

## **City of Albany: Albany Emissions Reduction Initiative Work Plan**

### **Section 1. Overall Project Summary and Approach**

The City of Albany's initiative to secure funding for emission reduction projects represents a significant step towards environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Albany's commitment is demonstrated by its comprehensive approach to tackling climate change, which focuses on emission reduction strategies in both the public and private sectors. This dual strategy demonstrates the city's ongoing commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, which involves both city operations and the community at large. The proposed projects largely address two Priority Areas in the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the Capital Region: Transportation and the Built Environment.

The funding requested in this proposal would support measures the City has identified as required to address ongoing gaps in funding or contribute to measures underfunded by current funding streams and deemed successful in contributing to emission reductions. If the New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) is awarded funding through its CPRG funding request, entities, including municipalities, would not be eligible to receive funds from its proposed programs.

### **A. Description of GHG Reduction Measures**

#### *1. Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities*

The initiative to implement pre-electrification and efficiency upgrades in disadvantaged communities is a commendable and replicable approach to enhancing living conditions while also reducing emissions. This project addresses two key Measures outlined in the Capital District PCAP's 'Built Environment' section. Those Measures are: a) Measure 1 (Efficient Equipment and Weatherization) and b) Measure 3 (Electrification Readiness). Measure 3 (Efficient Equipment and Weatherization) is specific: "Prepare building stock by investing in electric service and envelope upgrades needed for heat pumps ... Invest, additionally, in buildings in LIDAC communities to solve barrier issues such as mold abatement, asbestos removal, and remediation of other hazards."

This program will contribute to rehabilitating and retrofitting Albany's aging building stock while making more buildings eligible for full electrification funding. Focus will be given to building envelope improvements and electric service upgrades, while providing funding for common hazard reduction, including mold, vermiculite, and asbestos removal. This program will be administered through the City's pre-existing building revitalization internal branch, the Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA). ACDA primarily relies on HUD-related funding to complete retrofits, though additional funding is often required to supplement HUD projects. This funding will leverage co-funding provided by New York State's Empower+ and

Weatherization Assistance Program. Multi-unit dwellings with 1-4 units are especially encouraged to apply, with the Area Median Income (AMI) of household tenants being a determining factor for eligibility, thus broadening the scope of those who can benefit from this funding.

Based on an analysis of current building stock improvements, projects, on average, require an additional \$20,000 to complete home envelope and weatherization improvements, including:

- Weatherization; efficient windows and doors
- Insulation
- Electric system upgrades
- Roof repair or replacements
- Hazard abatement – including mold, asbestos, and vermiculite
- Other hazard remediation or pre-electrification measures that impact electrification eligibility will be evaluated based on the measure's impact and other eligible funding availability.

The main risks to this program are the availability and schedule of any required building contractors, and possible unforeseen supply chain issues.

## *2. Pre-Electrification Incentive Program*

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding the Pre-Electrification Incentive Program would be a significant step in assisting Albany residents in preparing for building electrification. This initiative addresses the growing demand for pre-electrification building improvements, such as home envelope sealing, weatherization, and electrical system upgrades. While existing programs like Empower+ and the Weatherization Assistance Program offer support, they often have income restrictions. Often, funding streams do not cover all necessary measures, leaving some homeowners financially strained and projects abandoned. The CPRG proposal aims to fill these gaps by providing low-interest loans, relieving financial constraints, and allowing residents to make necessary improvements to prepare for full electrification. Importantly, it also acknowledges the need to address health and safety issues like mold, asbestos, and vermiculite that are typical of an aging building stock, which must be resolved before electrification can occur. By offering this financial support, the CPRG empowers homeowners to overcome these obstacles and move forward with their electrification projects, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient community. Multi-unit dwellings with 1-4 units are especially encouraged to apply, with the Area Median Income (AMI) of household tenants being a determining factor for eligibility, thus broadening the scope of those who can benefit from this funding.

This project addresses two key Measures outlined in the Capital District PCAP's 'Built Environment' section. Those Measures are: a) Measure 1 (Efficient Equipment and Weatherization) and b) Measure 3 (Electrification Readiness).

The main risks to this program are the availability and schedule of any required building contractors, and possible unforeseen supply chain issues.

### *3. City Fleet Electrification*

To implement the Capital District PCAP's Transportation Measure 3 (Invest in Zero Emission Municipal Fleets), the City of Albany proposes this project to accelerate its transition to a zero-emission municipal fleet. This grant funding will be instrumental in achieving this goal by enabling the replacement of fossil-fueling vehicles with EV alternatives, piloting EV integration into city operations, upgrading electrical infrastructure to support charging demand, and installing electric vehicle charging stations at City facilities.

The City's commitment to reducing emissions is demonstrated through the existing fleet, which includes replacing vehicles with hybrid and electric vehicles. The City recognizes the urgent need to dramatically reduce its reliance on fossil fuel-burning vehicles. The City is committed to staying informed of the latest funding mechanisms to leverage capital investments that effectively achieve our emission reduction targets. Implementing these investments will involve a comprehensive and adaptable planning process and strategically allocating the city's capital.

