application was for “heat pump acceleration” across New England, focusing on midstream market interventions
- The Accelerator combines three program pillars:
 - Market Hub
 - Innovation Hub
 - Resource Hub

Heat Pump Accelerator Program Pillars

Market Hub

Spur the heat pump market through regional strategies

Midstream incentives via distributors

Contractor training on cold-climate heat pumps and whole-home installations

Workforce development in underserved communities

Innovation Hub

Overcome barriers for LMI and disadvantaged communities

1–2 large-scale initiatives per state to scale solutions for LIDACs

Quick Start Grants seeding community-based solutions

LIDAC stakeholder engagement throughout design and implementation

Resource Hub

Share learnings across the region

Collect and share program, market, and building data

Resources for consumer and contractor education

LIDAC outreach and resources

Since our last briefing (1)

- Administrative activities:
 - CT has been working to get the Regional Implementer under contract
 - CT and Regional Convener have held discussions on the upcoming Annual Report to EPA
 - EPA invited an update to the GHG methodology as part of annual report
 - The Trust has had preliminary discussions with the Regional Implementer for our contract
 - This will be the fund transfer mechanism from EPA → CT → Regional Implementer → Maine

Since our last briefing (2)

- Innovation activities with the Trust, DOER, and GOPIF:
 - Held several planning meetings about projects and outreach for the Innovation Hub
 - Drafted a Request for Information for Innovation projects, to be launched this week
 - Identified outreach strategies/stakeholders to solicit innovation project ideas/priorities

Upcoming Administrative Tasks

- Draft contract with Regional Implementer to enable transfer of funds and reporting data. Particular things to iron out:
 - Fund request and reimbursement process
 - Data transfer (*upcoming board action*)
 - GHG saving goals
- Will likely need an MOU between GOPIF, DOER, and the Trust for administrative support and administrative funds
 - Cross-cutting organizational tasks will include innovation project outreach and planning, workforce development

Innovation

Innovation Hub Details

State-Level Initiatives

- Administered by EMT
- One or more multiyear pilots
- Address specific state priorities and pilot / demonstrate scalable solutions for home electrification of space & water heating with heat pump technology.
- Focus on technology solutions, new applications/configurations of technology and new models for financing/compensating HP users
- Implemented in LMI homes and/or Disadvantaged Communities

Community-Level Initiatives

- Administered by the Accelerator's contracted "Regional Implementer"
- Input on RFP priorities and final project selection by Advisory Board of the Coalition states.
- "Bottom-up" annual grants for smaller-scale, community-based pilots.
- Focus on information, education, training, outreach targeting needs of harder-to-reach customers
- Simple, accessible application process to invite creative ideas that expand access to heat pumps for LMI households and/or DACs.

Innovation Hub Activities in Maine

- Request for Information (RFI) to be launched this week
 - Soliciting feedback on what to pilot (technologies, applications, target communities or populations) and how to implement the pilots
- Stakeholder Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 23, at 2:00 p.m.
- Solicit feedback from EMT Innovation Advisory Committee
- Digest feedback with DOER and GOPIF
 - Craft and share Maine-specific goals with coalition
 - Design priorities and approach for state-level pilot(s)
 - Launch RFP to solicit project management/delivery support for administration of state-level pilot(s)
 - Consult with potential applicants on community-level grants

Priorities/Approach to State-Level Pilot Project for Maine

- TBD, pending feedback from stakeholders
- Working concept “straw proposal” :
 - Comprehensive, umbrella, multi-year initiative awarding a suite of targeted demonstration projects
 - Objective: test/demonstrate/report out scalable solutions to address barriers to heat pumps serving as the primary source of space & water heating in residential dwellings, such as (but not limited to):
 - Air-to-water heat pump to hydronic distribution, with storage
 - Heat pump water heating systems in mobile or multifamily properties
 - Leveraging time-of-use rates
 - Options for heat pumps in small apartments
 - Options to more effectively use ducted distribution systems
 - Innovative project financing or equipment lease options, including those that might address split incentives for renters

Next Steps

- Administrative activities:
 - Negotiate contract with Regional Implementer including data and fund transfer, savings targets
 - MOA with GOPIF and DOER
 - Supporting team with annual report and update to EPA
- Innovation activities with DOER and GOPIF:
 - Stakeholder feedback – RFI and Upcoming Meeting
 - Finalize state-level goals for innovation
 - Solicit support for delivery
 - Draft more detailed pilot project plans

Board Activities

- Approve data transfer from Trust to Regional Implementer for the purposes of reporting to the EPA
- Invited to attend October 23rd meeting in person or online
 - Thursday October 23, 2025
2:00-4:00 p.m.
701 Forest Avenue, Portland OR Zoom
- Innovation Advisory Council meeting to be scheduled
 - in conjunction with the next board meeting?

Discussion