



Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

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March 27, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199m for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. SWANCC facilitates solid waste management for its 23 member communities representing approximately 800,000 residents to achieve environmentally sound waste disposal and diversion and provide collection programs and education and outreach services that promote waste reduction and recovery and reduce the impact of wasting behaviors on the environment, including through greenhouse gas emissions. The Coalition's proposal will provide important funding and technical support to advance food scrap reduction efforts, a growing area of interest for our member communities as they pursue their climate impact goals. As a municipal joint action agency, we value collaboration and regional approaches such as the Coalition's.

The Chicago/Cook County CPRG 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 City of Chicago / Cook County Coalition's proposal is critical for the Chicago region to drastically reduce our GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy, and we look forward to working closely with the project team to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information.

Sincerely,

Christina Seibert
Executive Director

George Van Dusen
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Karen Darch
Vice Chairman,
Board of Directors

Jon Sfondilis
Secretary/Treasurer,
Board of Directors
Chairman,
Executive Committee

Christina Seibert
Executive Director

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