



March 25, 2024

Angela Tovar
Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Environment
Via Electronic Mail

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

Collective Resource Compost Cooperative supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199M for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Our cooperative helps our customers to combat climate change by making composting easy. We've been providing our container-swap composting service since 2010. We're very happy to be hauling food scraps to the Green Era Campus to support the work of the Urban Growers Collective. We support this application because any reduction in the amount of food sent to landfills means a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and benefits all. Expansion of infrastructure will mean an expansion in the areas that we are able to service. Our co-op is employee- and community-owned with a majority of women owners and many minority owners. Providing more opportunities for our co-op to do this important work will mean more profit to be shared amongst these owners.

The Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal advances highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies that also have strong Environmental Justice benefits. Measures include an Industrial Decarbonization component (for Chicago, Suburban Cook County, and DuPage County) to assist smaller and medium sized businesses, to install energy efficient and electrified equipment, renewable energy, and refrigerant replacement systems, while reducing toxics and air pollution in Environmental Justice areas. The program will also address food waste in Chicago and Cook County through creation of food scrap collection programs and the infrastructure to support them. And it will pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy strategies in public buildings such as schools, libraries and public housing in low income and distressed communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for aggressively addressing climate change.

The proposal shared by the project team to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy is critical for the Chicago region and we look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erlene Howard".

Erlene Howard, Founder and Board President
Collective Resource Compost Cooperative