

March 30, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Re: Letter of Support for City of Duluth's application to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear Environmental Protection Agency:

This letter is written in support of the City of Duluth's proposal for **City of Duluth: J40 Wastewater Heat Recovery in a Very Cold Climate**. The proposal by the City of Duluth will help to develop a new, low-carbon energy system that will provide customers with affordable and renewable heating for buildings in our cold climate.

Ever-Green Energy develops and operates community district energy systems across the United States. We first partnered with the City of Duluth in 2012 as the operations, maintenance, and management partner for the City-owned Duluth Energy Systems and have since worked closely with them to transform their 90-year old energy system to better serve the community into the future.

The City of Duluth has assembled a team that is dedicated to making this project a success. In addition to backing from the City and Ever-Green, the invested collaboration from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and Ecolibrium3 means that the community and essential stakeholders are well-represented in the project goals and planning. In 2023, Ever-Green Energy was selected by the City of Duluth to conduct initial planning and design for the proposed wastewater heat recovery system. Through this effort and community partnership, we have examined key elements of the proposed system as further detailed in this application. Our team is confident in the feasibility of this transformational project and the potential it has to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Lincoln Park community.

Our role is to advance, modernize, and operate district energy systems in Duluth, MN and across the United States. As we look to the future, projects like the proposed City of Duluth wastewater heat recovery project that are using waste energy within communities to heat buildings will set the example for the nation on how to decarbonize the built environment. We support the public health benefits of decarbonizing district energy. We recognize that project outcomes will help our community reduce emissions and improve air quality, which minimizes impacts on human and environmental health.

Sincerely,



Luke Gaalswyk
President and CEO