

**Climate Pollution Reduction Grants – Implementation Grants**  
**City of Helena Composting Improvement Project Proposal**

**1. OVERALL PROJECT SUMMARY AND APPROACH**

**a. Description of GHG Reduction Measures**

Through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, the City of Helena (City) is seeking funds to expand and improve its current composting operations and greenhouse gas reduction measures. The major features and tasks of the City of Helena's Composting Improvement Project are as follows:

Measure 1: Purchase of composting equipment: Terex CBI 6800CT Grinder

- 5,000 tons of green waste is brought to the City of Helena Transfer Station each year. The Transfer Station is centrally located within Helena near a College campus, the Municipal Golf Course, and the City's largest park. Currently, green waste is collected and piled at the Transfer Station for three to four months before it is eventually ground up, using equipment rented from a local lumber mill. The green waste is then taken to the Lewis and Clark County's compost operation for further processing and finishing. This process has proved to be inefficient, and expensive, which is detrimental to any potential expansion of the program. Large piles and long holding times have caused the green waste to start the composting process while still at the Transfer Station, causing extreme odor. Due to proximity of the Transfer Station to the College, park, and golf course many individuals have experienced the odor issue and are choosing to landfill their green waste instead of composting it so as not to add to the odor issue. The current operation is also very costly as the City pays over \$100,000 annually to rent the needed grinder. Allowing the City to own its composting equipment would support operations as they expand, as the City could process more materials on a more frequent basis.
  - Tasks include working with vendors to purchase equipment.
  - Potential risks include delayed lead times and delay in equipment delivery, reducing potential GHG emission projection.

Measure 2: Improvements to Recycling and Green Waste Collection areas at the City of Helena's Transfer Station, including the construction of a Z-Wall.

- Improvements to the City of Helena Transfer Station will help to:
  1. reduce the amount of contamination that infiltrates the green waste area,
  2. allow for an increase in materials,
  3. provide ease for individuals to drop off their green waste, and
  4. improve the Transfer Station's ability to manage waste in a timely manner.
- The City of Helena has received direction from our waste consultants that the best way to help with these issues is to modify the Transfer Station's green waste area and install a series of Z walls. Z walls are raised concrete structures that allow materials to be directly pushed or loaded into containers stationed below. The installation of Z walls

would allow the City to separate the moist lawn clippings that do not need to be ground, from the branches and woody material that requires grinding. This would also make unloading and separating easier for individuals and hauling more efficient for the Transfer Station employees. These improvements will drastically improve the overall efficiency of composting operations.

- Tasks include the hiring of consultants and or contractors to modify green waste collection area and to design and construct Z-Walls.
- Potential risks include delay in lead times and delay in project start date reducing potential GHG emission projection.

The City of Helena has made waste diversion a priority in its solid waste operations through the implementation of several initiatives and resolutions. In 2021, Resolution 20643 was adopted which established a goal for the City to reduce its solid waste disposal in to landfills by 50% by 2040, with an interim target of 35% reduction by 2030. This resolution also called for the development of a Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction (Strategic Plan), which after extensive studies were concluded, was released in June of 2022. This Strategic Plan, which is specific to the City of Helena and all generators of discarded materials in the community, lays out specific measures the city can take to reduce GHG emissions and waste. Additionally, the City of Helena, in partnership with Lewis and Clark County and key stakeholders, is in the process of developing an Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan (ISWMP). The goal is to evaluate current City, County, and private waste management operations for their efficiency and effectiveness, identifying alternatives to current practices, and identify options for funding sources. These reports together provide overwhelming data and support, for the GHG emission reduction measures outlined in this proposal.

Through an interlocal agreement between the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County, the City manages and operates Solid Waste services throughout the entire city and county. Any waste diversion efforts will benefit both city and county residents, allowing CPRG funding to span across a large area.

The timeline and milestones for the major features and tasks of this proposal are as follows:

#### Year One

1. January 2025: Helena City Commission accepts Climate Pollution Reduction Grant-Implementation Grant for the City of Helena Composting Improvement Project.
2. February 2025: Complete and advertise a Request For Proposals (RFP) to purchase composting equipment.
3. February 2025: Complete and advertise an RFP to hire a contractor for Transfer Station improvements and Z-Wall.
4. March 2025: Review proposals and select a contractor to purchase composting equipment.
5. March 2025: Review proposals and select contractor for Transfer Station updates and Z-Wall.
6. April 2025: Purpose selected contractors to Helena City Commission. Upon awarding of bid, Finalize contracts and place equipment order.

