



The America is All In Clean Energy Academy

Leveraging Direct Pay and Other Tools for Subnational Climate Investment

■ Context

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) represents an unprecedented level of investment by the federal government to support subnational organizations with clean power, building, and transportation investment and adoption – including rooftop solar PV, EV chargers, and fleet electrification. Tax-exempt organizations have never had more financial support and incentives available for clean energy projects than they do now. With the IRA’s new, enhanced tax incentives paired with the [direct pay](#) mechanism and new financing opportunities, subnational organizations can accelerate the adoption of clean energy and spread these benefits into their local communities.

■ Objectives

The Clean Energy Academy aims to convene and help approximately 15-30 ambitious tax-exempt subnational organizations (i.e. healthcare, universities, cultural institutions, faith-based groups, etc.) secure federal clean energy funding by leveraging tax incentives that qualify for direct pay and new financing opportunities enabled by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). The objectives of this program include:

- 1) Identify potential projects that align with the organization’s needs and goals and how projects may be eligible for tax credits or other funding and financing (i.e. EV chargers, geothermal heat pumps, etc.).
- 2) Plan a successful project, issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for local contractors, and begin construction of the project.
- 3) Activate new clean energy technology or infrastructure that will produce cleaner power, use less energy, and save energy costs.
- 4) Collect the enhanced tax credits’ cash refund via direct pay to recoup at least 30% of the project’s costs, apply for grant programs (if applicable) and utilize new financing options.

Note: Step 3 and 4 will likely be taken after the cohort ends, depending on each institution’s progress.

■ Academy Overview

The Clean Energy Academy will run for 6 months (May 2024 – November 2024). During this time, RMI and America Is All In would provide:

- **A Workshop Series:** Facilitated workshops to actively engage content experts and learn from peer organizations about key technical issues, lessons learned, and outstanding questions. Topics may include the Inflation Reduction Act’s tax credits, including the ITC, 45W, 30C, and 179D, bonus credits, and related concepts such as stacking and green financing.
- **Technical Assistance:** Office hours for one-on-one support to ensure that organizations are designing and planning strong projects for clean energy implementation that qualify for federal tax credits.
- **Tools and Resources:** Direct pay memos, best practices, and other tools that will accelerate Academy members’ planning process.

■ Academy Participant Expectations & Criteria

While participation in the program is free, RMI is only able to support a limited number of participating organizations. As such, selected institutions will be asked to demonstrate the following features as part of their request to participate:

- **Ambition:** Participants must have concrete short-term goals or project ideas related to equitable decarbonization in the next year.
- **Implementation:** The Academy will require active participation. Academy participants will need the necessary internal buy-in and approvals from decisionmakers and stakeholders (Note: RMI also *recommends* that participants integrate one or more stakeholders in the first two months of the program).
- **Commitment:** Participants must be able to dedicate an estimated 3-5 hours per month of staff time.

Application Instructions

To join the Clean Energy Academy, please fill out this [short application](#) by **April 1, 2024**. Our team will follow up with applicants in April 2024 to answer questions and ensure your organization is a good fit.

For any questions, please contact Jasmine Chiu at jchiu@rmi.org.

Anticipated Academy Schedule

Timeline	Topic
March-May 2024	Academy application and interviews
May 2024	Workshop #1: Program kick-off and direct pay overview + Introductory 1-on-1 meetings
June-Oct 2024	<p>Monthly workshops and office hours for optional 1-on-1 meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshops will be for group presentations and for members to share progress and the facilitating team to address common challenges among participating institutions. Topics for workshops may include project development best practices, stacking incentives, etc. • The Academy team will use the 1-on-1s to collect questions and help each organization figure out project details and eligibility for incentives.
Oct-Nov 2024	Final wrap ups and individual check-ins with each participant to evaluate progress and address challenges as project contracting begin
Nov 2024	Final workshop on best practices and reflection
June 2025*	Post-Academy alumni event to check in on project progress and project registration

**This session will be after the 6-month program.*

Note: Final schedule will be modified based on participants’ feedback

Our Team

RMI, an *America is All In* contributing partner, is working with communities in the US to take up clean energy incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act with the ultimate goals to reduce emissions, increase resilience, and advance social equity. Over the past two years, the team has educated over 1,000 organizations about the Inflation Reduction Act’s clean energy incentives and helped to advance climate-forward policies in multiple states, including [Minnesota’s transportation emissions rule](#) and [Washington State’s state energy codes](#). For more information, visit americaisallin.com.