The main risks to this program are the availability and schedule of any required electrical contractors and the availability of the necessary electric vehicles due to demand and/or supply chain issues.

### *4. City Building Electrification*

The City will use grant funds to convert a select set of city-owned buildings from natural gas to electric heat pumps and undertake any work necessary to install those heat pumps, such as potentially replacing boilers and radiators. This project addresses the Capital District PCAP's 'Built Environment' section by implementing Measure 2 (Transition to Clean Heating and Cooling Systems), which says, "Install air and ground source heat pumps in residential and commercial buildings to reduce use of natural gas and fuel oil."

The main risks to this program are the availability and schedule of any required electrical contractors and the availability of the necessary materials due to unforeseen supply chain issues.

### *5. Workforce Development Program*

Addressing the Capital District PCAP's 'Built Environment' section, Measure 10 (Education and Training Initiatives), this program will pay for On-the-Job Training (OJT), tuition assistance, wraparound services, and supplemental training for Hudson Valley Community College, BOCES, and other New York State-eligible training providers. Tuition assistance will be provided for City of Albany adult residents over the age of 24 who have experienced barriers to employment, such

as being from re-entry populations, living in single-parent households, participating in English-as-second-language (ESL) programs, and others.

The main risk to this program would be a lack of interested participants, which can be mitigated with more outreach.

#### **6. *Grants Management***

The request also includes funding for grant administration and additional staffing to provide capacity for administering these projects.

### ***B. Demonstration of Funding Need (10 points)***

The City of Albany is committed to projects that address climate change; it would be unlikely that the projects would be completed efficiently without grant assistance. The City will continue seeking additional grants to assist with other programs. This funding request highlights areas of need not eligible under different programs and would leverage additional grants and tax incentive programs as outlined.

#### ***1. Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities***

The City of Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA) currently operates a HUD program that supports home ownership and provides resources for essential home improvements for residents with low-to-moderate incomes. This includes home rehabs, lead-safe rehabs, and rental unit rehab assistance for small landlords.

Applicants to this program will be required to enroll in the Empower+ program offered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to receive a free energy audit. This audit, done by a neutral third party, will outline the pre-electrification measures required to prepare a residence for full electrification. NYSERDA approves funding for measures involving air sealing and insulation up to 100% for low-income residents. ACDA's program will help offset additional funding requirements and fund aspects of pre-electrification programs not covered by other programs, including removing mold, asbestos, and/or vermiculite. Through its internal rehabilitation program, ACDA will assist low-income building owners, reducing external contracting costs. This funding will effectively close the funding gaps for non-approved measures and support a highly sought-after program in our community. CPRG funds will allow the ACDA to augment its already robust homeowner rehabilitation program to fully address the goals of the CPRG program in Albany's historically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The current program has an extensive waiting list of 75 owner-occupied and rental homes. The City and ACDA are eager to integrate additional funding and further serve our historically disadvantaged community members.

## *2. Pre-Electrification Incentive Program*

The funding will offer low-interest loans as gap assistance to leverage other programs, including Empower+ and the Residential Energy Assessment Program offered by NYSERDA. These programs provide grants based on income level and require significant matching funds. Projects are also limited due to restrictions on the eligibility of measures as described in the Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades target program above.

To assist moderate-income residents with pre-electrification efforts, a low-interest revolving loan program will be established, a) help offset matching fund requirements and b) provide funding for aspects of pre-electrification projects not covered by other programs. These measures could include mold, asbestos, and/or vermiculite removal. These hazards are common in Albany and prevent the full electrification of the affected homes.

The City aims to leverage this program to encourage residents to take advantage of a free home energy audit offer through the NYSERDA Empower+ and Residential Energy Assessment programs. Applicants to Albany's revolving loan fund will be required to receive an energy audit prior to consideration for the program and to provide a list of necessary upgrades developed by a neutral third party.

## *3. City Fleet Electrification*

New York State and the local utility offer partial funding for vehicular electrification. The NYS Truck Voucher Incentive Program and Commercial Clean Vehicle Credit Program, National Grid's Make Ready program, and the IRA's municipal rebate program partially offset the exorbitant cost of electric medium—and heavy-duty vehicles. Sometimes twice the price of their fossil-fueled counterparts, medium and heavy-duty EVs are immediately necessary and beyond the financial reach of local governments, even with available funding.

In terms of charging infrastructure for EVs, no funding is currently available for either fleet-based electric vehicle charging equipment or the electrical system upgrades necessary to install Level 2 or Level 3 (DCFC) charging infrastructure. The Fleet Electrification program will leverage the partial funding to accelerate fleet electrification in the visible state capital.

## *4. City Building Electrification*

We are unaware of any available NYS or Federal grant programs funding heat pumps or electrification of municipally owned buildings. The \$2.5 Million CREST (Community Resiliency Economic Sustainability & Technology) Program, which covered municipal building electrification as one focus, expired in 2023. No similar program has since been funded.

## *5. Workforce Development*

Few NYS or Federal grant programs fund Workforce Development Programs. The NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers partial grants to support workforce

development initiatives that target energy-related careers. However, there are barriers to entry for many residents, which existing funding is inadequate to overcome. Offsetting the costs of tuition, tools, and various wrap-around services will lower those barriers, allowing our most vulnerable residents to enter exactly those careers that we need more people to enter to advance the electrification transition.