7. April 2025: Purpose selected contractors to Helena City Commission. Upon awarding of bid, Finalize contracts and begin design and construction work at Transfer Station.
8. September 2025: Anticipated arrival of composting equipment.
9. September 2025: Complete work at Transfer Station.

The simplicity of the proposed measures will allow the City to see GHG emission reduction efforts in a short time frame.

The proposed GHG emission reduction measures in the City of Helenas proposal relate to the Waste Reduction Diversion, Measure 1: Develop or Expand Local Recycling and Composting Capacity of the State of Montana Priority Climate Action Plan. Additionally, the measures support Goal 1, "Tackle the Climate Crisis"; and Objective 1.1, "Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change" of the EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. These two reasons, as well as recommendations in the City of Helenas Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction, and the Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan, are the reasons the above measures were chosen as a priority.

**b. Demonstration of Funding Need**

The City of Helena has a strong need for CPRG implementation funding that has been unmet by other funding sources. The City has explored the availability of other federal and state grants, tax incentives, and other funding sources to implement out GHG reduction measures and have applied for all that the projects qualified for. The other funding sources were not sufficient as the City was unsuccessful in receiving those grants. A list of the federal and non-federal funding sources that the City has applied for, secured, and/or will secure to implement the GHG reduction measures as applicable is listed below. The City has not secured partial funding for any of the GHG reduction measure therefore CPRG funds are still needed. The City has reviewed all the funding opportunities on the White House BIL Guidebook and IRA website prior to applying under this announcement. Federal funding sources include:

1. Recycling Education and Outreach: \$293,032.80 Unsuccessful
2. Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling: \$3,289,990.12 Unsuccessful
3. Solar for All: Applied for \$41,250,000 Pending
4. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant- \$76,250 Pending

In 2024, the City was successful in securing a grant through the USDA Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot program. The \$66,317.60 from USDA will be awarded to the City, to deploy a food waste and composting pilot project. This program is intended to help the City gather data and refine operations to see how composting programs will be successful to implement on a larger scale. This grant is a great start; however, it does not provide funding for the projects proposed in this application and is not intended to sustain the City's composting program.

In addition to federal funding, the City of Helena has also utilized state and private funding sources to reduce GHG emissions, this includes:

1. NorthWestern Energy Universal System Benefits- Awarded \$50,000
2. Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Charge Your Ride- Awarded \$17,000
3. Clean Air, Bus, and Equipment Via Volkswagen Settlement- Awarded \$500,000

**c. Transformative Impact**

The City also addresses GHG emissions reduction efforts when planning its yearly budget. In 2023, Helena City Commission directed \$240,000 to be used for a City Facility Solar project. Budgeting for solid waste and recycling projects, however, is a bit more difficult. These types of projects are paid for through Solid Waste assessment fees, and Tipping fees at the Transfer Station and Landfill. In previous years, the City has attempted to increase tipping fees to generate revenue for additional recycling programs, which ended up having the reverse effect. Since costs increased, citizens utilized the Transfer Station less frequently, and revenue dropped. For the City to expand its recycling operations, grant funding is essential. CPRG funding will create significant impact to its community, that won't happen otherwise.

**2. IMPACT OF GHG REDUCTION MEASURES**

**a. The magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030**

Total GHG emissions reductions from 2025 through 2030: 18,780 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>

- 2025: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 2026: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 2027: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 2028: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 2029: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
- 2030: Total GHG emissions reduction: 3,130 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>

Measure 1: Purchase of Purchase of Terex CBI 6800CT Grinder

- Based on trends from the previous 5 years, it is estimated that through this measure, the City could reduce its GHG emissions by 2,215 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> over the next 5 years, with an average of 443 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> per year.

Measure 2: Improvements to Recycling and Green Waste Collection areas at the City of Helenas Transfer Station through the construction of a Z-Wall

- Once completed, it has the potential to reduce emissions by 1,800 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> per year.

**b. The magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050**

All the measures outlined in this proposal will give the Helena Community a solid base to continue GHG emission reduction through 2050.

