



Catalyst for Regional Progress

PVPC

Kimberly H. Robinson, MUP
Executive Director

March 27, 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

Dear Hank Webster,

On behalf of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), I am writing to express our commitment to partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and other partner organizations for the proposed five-year *Regional Mid-Stream Heat Pump Program*. This 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 PVPC is the regional planning agency serving the 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire counties of western Massachusetts, and we are committed to decarbonization and the transition to clean, safe, sustainable energy. We have assisted many of our communities with obtaining state and federal funding to decarbonize buildings, including the installation of heat pumps. We have also partnered with organizations to support MWBEs working in the clean energy field.

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 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 technology and flow these benefits to customers.

We are 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. We are committed to prioritizing all disadvantaged and underserved communities within our region, and we will enthusiastically work in our region to support deployment and community engagement.

- 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,

Kimberly H. Robinson, MHP
Executive Director