



Ecolibrium3
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Duluth, MN 55806
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March 23, 2024

Mindy Granley, City of Duluth
411 W. First St.
Duluth, MN 55802

Re: City of Duluth's DuluthWWHR Application to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Fund

Dear Ms. Granley

Ecolibrium3 is proud to partner on the *City of Duluth: J40 Wastewater Heat Recovery in a Very Cold Climate* application to the EPA for Climate Pollution Reduction Funds. We are excited about the potential of this project to repurpose waste heat from the regional wastewater treatment plant in Lincoln Park for the benefit of our neighborhood. We commit to being a leadership team partner, leading community outreach and engagement, coordinating community communications, serving as a liaison to Main Street Lincoln Park businesses and property owners, referring business to the Commercial REE Grants program, and deepening the project's relationship to our low-income and BIPOC community members through community organizing support from our EPA-supported SEE Justice Fellows Program. In addition, we will serve as a place to refer residents interested in green jobs and energy transition careers as part of our Energy Training Corps.

As you know, there is over \$2.5 billion in transportation investments occurring in LNPK 156 to rebuild the Twin Ports Interchange, Blatnik Bridge, and Highway 35. Although this reinforces important port connections for oversized shipments that enable an American shift to clean energy by better accommodating wind blades and turbines, the **burden** of these efforts falls disproportionately on our low-income Lincoln Park residents. Residents are experiencing the noise and disruption of a decade of heavy highway construction and yet half do not have access to a private vehicle or renewable energy.

The Justice40 Initiative focuses on **40% of the benefit** going to environmental justice communities. An investment in the *DuluthWWHR* project, in alignment with the rebuild of West Superior Street into an active transportation corridor, can mitigate other burdens by providing clean energy and job opportunities in this area of pervasive poverty and reduce GHG, CAPs, and HAPs from local burning of fossil fuels for heat. **With DOT RAISE funding, we have a limited opportunity to transform our energy system into a model that can be replicated in other environmental justice communities!**

Thank you for your leadership and continued approach that centers climate justice. With significant investments that can negatively affect Lincoln Park, we are grateful for a human-scale investment that shows J40 communities can be innovative climate leaders. Please let me know if there are any other ways in which I can support this important effort.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Slick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Slick, Founder and CEO