



**OFFICE OF POLICY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 20, 2023

The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird  
Chair  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
555 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

The Honorable Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway  
Climate Workgroup Chair  
Local Government Advisory Committee  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Room 403  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mayor Gaylor Baird and Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

Thank you for transmitting to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan the Local Government Advisory Committee's (LGAC) recommendations on how EPA could better support greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions by local governments. Administrator Regan asked me to respond to your recommendations.

I want to start by thanking the Climate Workgroup for the tremendous amount of effort and expertise the members put into the response. The commitment to the Administration's priority to tackle the climate challenge is clear. While the focus of the workgroup's response was on ways the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) could best be used to reduce GHG emissions at the local level, these recommendations may apply to other ongoing GHG mitigation programs and initiatives as well.

I note from the transmittal letter that the LGAC's recommendations "focus on the value of supporting land-use policies and efficiencies in the built environment." Additional topline takeaways include:

- Local government officials are ready to support GGRF implementation.
- Local government officials are at the forefront of GHG mitigation as well as climate change adaptation and resilience efforts, and supporting local governments' ability to do this work should be a priority for EPA.
- Local government officials want to make sure that investments in GHG mitigation support multiple community goals such as equitable development, increased supply and affordability of housing, and environmental justice priorities.
- Local government officials have tools and policies that can support GHG mitigation. Methods for measuring GHG emissions reduction from more climate-friendly development patterns will help local governments deploy these tools most effectively.

- The LGAC believes the GGRF implementation's success will be heightened by supporting climate-friendly land use policies and that better development patterns will result from this support.

Staff in my office are currently working with colleagues across the agency to review the LGAC's response and recommendations. I am committed to providing a formal response by spring 2024 that lays out the steps we are taking to implement these recommendations. As we do this, we will be reaching out to the LGAC's Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Paige Lieberman, for clarification and/or input from LGAC members. I welcome the opportunity to meet with the LGAC Climate Workgroup in 2024 to discuss the steps EPA is taking to implement your recommendations.

Again, thank you for all the hard work of the LGAC and the Climate Workgroup. We at EPA appreciate your dedication, leadership, and partnership in addressing climate change and investing in ways that deliver multiple benefits to communities across the country. We look forward to continued work with you in the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicki Arroyo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vicki" being more prominent and the last name "Arroyo" following in a similar style.

Vicki Arroyo  
Associate Administrator