

Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

August 11, 2022

Standard Order of Business

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Approval of Minutes

- Distributed Prior to Meeting

- Need Motion to Approve & 2nd

Financial Report Approval

- See insert at right

- Need Motion to Approve & Second

Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition

Financial Report
As of July 31, 2022

Beginning Balance -June 30, 2022			$ 144,104.08
	Revenues		
	Bank Interest	$ 1.16	
	Member Contributions	433.00	
Total Revenues			$ 434.16
Subtotal			144,538.24
	Expenditures		
	Ray Clark	14,185.37	
Total Expenditures			14,185.37
Ending Balance - July 31, 2022			$ 130,352.87



Clark Group Report

Ray Clark

Air Quality Update

Technology,
Legislation, and Policy



Inflation Reduction Act: H.R. 5376

The Inflation Reduction Act includes billions of dollars for states, cities and county governments to implement plans and programs to address climate change.

The bill would invest roughly $370 billion in renewables, electric vehicles, hydrogen, clean energy equipment manufacturing, home efficiency and other climate programs.

IRA

- $260 billion in clean-energy tax credits
- $80 billion in new rebates for electric vehicles, green energy at home and more
- $1.5 billion in rewards for cutting methane emissions
- $27 billion ‘green bank’
- Support for fossil fuel projects
- Support for coal miners with black lung

Rural Electric Co-Ops

$9.7 billion for rural electric co-ops for the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of their systems.

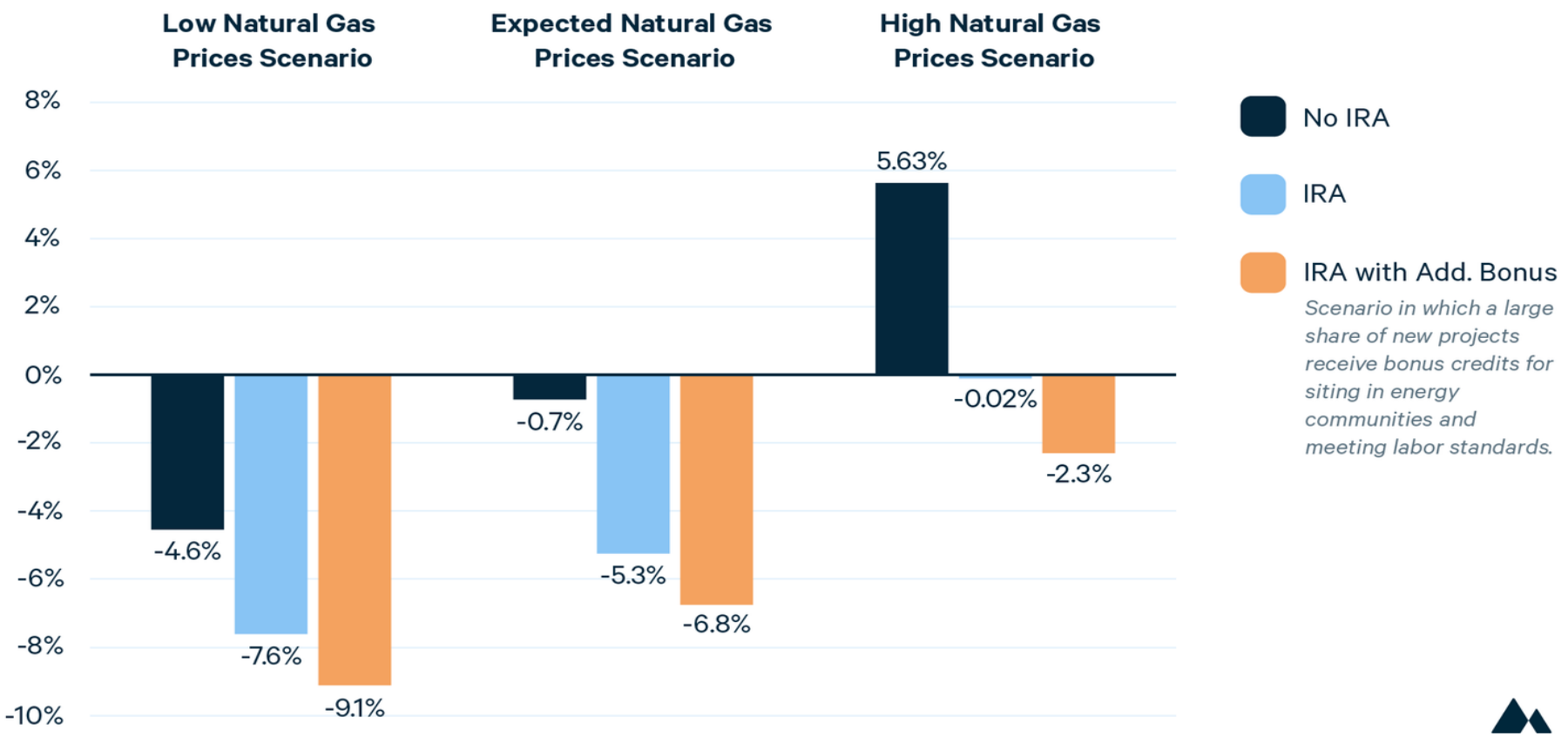
Direct federal payments to co-ops when they deploy new energy technologies, including carbon capture, nuclear, energy storage, renewables and more. The legislation would give co-ops parity with for-profit utilities

