



This worksheet will help you:

- Understanding Target Investment Area A (Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Section II.B)
- Develop your Track I written application components on the Alaska Tribal Lands Target Investment Area (NOFO Appendix H).

## Overview

### Requirements

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified five Target Investment Areas (TIA) for Track I applications. The Alaska TIA is specific to Alaska Tribal Lands. It allows for applications that include projects to clean up contaminated lands conveyed through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Applications for the Alaska TIA can use either the general Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies in Section I.G or any Alaska-TIA specific ones described in Appendix H. EPA strongly encourages applicants to include Pollution Reduction Strategy projects for cleaning up contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA. For more details about each strategy, see the Alaska TIA fact sheet and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Appendix H. Applicants applying under a specified TIA will compete against other applicants under the same TIA, as opposed to the broader application pool.

#### Additional Eligibility Requirements for ANCSA-related projects and activities:

- Your application must include projects cleaning up contaminated lands conveyed through ANCSA.
- Lands must have been contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum at the time of conveyance.
- Lands must be listed on the interim [EPA inventory](#) of Contaminated ANCSA Lands.
- You must provide proof that the landowner will allow access to the site and supports taking action to address contamination if the applicant is not the owner of the contaminated site(s).



## Guiding Questions

Collaborate with your community to answer the following questions. Refer to the [Fact Sheets](#) on Climate Action Strategies, Pollution Reduction Strategies, and the Alaska TIA to help guide the selection of strategies for your application.

### Choosing Pollution Reduction Strategy(ies)

1. What local pollution challenges has your community identified?
2. How do these challenges affect the disadvantaged communities in your Project Area?
3. Which pollution challenge(s) is your community most worried about?
4. How can this pollution be measured?
5. If applicable, which ANCSA-Specific Pollution Strategy activities would prevent or reduce the pollution in a measurable way?
6. How do they align with your community's short- and long-term vision?



## Planning your Pollution Reduction Project(s)

Below are questions that related to the ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategy and associated project activities. Please see the general [Pollution Reduction Strategy Worksheet](#) for general Pollution Reduction project planning questions.

1. Does your project include planning and site plan development?
  - a. For a proposed project that includes a primary location along with additional surrounding sites, how will work conducted at the surrounding sites benefit the primary location?
  
2. Will the project include carrying out a site assessment and related activities?
  - a. Will the project require collection of environmental samples or data? For example, you may need to use these samples or data to develop a Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan, or Sampling Plan.
  - b. If sampling is necessary, what [EPA accredited laboratory](#) will you use to analyze samples? What are the costs for analyzing those samples?
  
3. Are initial cleanup activities associated with your project?
  - a. What are the cleanup endpoints in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's aligned Site Cleanup Plan?
  - b. What entities will you partner with to conduct cleanup activities such as contaminated material removal, sampling, or health and safety monitoring?
  - c. How will you conduct sampling after cleanup activities to determine if further action is required?



4. Will the project include community engagement activities?
  - a. Effective community engagement is vital to working with Alaska Native communities. What culturally sensitive protocols will you include in your community engagement activities?
  
5. Does your project include a plan to gather information to use to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?
  - a. NEPA compliance requires creating Environmental Information Documents (EIDs). **Projects funded by Community Change Grant (CCG) funds are not required to comply with NEPA.** But you can use CCG funds to compile EIDs to comply with NEPA under *other* federal grants.
  
6. Summarize: How will the project activities deal with local community pollution? Do they address the challenges of most concern to the community? Do they address the challenges that affect the most disadvantaged members of the community?

## Choosing Climate Action Strategy(ies)

1. What unique climate challenges, impacts, and risks does your Alaska-TIA community face? Climate challenges may come from permafrost degradation or extreme weather, including heat waves, floods, and wildfires.
  
2. How do these challenges affect the disadvantaged communities in your Project Area?



3. Which unique climate challenges, impacts, and risks is your community most worried about?
4. Which strategy or strategies would be a good way to solve the climate challenges in your Alaska-TIA community, particularly for the disadvantaged members?
5. How do these strategies align with your community's short- and long-term vision?

## Planning your Climate Action Project(s)

1. What project activities will use the climate strategy or strategies you chose?
2. How will the project activities deal with the climate challenges in your Alaska-TIA community and benefit the community? Will the activities solve the challenges of most concern to the community? Will they solve the challenges that affect the most disadvantaged members of the community?

## Combining Strategies

After choosing both your Climate Action and Pollution Reduction Strategies, consider how project activities can go together.

1. Are there projects that can use both types of strategies?



2. Are there ways to combine the strategies to make one or more of the strategies more effective?

3. Are there ways to combine the strategies to make the project more cost-effective?

## Next Steps

Consult the Track I Readiness Approach and Track I Self-Assessment worksheets for tips on planning project and application review details.

## Tips to Consider

Be sure to write your Selected Strategies section in a way that aligns with the rest of your application. It should fit well with your Community Vision section. You need to show that your solutions will lead to meaningful change that your community wants and needs.

Read the project examples in the NOFO Appendix H. It contains examples for ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategy activities and Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies. The appendix also includes requirements and guidelines for your application.

Read the output and outcome examples in the NOFO Appendix F. It contains a table with examples for Alaska-Specific Climate Action Strategies along with ANCSA-Specific Pollution Reduction Strategies. The table will help you understand the difference between an output and an outcome.



## Glossary

Helpful terms to know for the Alaska TIA:

- [Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act \(ANCSA\)](#): was enacted in 1971 to settle Native claims to public lands through the conveyance of 46 million acres of land to Alaska Native regional and village corporations and the transfer of one billion dollars from the state and federal governments as compensation for lands that could not be returned to Alaska Native ownership.
- Environmental Information Document (EID): consists of information that is required to comply with NEPA.
- Multi-energy systems: energy systems including renewable (such as solar or wind) and traditional sources to increase ability to adjust during extreme events and support clean energy.
- [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#): requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions before making decisions. Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions. Agencies also provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations.
- [Permafrost](#): is a layer of earth or soil that stays frozen for two or more years. It usually lies below an “active layer” of soil that freezes and thaws every year. In Alaska, about 80 percent of the ground has permafrost underneath it.
- Portable micro-water treatment: mobile water purification systems to make safe drinking water in areas without a functional water treatment plant.

## Resources

**Resource Library for Community Change Grants** from EPA at <https://communitychangeta.org/resource-library>.

**EPA Region 10’s Inventory of Contaminated ANCSA Lands** at <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-10-pacific-northwest>

**Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program** begun by EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands>

**Sustainable Management of Food** from EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

**Climate Change Indicators: Permafrost** from EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-permafrost>

**EPA’s Laboratory Enterprise** from EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/labs>

**U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit** from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at <https://toolkit.climate.gov>