



CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

March 27, 2024

U.S Environmental Protection Agency

Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20460

Katherine Dykes, Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street

Hartford CT 06106-5127

Subject: Support for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

The Connecticut Coalition for Economic and Environmental Justice (CCEEJ) is pleased to endorse the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) proposed five-year New England Heat Pump Accelerator project. This initiative aims to address the barriers faced by low- and moderate-income households, including historically marginalized and under-resourced communities, in adopting heat pump technologies.

We are committed to supporting energy efficiency programs focused on reducing energy burdens and increasing access to heat pumps. Some of our efforts include:

- Providing education and outreach on the benefits of heat pumps, including their energy efficiency and cost savings potential.
- Partnering with local organizations and community groups to promote and incentivize the adoption of heat pumps among low to moderate income households.
- Promoting financial assistance and rebates for the purchase and installation of heat pumps, making them more affordable and accessible for those with limited financial means.
- Conducting targeted outreach campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of heat pumps and encourage their adoption in underserved communities.



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- Supporting inclusive workforce policies that support diversity in hiring HVAC professionals.
- Developing partnerships with utility companies to offer special rates or incentives for low to moderate income customers who switch to heat pumps.
- Collaborating with local governments and policymakers to advocate for policies and programs that support the widespread adoption of heat pumps in underserved communities.
- Facilitating access to financing options, such as low-interest loans or grants, to help low to moderate income households overcome financial barriers to installing heat pumps.

We are particularly supportive of the proposed Innovation Hub, which will allocate significant funds towards addressing barriers for LMI households and under-resourced communities across the coalition's five states. Projects funded under the Innovation Hub will target electrification challenges for unique buildings, develop community-based solutions to enhance access and affordability, and provide resources to fill gaps in current programs, enabling the inclusion of heat pump upgrades as part of their service offerings.

CCEEJ is enthusiastic about collaborating with other states to achieve the program's objectives and assisting in identifying pathways for Innovation Hub projects. Our commitment may involve participation in working group meetings, offering input or feedback in an advisory capacity, or engaging in other forms of involvement as the project progresses.

If this funding request is successful, we eagerly anticipate working alongside you on this valuable project starting in mid-2024.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lewis
Executive Director
Connecticut Coalition for Economic and Environmental Justice