**C. *Transformative Impact (15 Points)***

The strategic initiatives outlined in the work plan present a proactive approach to environmental stewardship, emphasizing the urgency and benefits of reducing emissions within the city. Albany's historic commitment to sustainability is evident through past efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, which have included:

- the purchase of a small number of electric vehicles,
- procuring 100% of the City's operational electricity supply from renewable hydropower RECs,
- subscribing to a local community solar farm to provide 100% of electric delivery,
- exploring the installation of solar on City property as community solar to benefit the residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods,
- converting all 10,500 streetlights to high-efficiency LEDs, saving thousands of kWh and preventing thousands of tons of greenhouse gases from being emitted,
- installing electric vehicle charging stations at parks and other public property,
- and more.

Funding availability is pivotal in accelerating these endeavors, enabling the City to serve as a pioneering example for adopting clean energy solutions. This leadership role has the potential to catalyze a broader transition in the community, as tangible reductions in emissions demonstrate the positive impact of such measures. The City's adoption of electrification and clean energy measures (sometimes unfamiliar to the public) can legitimize technologies such as electric vehicles and heat pumps and advertise the benefits of weatherization efforts.

Furthermore, the grant presents a unique opportunity to address social disparities, particularly those affecting low-income households. These residents often face financial barriers that preclude them from making energy-efficient home improvements despite the long-term cost savings they could realize. By targeting these households for energy upgrades, the city can play a crucial role in fostering equity and inclusion in its environmental policies. This approach contributes to the overall reduction of emissions and supports the well-being of its most vulnerable citizens by alleviating some of the economic pressures they face. The work plan, therefore, represents a comprehensive strategy that intertwines environmental progress with social responsibility, setting a precedent for future initiatives to use a replica for other small cities looking to advance emission reductions.

The project's scope is transformative for the City of Albany, a forward-thinking approach to Climate Pollution Reduction, environmental stewardship, and social equity. To further refine and enhance the strategic initiatives outlined in the work plan, we highlight the importance of:

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Leverage relationships with local businesses, education partners and non-profits to expand the scope and reach of our initiatives. PPPs can bring additional resources, expertise, and leverage additional funding, accelerating the pace of implementation and increasing the impact of the projects.
- **Community Engagement and Education:** Develop comprehensive community outreach programs to educate residents about the importance of climate pollution reduction initiatives, sustainability efforts, and how they can contribute at a personal level. Engagement strategies include workshops, sustainability fairs, and incentive programs for households that adopt energy-efficient practices.
- **Innovative Financing Models:** To address funding constraints, aspects of the program offer both grants to low to moderate-income residents and loan opportunities to fill funding gaps for moderately earning residents. These models can reduce upfront costs for the city and its residents, making sustainable upgrades more accessible to a broader segment of the population. As a revolving loan fund, loan repayments can provide funding to homeowners well beyond the grant period.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Implement a robust system for tracking and analyzing data on emissions reductions, energy savings, and social impact. This will not only allow for real-time adjustments to strategies but also serve as a powerful tool for demonstrating success and securing further support.
- **Scalability and Replicability:** Design initiatives with scalability in mind, ensuring that successful projects can be expanded or replicated in other areas of the city or in different municipalities. This approach can amplify the impact of our efforts and position the City of Albany as a leader in Climate Pollution Reduction Programs.
- **Integration with Broader City Planning:** Ensure that environmental and social initiatives are seamlessly integrated into the broader city planning and development strategies. This holistic approach ensures that sustainability is not a standalone effort but a fundamental principle guiding urban growth and development.
- **Focus on Resilience:** In addition to reducing emissions, incorporate measures that enhance the city's resilience to climate change impacts. This includes infrastructure upgrades, green space development, and emergency preparedness planning, ensuring that the city can withstand and quickly recover from environmental stresses.

By incorporating these elements, our strategic work plan can achieve a greater impact, paving the way for a large climate pollution reduction program, and a sustainable and equitable future. This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate environmental challenges but also fosters a resilient, inclusive community that can thrive in the face of future uncertainties.

## **Section 2:     Impact of GHG Reduction Measures (60 Possible Points)**

### **A.     *Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030 (20 Points)***

In total, these strategies are expected to contribute to a reduction of 3,724.77 MTCDE in greenhouse gas emissions from 2025 through 2030.

#### **1.     *Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 236.21 MTCDE. These reductions come from energy efficiency and building envelope improvements through air sealing and weatherizations of residential buildings.

#### **2.     Pre-Electrification Incentive Program**

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 653.75 MTCDE. These reductions come from building envelope improvements through air sealing and weatherizations of residential buildings.

#### **3.     *City Fleet Electrification***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 744.18 MTCDE. These emission reductions come from the transition of internal combustion municipal fleets to EVs.

#### **4.     *City Building Electrification***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 8362.54 MTCDE. These emission reductions come from the transition of buildings from fossil fuel heating to those heated and cooled with heat pumps.

