

April 1, 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,

National Grid is committed 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.

National Grid is a sponsor of Mass Save®, which is a collaborative of Massachusetts' electric and natural gas utilities and energy efficiency service providers who empower residents, businesses, and communities to make energy efficient upgrades by offering a wide range of services, rebates, incentives, trainings, and information. A priority of the 2022-2024 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan is to encourage customers to transition away from using fossil fuel for heating and water heating and to accomplish this, National Grid implements a robust and successful heat pump and heat pump water heating program (HPWH) program. Currently, customer facing rebates for fuel displacing heat pumps are offered via a downstream program delivery pathway; however, National Grid offers a stipend to participating distributors to encourage the stocking and sale of Mass Save program eligible cold climate heat pumps. Incentives for Mass Save program eligible HPWHs are offered strictly through a midstream program delivery pathway that requires the midstream incentive to be passed through to the customer.

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 helping in the implementation and success of the program. We agree to provide input in public comments where needed and participate fully in any working group or advisory councils joined by our members. We agree to support the coalition partners 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Porter', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Porter

Director, Customer Energy Management
National Grid

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