



Prairie Research Institute

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
1 E. Hazelwood Drive, MC-676
Champaign, IL 61820-7465

March 20, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a unit of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for approximately \$199,000,000.00 for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. ISTC's mission is to encourage and assist citizens, businesses, and government agencies to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and reduce waste to protect human health and the environment of Illinois and beyond and we support this application because the outcomes will have a positive impact on the state of Illinois and its citizens.

The Chicago/Cook County Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CRPG) Coalition proposal advances highly effective greenhouse gas (GHG) 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 small 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 the creation of food scrap collection programs and the infrastructure to support them. It will also pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy strategies in public buildings such as schools, libraries and public housing in low income and disadvantaged communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for robustly addressing climate change.

The proposal shared by the project team to drastically reduce GHG emissions and catalyze economic opportunities within the clean energy economy is critical for the Chicago metro 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 cursive script that reads 'Debra F. Jacobson'.

Debra F. Jacobson, CSP
Associate Director