#### **5.     *Workforce Development***

There is no available data on quantifying direct emission reductions for workforce development. However, it can be assumed that this funding will increase the number of local individuals available to address the growing demand for pre-electrification professionals. Not only will it support near-term projects, but meeting these demands will also support continued GHG reductions beyond the grant term. By building a skilled workforce, we can support all measures' long-term emission reductions and cost-effectiveness, as trained professionals can maintain and implement similar projects.



**B.      *Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050 (10 Points)***

These strategies are expected to contribute to a reduction of 17,877.84 MTCDE in GHG emissions from 2025 through 2050. The expanded time frame highlights the cumulative impact of sustained efforts in electrification on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**1.      *Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 236.21 MTCDE. These permanent emissions reductions come from energy efficiency and building envelope improvements through air sealing and weatherizations of residential buildings.

**2.      *Pre-Electrification Incentive Program***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 2,912.93 MTCDE. These permanent emissions reductions come from building envelope improvements through air sealing and weatherizations of residential buildings.

**3.      *City Fleet Electrification***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 1700.98 MTCDE. Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 744.18 MTCDE. These permanent emissions reductions come from the transition of internal combustion municipal vehicles to EVs.

**4.      *City Building Electrification***

Expected to reduce GHG emissions by 8,362.514 These permanent emission reductions come from the transition of buildings from fossil fuel heating to those heated and cooled with heat pumps.

**5.      *Workforce Development (referenced identically from 2A)***

There is no available data on quantifying direct emission reductions for workforce development. However, it can be assumed that this funding will increase the number of local individuals available to address the growing demand for pre-electrification professionals. Not only will it support near-term projects, but meeting these demands will also support continued GHG reductions beyond the term of the grant. By building a skilled workforce, we can support all measures' long-term emission reductions and cost-effectiveness, as trained professionals can maintain and implement similar projects.

**C. Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions**

Program	Reduction from 2025 to 2030 (MTCDE)	Project Cost Total	Cost Effectiveness (\$/MTDE)
1. Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities	236.21	\$1,638,969	6,939
2. Pre-Electrification Incentive Program	653.75	\$1,205,101	1,843.
3. City Fleet Electrification	744.18	\$4,007,096	5,385
4. Municipal Building Electrification	2,090.63	\$1,960,171	9378
5. Workforce Development	-	\$1,186,230	-
Total (including Workforce Development)	3724.77	\$9,997,567	2,684
Total (excluding Workforce Development)	3724.77	\$8,811,337	2,366

\*Cost-effectiveness of GHG reductions = (Requested CPRG funding) / (Sum of Quantified GHG reductions from CPRG funding from 2025-2030)

The City of Albany's funding proposal will have a total cost-effectiveness of \$2,684 per MTCDE.

Since the Workforce Development program has a lack of quantifiable data for calculating emissions, for comparison the City has also included an alternative total of \$2,366 per MTCDE which excludes Workforce Development expenditures.

**D. Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions**

See worksheet in attachments

## **Section 3: Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures**

### **A. *Expected Outputs and Outcomes***

#### **1. *Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities***

##### **Outputs**

The main output of this project will be an increase in the energy efficiency of the renovated properties and an increase in the future electrification potential of 50 properties. This increase will be achieved by a combination of direct efficiency measures such as windows or insulation, as well as by the potential reduction of hazardous conditions brought about by such things as asbestos or mold, which prevent electrification. Energy efficiency will be measured by comparing utility bills over time. Each participating property owner will be required to allow the City to access their utility data online. Reports on measurements will be included in the Semiannual and Final Reports, which are also the program's outputs.

##### **Outcomes**

1. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2030 of 236.21
2. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2050 of 3,149.14
3. Reduced energy use in participating properties.
4. Fewer environmental hazards preventing pre-electrification.
5. Number of properties rehabilitated.

#### **2. *Pre-Electrification Incentive Program***

##### **Outputs**

The main output for this project will be an increase in the energy efficiency of the renovated properties, as well as an increase in the future electrification potential of said properties. This increase will be achieved through a combination of direct efficiency measures such as windows or insulation, as well as by the potential reduction of hazardous conditions brought about by such things as asbestos or mold which prevent electrification. Energy efficiency will be measured by comparing utility bills over time. Each participating property owner will be required to allow the City to access their utility data online and reports on efficiency measurements will be included in the Semiannual and Final Reports, which are also outputs of this program.

##### **Outcomes**

1. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2030 of 653.74
2. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2050 of 5,555.13
3. Number of loans disbursed during the grant period.
4. Number of additional homes that will be eligible for electrification.

5. Creation of a revolving loan fund for ongoing gap funding to leverage existing federal and state incentive programs.

### 3. *City Fleet Electrification*

#### Outputs

The outputs for this project are the purchase of various electric vehicles, EV charging infrastructure and related necessary electrical system upgrades. In addition, the City will file Semiannual and Final Reports are required by the grant conditions. This funding will be used to secure the following:

- One electric garbage truck with a DC Fast Charger and battery backup.
- One DC Fast Charger and battery backup with the necessary electrical system upgrades for the Department of General Services building.
- One DC Fast Charger and battery backup with the necessary electrical system upgrades for the Department of Water building.
- One Ford Lightning pickup truck.
- One Ford E-Transit van.
- One Chevrolet Bolt sedan.
- Electric vehicle charging equipment with the necessary make-ready work for the City's fleet of electric golf carts.
- One electric street sweeper.
- Electrical system upgrades for police facilities as a prerequisite for installing DC Fast Chargers.

