

March 21, 2024

Commissioner Katie S. Dykes
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

On behalf of the Capitol Region Councils of Government (CRCOG), I am submitting this letter of commitment for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) individual application requesting federal funding from the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Phase II Implementation Grant to fund the critical implementation-ready climate action measures in the sectors of transportation, buildings, and waste identified in Connecticut's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

The PCAP measures included in the implementation grant application are: 1) a medium and heavy-duty zero emissions vehicles incentive program; 2) replacing diesel-powered idling truck mounted attenuators used in state transportation construction work with solar and battery-powered ZeroRPM® systems; 3) expanding the state's program to remove health and safety barriers for energy efficiency improvements in residential homes and the energy efficiency program; and 4) enforcing compliance with Connecticut's Commercial Organics Recycling Law and funding food waste diversion programs and composting infrastructure for municipalities in the state. This letter includes CRCOG's commitment to continuing to coordinate and engage with the state on the development and implementation of the greenhouse gas reduction measures identified in both the state and regional metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) PCAPs, as we have done since the CPRG planning grants were awarded in summer 2023.

We commit to coordinate and engage on CPRG implementation in the following ways:

- Respond to the CT DEEP's Request for Information to inform the community engagement strategy and Request for Proposals for the participant support costs program.
- Attend one or more CT DEEP-led public meetings per year related to the implementation-ready climate action measures that may include:
 - Providing input on the design, performance measures, and resources required for DEEP and partners to implement the measures; and
 - Providing feedback to DEEP with ideas, contacts, and engagement to help meet Justice 40 and other environmental justice goals for measure implementation.
- Coordinate on the implementation of the CPRG grants to ensure that no CPRG funding will fund the same measure in the same location through the safeguards outlined here:

Safeguards for State individual application and COG/MSA CPRG coalition application.

There is one area of potential overlap between our coalition application for solar and storage deployment for municipally owned affordable housing and CT DEEP's individual application for CPRG funding to expand the existing Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) Program, which removes health and safety barriers to participation in the State's energy efficiency programs. The solar and storage coalition in the CRCOG coalition proposal includes roof repair and replacement as a likely necessary cost of installing the solar on the housing buildings. Roof repair is an eligible activity under the State REPS program as well.

As a safeguard, CRCOG in coordination with DEEP will ensure that no CPRG funding from REPS will be used to do roof repair or replacement on any of the municipally owned affordable housing locations funded by the solar and storage coalition application being led by the Capital Region Council of Governments. We understand there is an existing paper trail DEEP uses to track exact locations referred to the REPS program through the State's weatherization and energy efficiency programs before program funds are used. The solar and storage coalition application has pre-identified likely eligible locations of the municipally owned affordable housing. The coalition application is partnering with the Connecticut Green Bank, which is a quasi-public agency of the State of Connecticut. DEEP sits on the CT Green Bank's governing board. DEEP and the Green Bank regularly partner on clean energy projects and have a detailed understanding of each other's processes, further ensuring a seamless coordination between these two CPRG applications.

CRCOG's close working relationship with chief elected officials and municipal staff in our region will allow CT DEEP to more effectively implement these greenhouse gas reduction measures and facilitate alignment with municipal initiatives. We strongly support CT DEEP's application for additional funding and incentives to implement the critical implementation-ready climate action measures in the state's individual application.

If you have any questions about our strong commitment to this effort, please contact me (860) 522-2217.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: C. Palmer, K. Shiel