



**ELEVATE**

773.269.4037  
ElevateNP.org

322 S. Green St.  
Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60607

*Via Electronic Mail*

March 28, 2024

Angela Tovar  
Commissioner, City of Chicago Department of Environment

Dear Commissioner Tovar:

On behalf of Elevate Energy (Elevate), I am pleased to support the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for \$199 million for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation (CPRG).

Elevate is a national nonprofit whose mission is to center equity in the climate conversation and ensure that everyone has access to clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities. For 24 years, Elevate has been working in Illinois and the Midwest to design and implement energy efficiency, solar, building decarbonization, and workforce development projects. Elevate programs lower costs, protect the environment, and benefit residents who need them most. Elevate is working with affordable housing owners and homeowners in environmental justice and historically underserved communities to decarbonize homes and community buildings. To date, Elevate has improved nearly 240,000 units of affordable housing through our programs, created over 1,500 jobs, saved families over \$120 million and avoided over 262,000 metric tons of carbon.

The Chicago/Cook County CPRG Coalition application is aligned with Elevate's mission of bringing the benefits of the clean energy economy to the most vulnerable populations in our region. The proposed application 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



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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 "Anne Evens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Anne Evens  
Chief Executive Officer  
Elevate Energy