#### Outcomes

1. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2030 of 744.18
2. Cumulative MT CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from 2025-2050 of 2,445.16
3. The successful purchase of the above-listed goods and services.

### 4. *City Building Electrification*

#### Outputs

The main output for this project is the installation of electric heat pumps of various designs in eight city-owned buildings. Those buildings are Engine No. 10, South End Firehouse, Boxing Gym, Swinburne Park Skating Rink, West Station/Engine No. 4, Center Station, Police Communications, and the Water Department building. In addition, we will be filing updates as part of the grant's Semiannual Reports and Final Report.

#### Outcomes

1. Cumulative MT GHG emissions from 2025-2030 of 2,090.63
2. Cumulative MT GHG emissions from 2025-2050 of 8,362.54

3. Reduced exposure by city workers to indoor air pollution from natural gas systems.

## 5. *Workforce Development*

### Outputs

This program will provide career readiness, assessment of barriers to employment, employment-related training, and services to ensure that program participants have the skills, knowledge, and competencies to achieve their intended career goals. The development of transferable skills and knowledge will be key to helping individuals prepare for careers in the future as the country moves towards being electrified and energy efficient. This program will help train participants for careers such as HVAC technicians, construction, electric vehicle mechanics, and related professions. Semiannual reports will be filed throughout the grant term, and a Final Report will be submitted at the end of the term.

### Outcomes

1. The number of participants enrolled in the program,
2. The number who complete the training course and achieve the related credentials,
3. The number of participants who are successfully placed in jobs,
4. The retention rate of those participants, and
5. The number and type of economic barriers the assistance helps to overcome.

## **B. *Performance Measures and Plan (10 Points)* [see comment for what's needed]**

### 1. *Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities*

There are two main measures that we will use to track, measure, and report progress toward increasing the efficiency of and reducing the hazards in disadvantaged communities. The first is the well-established project tracking program that the Albany Community Development Agency uses to monitor each project's progress (and completion). The second measure may include requiring participants in the program to allow the City access to their utility information and effectively 'benchmarking' the properties being renovated to measure decreases in their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

### 2. *Pre-Electrification Incentive Program*

The main tool with which this program will be measured requires participants to allow the City access to their utility information, effectively 'benchmarking' the properties being renovated to measure decreases in their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by comparing their relative electric and gas use. This is accomplished via "Green Button Direct," in which the municipality becomes an authorized external partner with the local utility.

### 3. *City Fleet Electrification*

A combination of internal data sources regarding vehicle miles traveled and/or fuel usage will be used to track, measure, and report progress toward reducing municipal fleet emissions. In addition, our networked charging platform will allow us to track the kWh of electricity each vehicle uses.

**4. City Building Electrification**

“Portfolio Manager” (the Department of Energy’s benchmarking program) will be used to track, measure, and report progress toward achieving this project's expected outputs and outcomes.

**5. Workforce Development**

Performance measures are tracked utilizing the One-Stop Operating System (OSOS) and Excel spreadsheets to monitor program progress. The Department’s Data and Technical Manager, Wayne Pombrio, oversees all grant performance measures to ensure compliance.

**C. Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones (10 Points)**

**1. Pre-electrification/efficiency upgrades in Disadvantaged Communities**

The Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA) will be responsible for all aspects of administering and managing this program, with the assistance of the Office of Sustainability as needed. ACDA has the authority to carry out the program.

Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
6/24 Award Letter	Upgrade 12 properties	Upgrade 13 properties	Upgrade 13 properties	Upgrade 7 properties
7/24 Post job openings	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File Semiannual Report
1/25 Hire staff				File Final Report
1/25 File Semiannual Report				
Upgrade 5 properties				

## 2. *Pre-Electrification Incentive Program*

The Department of Administrative Services' Office of Sustainability will oversee the project in consultation with the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Albany Community Development Agency. The Office of Sustainability has the authority to implement the program.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
6/24 Award Letter (?)	Upgrade 12 properties	Upgrade 13 properties	Upgrade 13 properties	Upgrade 7 properties
7/24 Post job openings	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File 2 Semiannual Reports	File Semiannual Report
1/25 Hire staff				File Final Report
1/25 File Semiannual Report				

## 3. *City Fleet Electrification*

The Department of Administrative Services' Office of Sustainability will oversee the project in consultation with the Albany Police Department, Department of General Services, and Department of Water and Water Supply. The Department of Administrative Services' Office of Sustainability has the authority to oversee the project in consultation with the departments whose fleets are being upgraded, along with consulting the City's Department of Engineering.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
6/24 Award Letter (?)	6/25 Begin electrical upgrades	6/26 Finish procuring EVs	N/A	N/A
7/24 Post job openings	6/25 File Semiannual Report	6/26 File Semiannual Report		
1/25 Hire staff	12/25 File Semiannual Report	8/26 Finish electrical upgrades		

1/25 File Semiannual Report		12/26 File Semiannual Report		
2/25 Publish RFP for electrical upgrades				
2/25 Procure EVSE installer				
2/25 Begin procuring EVs				
4/25 Review RFP's				
5/25 Award Contract				

#### 4. *City Building Electrification*

The Department of Administrative Services' Office of Sustainability will oversee the municipal building electrification projects in consultation with the Department of Engineering. The Office of Sustainability has the authority to undertake these projects in consultation with the Department of Engineering.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
6/24 Award Letter (?)	6/25 Undertake HVAC upgrades in 2 buildings	6/26 Undertake HVAC upgrades in 2 buildings	6/27 Undertake HVAC upgrades in 2 buildings	6/28 Undertake HVAC upgrades in 2 buildings
7/24 Post job openings	6/25 File Semiannual Report	6/26 File Semiannual Report	6/27 File Semiannual Report	6/28 File Semiannual Report
1/25 Hire staff	12/25 File Semiannual Report	12/26 File Semiannual Report	12/27 File Semiannual Report	12/28 Draft Partial Final Report
1/25 File Semiannual Report				



2/25 Publish RFP for HVAC upgrades				
4/25 Review RFP's and choose vendor				
5/25 Award Contract				

#### 5. *Workforce Development*

The Department of Youth and Workforce Services' Office of Workforce Development will oversee all workforce development projects in consultation with the Office of Sustainability. The Office of Workforce Development has the authority to undertake these projects.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Year Five</b>
6/24 Award Letter (?)	3m Program Planning , Recruitment, and Roll-out	Train quarterly cohorts	Train quarterly cohorts	Train quarterly cohorts
7/24 Post job openings	Train quarterly cohorts	Train 50 participants per year	Train 50 participants per year	Train 50 participants per year
1/25 Hire staff	Train 50 participants per year	Job placement, retention follow-up, and ongoing mentoring	Job placement, retention follow-up, and ongoing mentoring	Job placement, retention follow-up, and ongoing mentoring
1/25 File Semiannual Report	Job placement, retention follow-up, and ongoing mentoring	6/25 File Semiannual Report	6/25 File Semiannual Report	6/25 File Semiannual Report
	6/25 File Semiannual Report	12/25 File Semiannual Report	12/25 File Semiannual Report	12/25 File Final Report

	12/25 File Semiannual Report			
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## **Section 4: Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities**

### **A. Community Benefits**

The City of Albany has a population of 101,008 people as of the most recent U.S. Census estimates. Just under half the population is white and almost 30% is black or African American. The median values of owner-occupied units are \$50,000 lower than the median values in Albany County, and the median household income is approximately \$24,000 less than households living in the County. About 23.3% of the people living in the city of Albany are defined as living in poverty by the U.S. Census. The areas targeted for eligibility for pre-electrification projects are primarily neighborhoods of low-income households and historically underinvested. Implemented Projects will increase the energy efficiency of homes in the area by supporting a growing workforce. These homes are generally older houses (at least 50 years old) and are in areas defined as Disadvantaged Area as defined by the EPA (See Attached Map in Appendix B)

Besides the advantages of reducing energy use in homes, it is in the City's interest to improve the living conditions of its most economically vulnerable residents so that they can stay in their homes and afford to pay for their energy needs. This reduces disrepair and abandonment of homes and stress on other family services provided by the City and others.

The reduction of emissions and improvement of air quality across the City affects residents, especially those who depend on walking and public transportation, as demonstrated in the Worksheet in Appendix A, and will provide for the following tangible benefits over time:

- A reduction of asthma from pollution and a reduction of new cases of asthma and health problems caused by poor air quality.
- Reductions in emissions help mitigate the effects of extreme heat in the summer, especially in areas where residents cannot afford air conditioning units.
- Reductions in emissions help mitigate the loss of homes and vulnerabilities to flooding due to climate change, especially for those near tributaries that drain into the Hudson River.

Improves comfort and safety in older housing units, which may have substandard electrical wiring, fixtures, heating systems, and building envelopes.

Surrounding communities would also benefit as part of the Capital City MSA (which includes Colonie, Rensselaer, Troy, Schenectady, and Saratoga Springs) by learning from Albany's experience and creating similar programs.

In order to mitigate the shortage of qualified personnel for pre-electrification projects, a portion of the allocated funding will be utilized to facilitate trade programs that are currently ongoing. This funding will help to train individuals with the necessary skills and expertise to contribute towards the implementation of an expanding number of pre-electrification projects in the Capital District. Priority will be given to training individuals who may need assistance from the City to find employment and require assistance with the costs of training. Improving local job prospects is also in the best interest of the City because it helps elevate the current standard of living within low-income households. The stability and viability of these households are essential to the City because providing an environment that leads to a better future for these households can reduce disinvestment in their neighborhoods. This program would provide training for entry-level jobs that are in demand and can lead to upward mobility. In addition, trainees will be able to use new skills to compete in a wider job market once the funding for this program is exhausted.

