

City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG

City Manager

March 28, 2024

US 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 CT 06106-5127

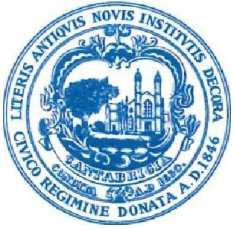
RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Cambridge is committed to partnering 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 achieve these goals through a three-pronged strategy designed to activate the 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.

Cambridge's Net Zero Action Plan, first adopted in 2015 and updated in 2021, lays out a concrete set of policies and programs for decarbonizing Cambridge's buildings and reaching net zero emissions community-wide by 2050 or earlier. A number of the Plan's priority actions, currently underway, are driving the adoption of heat pumps for decarbonization:

- The City launched the Electrify Cambridge program in July 2023, providing residents with no-cost technical advising on a full suite of decarbonization measures, with a key focus on heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. Our advisors help residents compare product options, connect with qualified installers, and access incentives. The program builds on the success of our previous heat pump program and has a target of working with at least 750 households each year. We have exceeded this goal in eight months, a testament to the growing interest in home electrification.
- Last April, Cambridge also established a new pilot partnership with BlocPower to offer electrification retrofits to multifamily buildings with financing and project management. Heat pumps for space heating electrification are a foundational component of these retrofits, and nearly 100 multifamily buildings have engaged with BlocPower to explore their options.
- Cambridge adopted stringent building performance standards for large nonresidential buildings in June 2023, requiring the largest buildings to reach net zero by 2035 and midsize buildings to do



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so by 2050. Reaching these targets will require building electrification, in combination with renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- Earlier this month, Cambridge implemented its Fossil Fuel Free Ordinance, requiring nearly all new buildings and major renovation projects to be built all-electric. Cambridge is one of ten communities authorized by the state to implement such requirements.

The New England Heat Pump Accelerator will be tremendously beneficial to this work. Improved incentives, access to a well-established supply chain for heat pumps, and the overall transformation of the HVAC market are all critical to the success of building electrification, including the policies and programs we have implemented in Cambridge,

Efficient cold-climate heat pumps can also reduce energy costs and offer substantial emissions and health benefits for New England residents. We especially support this proposal for the Innovation Hub, 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, including multifamily buildings, develop community-based solutions to improve access and affordability, and provide resources to cover gaps in current programs, enabling them to offer heat pump upgrades as part of their package of services,

As a city government, 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 can include participating in working group meetings, providing input or feedback, or other forms of engagement that may come about as the project is designed and implemented. We will continue to use our ongoing programs to help connect our residents and businesses with the opportunities made possible by the Accelerator.

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.

City,

Sincerely,

Yi- Huang
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