Must be made in America

The bill ties new vehicle credits to the sourcing of batteries and inputs from North America or countries with free trade deals with the U.S.

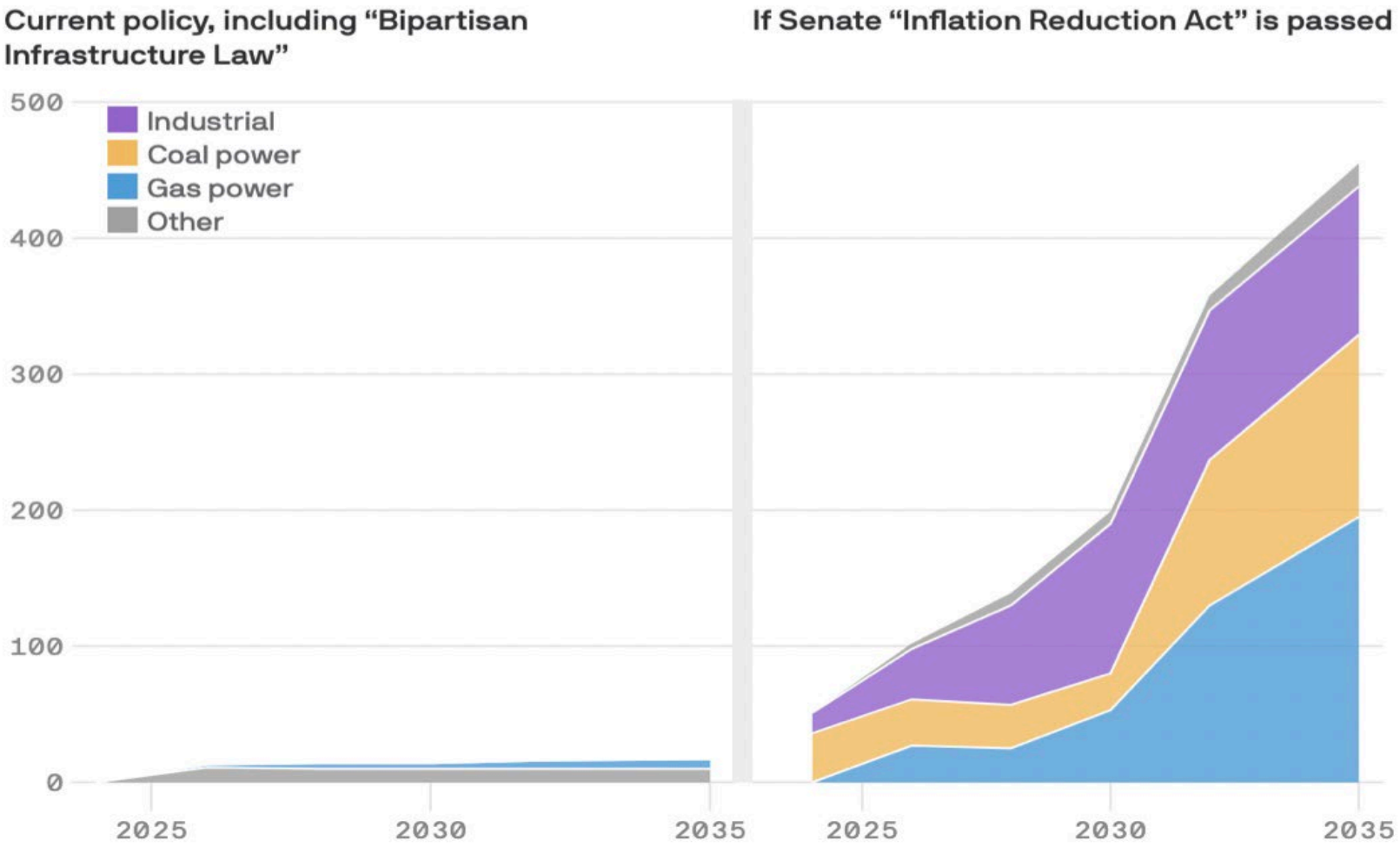
Eligible cars also can't use battery components from China, or critical minerals sourced or processed there.

