



Central States Water Environment Association, Inc.

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Illinois – Wisconsin - Minnesota

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Administrative Year 2023-2024

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March 12, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
Selection Committee

Re: Letter of Support
Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas Coalition

Dear Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Central States Water Environment Association (CSWEA), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Chicagoland Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application. The Chicagoland RNG project will capture biogas from publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities in the Chicago MSA, as well as additional landfill biogas, and convert it to renewable natural gas in a way that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG emissions by 2030 and beyond. The project will impact a region spanning 14 counties and three states with a solution that is scalable, replicable, and financially sustainable.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant aims to invest in a cleaner economy that will spur innovation and economic growth while building more equitable, resilient communities. The Chicagoland RNG project exemplifies this mission by working collaboratively across multiple municipalities, states, and agencies to invest in innovative infrastructure that will turn literal waste into a renewable source of energy. Income generated from the sale of captured biogas has the potential to be reinvested for community benefit to provide cost-saving measures for low-income communities and finance additional GHG reduction strategies. The project is anticipated to significantly reduce GHG reductions in a densely populated region plagued by environmental justice issues that remains in non-attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and particulate matter.

CSWEA is a member association of the national Water Environment Federation (WEF) organization that covers Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. We offer multiple opportunities for the exchange of water quality knowledge and experiences among our members and the public, fostering a greater awareness of water quality achievements and challenges. The Chicagoland RNG project aligns with the goals of the CSWEA Resource, Recovery & Energy (R2E) Committee which promotes the understanding of resource recovery and energy management in the clean water industry. The Chicagoland RNG project is an innovative and transformative solution that can be replicated and scaled across our member region. It will become a showcase R2E project representing to CSWEA members and the public what is achievable with the inherent resources available at our wastewater treatment facilities.

97th Annual Meeting
May 13-15, 2024
Schaumburg, IL

Local Arrangements Chair

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Federal funding for the Chicagoland RNG project will advance the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan's goal to combat the climate crisis by aggressively reducing emissions that contribute to climate change. In addition, the project will actively reduce air pollution that negatively impacts human health and the environment of more than 9.6 million residents in the nation's third-largest metropolitan region. This transformational project aligns with President Biden's Justice40 Initiative by ensuring that federal investments benefit vulnerable residents in the most disadvantaged communities across the nation.

For all these reasons and more, CSWEA supports the Chicagoland RNG project, and we highly encourage you to give the Coalition's proposal your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy R. Underwood, P.E.
President

cc: Mohammed Haque, Executive Director

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