



New Hampshire Community Loan Fund  
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March 26, 2024

U.S Environmental Protection Agency Office of  
the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund 1200  
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

The NH Community Loan Fund is committed to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and other partner organizations for the proposed New England Heat Pump Accelerator program. This five-year program will create mid-stream incentives at the distributor level to encourage the full replacement of HVAC and water heating systems across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

The NH Community Loan Fund has a long commitment to helping our borrowers access renewable energy and reduce their electrical bills. We have helped four manufactured home, resident-owned communities (ROCs) obtain solar arrays; orchestrated a \$2.6M weatherization program for manufactured homes in New Hampshire (in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative); helped transition formerly homeless veterans into energy efficient manufactured homes; and since 2018, have partnered with solar developers and private companies to install solar arrays in nonprofits (\$3.7M in financing impacting 20 organizations). In 2023, we were awarded a \$750,000 Congressionally Directed Spending grant to help build a megawatt facility that will provide solar power to 400 manufactured homeowners. This will be the largest solar-energy project for affordable housing in New Hampshire.

The NH Community Loan Fund recently submitted a \$1.9M proposal to the US Department of Energy to support a complete energy retrofit for a ROC in a designated Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool Disadvantaged Community. This project involves weatherization, an onsite solar array, and installing heat pumps in homes that qualify (83%).

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health improvements for New England residents. Because of this, many states, including New Hampshire, have prioritized the installation of heat pumps through state policy and energy efficiency rebates. At the same time, there is a gap in the workforce needs. Leveraging the distributor network can increase contractor adoption of heat-pump technology and bring these benefits to customers.

The NH Community Loan Fund is aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to design and manage the proposed program to advance environmental and public health issues in the region. Because of our deep experience in working with homeowners with low incomes in ROCs, the NH Community Loan Fund is well-positioned to support the design and implementation of the program, including connecting the benefits of the program to low-income and disadvantaged communities. Therefore, the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund agrees to work in our region to support deployment and community engagement of the program.

- We agree to provide input in public comments where needed and participate fully in any advisory councils or working groups where the program is discussed.
- We agree to support the coalition partners in achieving meaningful involvement from community and labor groups when our expertise and networks may be helpful.

Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024. Please let us know how we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,  
Steve Saltzman, President and CEO  
NH Community Loan Fund

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