Change in Average Retail Electricity Prices in 2023-2032 with and without the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



Annual carbon dioxide captured for transport and geologic storage

In million tons per year; 2024–2035 estimates



Carrots not sticks 🥕🥕🥕

More than anything, the Inflation Reduction Act contains tax incentives, in the form of credits and deductions, that are designed to increase demand for renewable energy and investments in clean infrastructure.

Amends the Clean Air Act

amends a section of the Clean Air Act, with language for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, which sets aside two separate pots of money: planning grants and implementation grants.

$250 million for states to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA must make this planning grant available to at least one eligible entity in every state.

More Carrots 🥕🥕🥕🥕

Extends the tax credits for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles. New EVs qualify for $7,500 in credits with income levels capped at $150,000 for individuals or $300,000 for a household.

Used EVs qualify for $4,000 with income capped at $75,000 for individuals or $150,000 for households

Impacts for MGCAC

U.S. Postal Service EV fleet and charging infrastructure ($3.045 billion)

Zero-emission equipment and technology at ports ($3 billion)

Clean heavy-duty vehicles like buses and garbage trucks ($1 billion)

Carrots for Homeowners

Residential Energy Efficiency – The Inflation Reduction Act extends tax credits to homeowners for qualifying energy efficiency improvement projects until the end of 2032.

Taxpayers can be credited for 30 percent of the cost of the project on their annual taxes, and up to $1,200.

Residential

Residential Clean Electricity – Extends tax credits for homeowners that use clean energy to power or heat their homes, until the end of 2034. The bill replaces biomass fuel with battery storage as qualifying clean energy sources.

New Energy Efficient Home – Extends and increases the credit for newly constructed homes that meet certain Energy Star home standards.

Affordable Housing Resilience and Energy Efficiency Investments – The Inflation Reduction Act provides $1 billion in funding for energy or water efficiency, or climate resilience projects for affordable housing.

Small Businesses

Commercial Energy Efficiency Tax Deduction – Commercial properties can qualify for a deduction on their taxes for energy efficiency improvements.

Agriculture

Funding for:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program ($8.45 billion) – This program incentivizes farmers to use environmentally sustainable conservation practices.

Conservation Stewardship Program ($3.25 billion) – This program helps farmers improve and protect natural resources on their land.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program ($6.75 billion) – This Department of Agriculture program seeks to improve soil, water, and wildlife health on a regional scale.



American Airlines

✈️ **American Airlines is investing** in the hydrogen-electric aviation company ZeroAvia and has a nonbinding agreement to buy up to 100 of their engines for regional aircraft

•**Driving the news:** The airline yesterday revealed its part of ZeroAvia's now-closed Series B round at an undisclosed amount. The startup has previously announced $68 million in Series B finance.

•**Catch up fast:** Other investors in ZeroAvia include United Airlines, Shell, Amazon, and the Bill Gates-led Breakthrough Energy Ventures.

•**Why it matters:** The heavyweight names signal confidence in the expanding market for tech that cuts emissions from aviation, an important source of greenhouse gas emissions.

I-75 Corridor Updates

Ray Clark & Laura Mathis

General Discussion

MGCAC Members

Adjournment

Next Meetings: Thursday, September 8 at 4:00 PM

Middle Georgia Regional Commission