



smartenergy.illinois.edu | 800.214.7954 | sedac-info@illinois.edu

March 26, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

SEDAC's mission is to reduce the energy footprint of Illinois and beyond. We accomplish this mission with public and private organizations through on-site technical assessments, education and training, research, and program development. Since 2004, SEDAC has provided over 2,700 energy assessments to public and private facilities across the state. Our work is focused on energy efficiency, climate action planning, workforce development, and green business services. We currently serve businesses through the Illinois Green Business Program, helping businesses identify and implement sustainability practices that reduce environmental, health, and cost impacts. We also currently partner with the County of Cook on the EPA Pollution Prevention Grant Program, providing technical assistance and education to businesses in environmental justice (EJ) or low-income communities to reduce pollution (hazardous material, energy use, water use, greenhouse gases, etc).

We support the Chicago/Cook County CRPG Coalition Proposal. It 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, appearing to read "Brian Deal", with a large circular flourish on the left and a smaller circular flourish on the right.

Dr. Brian Deal
Executive Director
Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign