



# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