## ***B. Community Engagement***

The outlined initiatives within the Priority Climate Action Plan for the Capital Region represent a strategic approach to addressing climate change while simultaneously fostering community development and economic growth. Integrating public input through meetings and a dedicated website for the plan underscores a commitment to transparency and community involvement in climate action efforts.

### *Pre-Electrification Grant Program*

As the Participating Jurisdiction for HUD's Community Development Program funds, the City of Albany Community Development Agency revitalizes neighborhoods and homes through its management of HUD CPD and other non-federal funds. Over the past fifty years, ACDA's HUD funds have supported home ownership and provided resources for essential home improvements for residents with low- to moderate incomes, including home rehabs, lead-safe rehabs, rental unit rehab assistance for small landlords, home accessibility rehabs for people with disabilities, emergency repairs- including for seniors, and home down payments assistance.

This pre-electrification program, designed to align with the City of Albany Community Development Agency's adherence to HUD guidelines, demonstrates a strategic effort to leverage existing frameworks and resources to maximize impact. By conducting public hearings and analyzing feedback, the city aims to tailor the grant program to meet the specific needs of residents in disadvantaged areas. This approach ensures that the benefits of electrification and climate action reach those most in need but align with broader goals of equity and inclusion in environmental policies.

### *Workforce Development Training Program*

Administered through the city's Department of Youth and Workforce Services, this program highlights the importance of aligning workforce development with emerging economic and environmental trends. The focus on clean energy and green careers responds to both local demand and global shifts towards sustainability. By connecting disadvantaged residents with training and employment opportunities in these sectors, the program seeks to address socioeconomic disparities while contributing to the region's climate resilience and sustainability goals.

## **Section 5: Job Quality**

This initiative stands as a comprehensive program aimed at fostering youth development, skill acquisition, and workforce integration within the building and construction trades. It's a collaborative effort that brings together the Greater Capital Region Building and Construction Trades Council, The Capital Region Workforce Development Board, Hudson Valley Community College, Capital Region BOCES, and the Department of Youth and Workforce Services (DYWFS), focusing on providing young adults with valuable, practical skills and pathways to employment. Below is an outline of how this program will generate high-quality jobs and its significant impact:

### **Key Program Highlights and Their Impact on Job Quality**

- **Conflict Resolution and Violence Prevention:** This aspect of the program, emphasizing essential soft skills, not only contributes to personal development but also fosters safer, more collaborative work environments, which are conducive to higher job satisfaction and productivity.
- **Workplace Introduction and Preparation:** Bridging theoretical learning with practical application ensures participants are well-prepared for real-world challenges, enhancing their adaptability and efficiency in the workplace.
- **Career Identification and Skill Acquisition:** By enabling informed career choices and equipping participants with relevant skills, the program ensures that individuals are not just placed in jobs but are prepared to excel in them, contributing to job quality and career longevity.
- **Income Generation and Career Advancement:** Financial incentives and clear pathways to career progression ensure that participants are motivated and have tangible goals, leading to sustained employment and growth within their chosen fields.
- **Paid Work Experience and Mentorship:** Offered by the Greater Capital Region Building and Construction Trades Council, these elements provide hands-on experience and guidance from seasoned professionals, critical for mastering trade skills and understanding industry nuances, which are essential for securing quality jobs.

### Strategic Implications for Job Quality

- Skill Development and Employment Readiness: The comprehensive training and preparation participants receive equip them with both specific trade skills and broader employability skills, making them highly competitive in the job market.
- Economic and Social Impact: Targeting young adults in disadvantaged communities not only aids individual participants but also has the potential to uplift entire communities, reducing unemployment and contributing to a safer, more economically stable environment.
- Sustainability and Growth: With a focus on in-demand skills and sectors, the program ensures that participants are well-positioned for long-term career opportunities, aligning their personal success with broader industry needs and economic trends.

### Ensuring High-Quality Job Creation

To maximize its impact on job quality, the program must:

- Scale and Accessibility: Expand its reach effectively to include a diverse range of participants without compromising the depth and quality of training.
- Long-term Support: Provide ongoing resources and support for participants, helping them navigate career advancements and industry shifts, ensuring sustained employment and growth.
- Partnership Efficacy: Maintain a strong, coordinated effort between the Greater Capital Region Building and Construction Trades Council and DYWFS, with aligned goals and efficient execution to ensure the program's success and its contribution to job quality.

In summary, this initiative represents a significant investment in the region's future workforce. Its detailed plan is designed to produce not just jobs but high-quality careers for young adults, fostering long-term economic growth and community resilience.

## **Section 6: Programmatic Capability and Past Performance**

### **A. Past Performance**

The first four of these grants are awarded on an ongoing and annual basis. The City of Albany manages the grants through expense monitoring, the filing of annual reporting, and the annual submission of reimbursement packages:

#### **Project Title: Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)**

Assistance Agreement Number: EMW-2020-FF-0118

Funder Agency: FEMA

CFDA: 97.083

Department: Albany Fire Department

Description: The goal of the SAFER Grant Program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Local fire departments accomplish this by improving staffing and deployment capabilities.

