



March 26, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Tovar,

The Illinois Green Business Association (IGBA) supports the Coalition application from the City of Chicago and County of Cook for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

IGBA is a 501(c)(3) organization that offers education and programming to help small businesses strengthen their performance through smart, innovative sustainability practices, which can result in greater profitability. Our vision is that a sustainable business culture is the standard practice of economic activity.

Our efforts to minimize pollution in businesses play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of workers and residents in disadvantaged communities, where exposure to pollution frequently surpasses national averages. We support this application because the activities outlined in this grant application will directly empower businesses to implement sustainable improvements by providing them with the necessary expertise and resources to execute these types of projects. Without this vital assistance, many businesses typically opt out of pursuing these sustainable opportunities.

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

Chicagoland region and we look forward to working closely to support this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance or information ([don@illinoisgba.com](mailto:don@illinoisgba.com), 217-278-1160).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donald Schlorff', with a stylized, cursive script.

Donald Schlorff  
Board President, Illinois Green Business Association