

March 28, 2024

Katherine Dykes, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

RE: Letter of Commitment for EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, New England Heat Pump Accelerator

Dear Commissioner Dykes:

The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) is excited to partner with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for the proposed five-year New England Heat Pump Accelerator. The Accelerator will implement a three-pronged strategy to activate the heat pump supply chain; scale solutions to the specific barriers that low- and moderate-income (LMI) households and disadvantaged communities face in adopting heat pumps; and share data and educational resources across the region.

As the association of air quality agencies in New England, New Jersey, and New York, NESCAUM supports state initiatives to improve air quality and address climate change. Participating in the Accelerator fits squarely within NESCAUM's expertise. In 2021, NESCAUM established the Building Electrification Task Force to address climate and air pollution from the building sector. The Task Force is made up of air, energy, and utility regulators in 13 participating states, including the five New England states participating in this coalition. In February 2024, nine of the Task Force member states signed a multi-state memorandum of understanding (MOU) to accelerate the transition to zero-emission residential buildings.¹ The MOU sets targets for sales of heat pumps in signatory states, commits to the development of an action plan to spur the market for heat pumps, and commits states to continued sharing of information on heat pumps. The Accelerator will directly support achievement of the MOU's targets by transforming the HVAC and water heating markets, so that nearly every space and water heater sold in New England will be a heat pump by 2040.

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health benefits for New England residents. We especially support the Innovation Hub component of the Accelerator, which will dedicate significant funding to overcome barriers for LMI households and disadvantaged communities in all five states in the coalition. The projects funded under the Innovation Hub will tackle electrification challenges for unique buildings, such as mobile homes and multifamily buildings, develop community-based solutions to improve access and affordability, and provide

¹ NESCAUM, "[Accelerating the Transition to Zero-Emission Residential Buildings Multistate MOU](#)," February 2024.

resources to cover gaps in current programs, enabling them to offer heat pump upgrades as part of their package of services.

We will look for ways to engage with the Accelerator to achieve the goals of the program and help to identify pathways for Innovation Hub projects. This could include participating in Advisory Council or other stakeholder meetings, offering technical or facilitation support, providing input, or engaging in other ways that come about as the project is designed and implemented. Additionally, NESCAUM currently convenes an Environmental Justice Advisory Group to guide the work of our Building Electrification Task Force. NESCAUM will foster collaboration between this Advisory Group and the Accelerator's efforts to serve LMI households and disadvantaged communities. NESCAUM has four staff members working either full-time or part-time on zero-emission buildings, and as such has capacity to support the Accelerator.

In our role as a regional convenor, NESCAUM sees tremendous value in bringing the New England states together to align efforts and accelerate progress. Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Coralie Cooper', with a stylized, cursive script.

Coralie Cooper, Deputy Director
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