**Project Title: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)**

Assistance Agreement Number: 2021-DJ-BX

Funder Agency: Department of Justice

CFDA: 16.73

Department: Albany Police Department

Description: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is a formula grant program that provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement; prosecution and court; prevention and education; corrections and community corrections, including reentry; drug treatment and enforcement; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement; crime victim and witness initiatives; and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

**Project Title: NYS Gun Involved Violence Elimination Initiative (GIVE)**

Assistance Agreement Number: GV21484774

Funder Agency: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

CFDA: N/A

Department: Albany Police Department

Description: The Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative provides state funding to local law enforcement agencies for equipment, overtime, personnel, and provides comprehensive, focused training and technical assistance to those agencies. Agencies participating in GIVE must use Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) as the framework for developing their comprehensive GIVE plan, incorporate procedural justice into all elements of the plan, and implement more than one of the following evidence-based strategies: hot-spots policing; focused deterrence; street outreach; and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

**Project Title: Homeland Security Grant Program - Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI)**

Assistance Agreement Number: WM19153691

Funder Agency: FEMA

CFDA: 97.06

Department: Albany Police Department

Description: The State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) supports state, local, tribal, and territorial preparedness activities in efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, mitigate, and respond to acts of terrorism.

**Project Title: Lead Hazard Reduction Program**

Assistance Agreement Number: NYLHD0446-20

Funder Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

CFDA: FR-6700-N-44

Department: Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA)

Description: Provides lead hazard reduction in homes of families living at or below 80% AMI.

The grant will be completed in October of 2024 and has met all of its benchmarks.

Contact: Yolanda Brown yolanda.a.brown@hud.gov

***B. Reporting Requirements***

Project Title: Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Staff completes biannual reports that include staffing levels, work hours, training, and call volume. Expenses related to new hires, as well as payroll and training expenses, are submitted for reimbursement. The city has filed reports on time, and funding for the next year is contingent on filing reports in a timely manner.

Project Title: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)

The staff files quarterly reports highlighting progress towards completing the grant goals.

Providing details on cost, the number of people assisted through the program, and updates on incentives moving forward. The city has filed all reports in a timely manner and is not behind.

Project Title: NYS Gun Involved Violence Elimination Initiative (GIVE)

It is one of 28 cities in NY that receive funding to reduce gun violence through a select number of approved programs. The city reports annually on the benefits of focused deterrence, hot spots, and street outreach. The grant funding covered the number of gun crimes reduced by the program and the salary information for the officers. The city has reported on time and is up to date on the reporting. Future funding to keep the program active is provided through on-time reporting.

Project Title: Homeland Security Grant Program - Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI)

The city provides annual reports to the Department of Homeland Security. The city has completed reports on time and future funding is provided based through on-time reporting.

Project Title: Repair and Replacement of City Hall Roof

The project will require quarterly reporting, and the first report is due after the second quarter of 2024. Reimbursements are based on on-time reporting and delinquent reporting will cause a delay in payments.

Project Title: Lead Hazard Reduction Program

The grant funding requires quarterly reporting and the city has completed all reports on time during the project. The grant timeframe was scheduled to end in October 2024 but the city has completed all work and submitted the final report.

Project Title: Healthy Homes Production Grant

The grant was just awarded and reporting has not begun. The city is working to complete all items needed to secure a contract.

### **C.      *Staff Expertise***

The City of Albany is a local government and state capital in Albany County, New York. The five projects outlined in this application will be managed by three city Departments: the Department of Administrative Services (specifically the Office of Sustainability), the Department of Community & Neighborhood Services (specifically the Albany Community Development Agency), and the Department of Youth & Workforce Services (specifically the Office of Workforce Development). Resumes for relevant staff are attached.

**Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA)** - managed by Director Michael Foley - has been engaged in the rehabilitation of properties in underserved neighborhoods for more than fifty years. ACDA revitalizes Albany neighborhoods and homes in a variety of ways, through its management of funds received primarily through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Through creative programming, ACDA helps to grow and strengthen our community home ownership and rehabilitation support, to homelessness prevention, and to coordinate with local and regional partners on initiatives that offer economic benefits, education, or creative outlets to our residents and businesses.

**Albany Office of Sustainability** - managed by Director Jason West - strives to incorporate sustainability into all of Albany's planning and projects, from street lights to fleet management to land use planning. Albany has a long track record of working towards a sustainable future, often leading the way for other communities. The City has increased energy efficiency by retrofitting municipal buildings and installing renewable energy options; converted almost 11,000 street lights to low-energy LEDs; implemented complete streets legislation; and promoted cleaner transportation, like bike and car share services, public transportation, and electric vehicle infrastructure, just to name a few efforts. Albany has a particular interest in reducing the emissions that lead to climate change. Albany has undertaken several Greenhouse



Gas Inventories, developed a Climate Action Plan, and undertaken a series of energy-saving policies to reduce emissions.

**Albany Office of Workforce Development** - Managed by Deputy Commissioner Raphael Tucker and Director of Enrollee Services Elizabeth Harris. The Office co-manages 'Career Central' (Albany's Career Center) in partnership with the New York State Department of Labor and the Capital Region Workforce Investment Board. Together they provide a universally accessible workforce development delivery system designed to meet the needs of jobseekers and employers in the Capital Region's emerging economy.