



Community Action Network
PO Box 130076
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0076

P: 734.994.2985 | F: 888.343.4454
info@canwashtenaw.org

**CAN Board of
Directors**

Christine Snyder
Chair

Emily Twanmo
Vice Chair

John Chamberlin
Treasurer

Andy Brush
Secretary

Peter Clark
Director

Joanna Johnson
Director

Fatos Kocer
Director

Gregory Lambert
Director

David Nelson
Director

Linda Imirzian
Director

Dear Dr. Stults,

On behalf of Community Action Network (CAN), it is my pleasure to share this letter of support and commitment for the City of Ann Arbor's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity. This project represents a key and transformational component of our shared work to make the Bryant neighborhood the most sustainable existing neighborhood in Ann Arbor with specific support to usher in a neighborhood-wide transition to sustainable heating and cooling solutions.

For over three years, CAN has been working with the residents in the Bryant neighborhood and the City of Ann Arbor to collectively design what it would look like to make this neighborhood, a predominately low-income, under-canopied, energy-burdened, flood-prone, and landfill-adjacent community, the epitome of sustainability-in-action. Over this time we've worked with residents to plant trees and a food forest, install rain gardens, fundraise to install solar panels and energy storage systems on our neighborhood-based community center, and create a home decarbonization assessment that is free for any resident in the neighborhood. And now we are working with the residents to actively design a transition to a sustainable source of heating and cooling – a district geothermal system capable of providing heating and cooling services for every household – at a price that is equivalent to, if not cheaper, than what they currently pay for fossil gas. To do this, we need to address the large upfront costs associated with transitioning in-home appliances from fossil gas to heat pumps. Unfortunately, given the income constraints in the neighborhood, these upfront costs will make the transition to sustainable heating and cooling out of reach for many. This grant would change that dynamic.

The magnitude of this project is large, but the impact is vast. That is why we're committed to continuing our work to lead public engagement and outreach related to district geothermal and, if this grant is successful, working directly with residents through door-to-door campaigning, neighborhood meetings, and the hosting of a neighborhood advisory committee to ensure the successful implementation of the grant. We are also committed to working directly with the Board of Directors in Forest Hills Cooperative and University



Community Action Network
PO Box 130076
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0076

P: 734.994.2985 | F: 888.343.4454
info@canwashtenaw.org

Townhouses Cooperative to design a public engagement process and educational campaign focused on their transition to sustainable heating based on the lessons learned and experience we've acquired from the work in Bryant. Together, these adjacent neighborhoods will show others throughout the region, State, and nation, what it looks like to equitably transition to clean, safe, healthy, and sustainable heating and cooling solutions. But most importantly, doing it in a way that directly centers the needs and aspirations of residents.

For these reasons and many more, CAN is delighted to support the City's application to the CPRG program and strongly encourage the review committee to fund this project. That said, should you have any questions about our support for this project or the role CAN is prepared to play to ensure successful implementation, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Derrick Miller

dmiller@canwashtenaw.org | 734.994.2985 x101