

# Western Connecticut

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



March 27, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

### **RE: Letter of Commitment for State of Connecticut's CPRG Projects**

On behalf of Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), I am submitting this letter of commitment for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP's) application for an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase II Implementation Grant (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07) to support climate action measures in the transportation, buildings, and waste sectors, as identified in the state's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

The PCAP measures 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.

With this letter, WestCOG's commits to continuing to coordinate and engage with the state on the development and implementation of the greenhouse gas reduction measures identified in state and metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) PCAPs as we have done since the CPRG planning grants were awarded in summer 2022. WestCOG will:

- Participate in CT DEEP's Request for Information on its Community Engagement Strategy.
- Participate in CT DEEP's Request for Proposals for the Participant Support Costs Program.
- Attend CT DEEP-led public meeting(s) on 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 to avoid duplication of effort.

*(There is one area of potential overlap between the Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) expansion in DEEP's application, which removes health and safety barriers to participating in the State's energy efficiency programs, and the solar/storage MSA coalition application, which is led by the Capitol Region Council of Governments and of which WestCOG is a part. The solar/storage*

*MSA coalition proposal may fund roof repair or replacement on public housing, where such work is necessary for solar installation. Roof repair is also an eligible activity under the State REPS program. The solar/storage MSA coalition has identified all eligible public housing. These locations will be flagged and shared with DEEP, to ensure that any roof work at these properties is funded by no more than one CPRG implementation grant.)*

Our support for this project will assist CT DEEP in implementing these climate action measures, by linking the state's efforts to municipal leaders that make up the state's COGs and thereby promoting alignment and synergy among state, regional, and local actions. Note that the COGs are the lead entities for the three CPRG MSA planning grants awarded in Connecticut.

CT DEEP's plan and implementation strategy for these actions are consistent with the grant program's goals of "achieving significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond", "achieving substantial community benefits, including the reduction of criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants," "complementing other funding sources to maximize greenhouse gas emissions and community benefits" and "pursuing innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be "scaled up" across multiple jurisdictions."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Pickering". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "F" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Francis Pickering  
Executive Director