



SIERRA CLUB

Connecticut Chapter
P.O. Box 270595
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March 22, 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 via email

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

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 30,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, we write in strong support of 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.

Connecticut's overreliance on gas, oil, and propane in building equipment like heating equipment and water heaters generates 30% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions and a staggering 23% of Connecticut's total NOx pollution.¹ That's roughly eight times more than all of the state's power plants combined.² Heat pumps can significantly reduce these greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution. According to analysis from RMI, replacing a gas furnace with a heat pump decreases operational GHG emissions from building space heating by 27% in the first year alone and 51% over the heat pump's fifteen-year lifespan, in the average Connecticut home.³

Across the country, heat pumps and heat pump water heaters are rapidly becoming the preferred heating appliances due to their incredible efficiency – two to four times more efficient than fossil fuel water heaters and furnaces and traditional electric resistance equipment. In a warming climate, the cooling provided by heat pumps is increasingly needed. Upgrading to a heat pump can lower utility bills by up to 35% for homes with heating oil or propane furnaces. The average household in Connecticut

¹ https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Connecticut%27s%20Hidden%20Pollution%20Problem_4.pdf

² <https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2020-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>

³ <https://rmi.org/now-is-the-time-to-go-all-in-on-heat-pumps>

can save up to 10% on their utility bills by switching from a fossil fuel water heater to an electric heat pump water heater.¹

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Sierra Club staff and volunteers in Connecticut are actively engaged in education about building emissions and heat pumps, and we advocate for an equitable transition away from fossil fuels to all-electric zero-emission heat pumps. Should this proposal be selected, Sierra Club will continue to engage and mobilize our members, supporters and allies in opportunities for public comment, education, and to participate in an advisory role. We look forward to working with you to equitably reduce emissions in Connecticut's homes and buildings.

Sincerely,
Samantha Dynowski, State Director

¹ https://66f28e57-02e8-44f5-8613-feb302092242.usrfiles.com/ugd/66f28e_0660449308554698b383201f5b9d4f48.pdf

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