

# SOUTHERN ARIZONA COALITION FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

A cluster to drive sustainable agriculture,  
preserve water resources and develop clean energy



Southern Arizona (SoAZ) will become a **national epicenter of climate adaptability** by combining industries and organizations into an impactful, diverse Coalition addressing a growth cluster critical to our arid region.

- 1. Sustainable Agriculture**
- 2. Clean Energy**
- 3. Preservation of Water Resources**

## **The future of SoAZ demands innovation at an historic pace**

- 90% of Arizona has experienced “exceptional drought” over the last 20 years.
- 20% reduction in Colorado River water allocation is expected this year, first impacting agricultural industries that account for 70% of water usage in Arizona

**We must produce more with less while leaving a smaller environmental footprint**

**Challenge**

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Coalition formed to respond to this challenge and propose the growth cluster for funding under Phase 1 EDA Build Back Better Grant

### 11 Coalition members



Proposal also featured support from 9 municipalities, tribal governments, 22 industry partners and countless additional regional assets and supporters.

**Coalition**

**The Coalition will work to support projects that have the potential to help SoAZ become more resilient and adaptive as it relates to our changing climate and that work to:**

- create jobs
- increase wages
- reduce unemployment in vulnerable communities
- grow and scale new businesses
- attract high-growth industries

**Goal**

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**The Coalition will use equity plans and evaluation frameworks to ensure fair and transparent decision-making and representation and equity for the future of the cluster development**

**Commitment**

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**By organizing our efforts now, the region can be in a much better position to secure resources in the future.**

As opportunities present themselves, the Coalition can look to our shared vision, mission and created plan to identify impactful projects and can lean on each other to identify matching funds, proposal partners and to obtain letters of support.

**Collaboration**

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## **Currently awarded a Phase 1 Planning Grant under the EDA Build Back Better program to support the growth of this cluster**

- Now the Coalition has the opportunity to apply for up to \$100 Million in Phase 2 funding
- Will have 61 days to complete Phase 2 proposal with all our partners
- City of Tucson is the Lead on the proposal
- Phase One includes funding to support proposal development, an Economic Competitiveness Officer and feasibility studies

**Current  
Opportunity**

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## Initial Focus Areas

**Initial BBB proposal approaches regional cluster challenges via five components:**

- 1. Research Innovation and Translational Technology:** *Led by the University of Arizona*
- 2. Workforce Resilience:** *Co-Led by Pima Community College and Arizona Western College*
- 3. Entrepreneurship:** *Led by Startup Tucson*
- 4. Sustainable Infrastructure:** *Co-Led by City of Tucson and Greater Yuma*
- 5. Seed Funding:** *Led by Community Investment Corporation*

Specific projects in each of these areas will be selected as part of Phase 2 using the equity plan and relying on the larger Coalition members.

### Steps to Submit Your Proposal Brief to The Coalition for Consideration:

1. Navigate to our website [ConnectTucson.com](https://ConnectTucson.com)
2. Click the first News Block – Build Back Better Regional Challenge
3. **SUBMIT A PROPOSAL BRIEF TO THE COALITION**
4. You must read the instructions before filling out the form
5. Project Narrative 375 words max
  - a. Narrative – background, and current and future plans
  - b. Layout specifics - included equity component & cost estimates
  - c. Timeline

# Timeline

<b>Proposal Briefs Open</b>	Jan 13th - Public can submit Proposal Briefs that meet eligibility guidelines
<b>Proposal Briefs Close</b>	Jan 21st at 11:59pm - Proposal Briefs submitted will be referred to respective component committee's
<b>Committees Review</b>	Jan 24th Jan 30th- Proposal Briefs submitted will be reviewed
<b>Outreach</b>	Jan 31st Feb 7th- Proposal chosen will be contacted by component leads to start work on incorporating the project into the Coalition
<b>Phase 1 Submitted to EDA</b>	March 15th 8:59 pm Grant submission is due

- **Contact the RECO with questions**
  - [Jeffrey.Anthony@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Anthony@tucsonaz.gov)
- **Remember submissions close Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm**
- **RECO will reach out to POC for each project that is not selected**
- **Component committee leads will reach out to each proposal  
brief selected for further work**

**Next Steps**

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