Total reduction through 2050: 78,250 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>

**c. Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions**

Requested CPRG funding = \$2,161,340

The sum of Quantified GHG reductions from CPRG funding from 2025-2030 = 18,780 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>

Cost-effectiveness of GHG reductions = 115.08

Quantified GHG reductions from CPRG funding = 40,589,965,200

**d. Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions – Up to 10 additional pages as an appendix to the work (see Appendix C of the NOFO)**

The team of consultants hired to complete the City of Helena's Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction, calculated GHG reductions specially for City of Helena Solid Waste operations. For a more detailed explanation of how these estimations were determined, please see "GHG Reduction Assumptions Attachment."

**3. ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS – OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**a. Expected Outputs and Outcomes**

Analysis of landfill disposal composition performed during the City of Helena's Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction suggests that more than 80% of materials in Helena's landfill stream are potentially reusable, recyclable, or compostable (35.9%). At the successful conclusion of this project, it is projected that the City of Helena will increase its diversion rate from 26% to 42%.

Phase 2 waste reduction initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan have the following projected annual diversion:

- Recycling and Composting Infrastructure: 850 tons
  - Proposed CPRG Projects include purchasing composting equipment.
- Self-Haul Diversion Options: 1,280 tons
  - Proposed CPRG Projects include Improvement to Recycling and Green Waste Collection areas at the City of Helena's Transfer Station, including the construction of a Z-Wall

Phase 2 waste reduction initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan have the following projected annual GHG emissions reductions:

- Recycling and Composting Infrastructure: 1330 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
  - Proposed CPRG Projects include purchasing composting equipment.
- Self-Haul Diversion Options: 1,800 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>
  - Proposed CPRG Projects include Improvement to Recycling and Green Waste Collection areas at the City of Helena's Transfer Station, including the construction of a Z-Wall

**b. Performance Measures and Plan**

The City has previously used a software called ClearPath through the organization ICLEI to calculate GHG emissions.

**c. Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones**

In 2020, the City of Helena created a new position within its Public Works Department, dedicated solely to Recycling and Sustainability efforts. The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator will be responsible for keeping projects on track and for all preparation and submission of needed reports.

Timeline:

1. January 2025: Helena City Commission accepts Climate Pollution Reduction Grant-Implementation Grant for the City of Helena Composting Improvement Project.
  - Staff roles: The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator will write up a memo, and present the needed grant information, and project parameters to the Helena City Commission for approval and acceptance.
2. February 2025: Complete and advertise RFP to purchase composting equipment.
  - Staff roles: The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator will write up and publicize an RFP.
3. February 2025: Complete and advertise RFP to hire a contractor for Transfer Station improvements and Z-Wall.
  - Staff roles: The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator will write up and publicize an RFP.
4. March 2025: Review proposals and select a contractor to purchase composting equipment. Finalize contracts and place orders.
  - Staff roles: The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator, Solid Waste Superintendent, and Landfill Coordinator will review all proposals and select qualified vendors to purchase equipment from
5. March 2025: Review proposals and select contractor for Transfer Station updates and Z-Wall. Finalize contracts and begin work.
  - Staff roles: The Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator, Solid Waste Superintendent, and Landfill Coordinator will review proposals and select qualified candidates for the project.
6. April 2025: Upon awarding of bid by the City Commission, finalize contract and place order.
  - Staff roles: Helena's City Manager, Public Works Director, and City Attorney will all review, approve, and sign the contract. The selected contractor will also review, approve, and sign the contract, as well as submit the necessary paperwork to the City (insurance, permits, etc.)
7. April 2025: Upon awarding of the bid by the City Commission, finalize contract for Transfer Station updates.
  - Staff roles: Helena's City Manager, Public Works Director, and City Attorney will all review, approve, and sign a contract. The selected contractor will also review, approve, and sign the contract, as well as submit the necessary paperwork to the City (insurance, permits, etc.,)
8. May 2025: Once contracts are finished, equipment may be ordered.
9. May 2025: Once contracts are finished, work can begin at the Transfer Station.
10. September 2025: Anticipated arrival of composting equipment.
  - Staff roles: Submit invoice for equipment.
11. September 2025: Complete work at Transfer Station Z-wall.

- Staff roles: Final walk-through of project, submit invoice.

#### 4. LOW-INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

##### a. Community Benefits

In the late 1800s, mining for gold, lead, and copper turned the City of Helena into a bustling boom town. The concentration on wealth in the community allowed for the creation and construction of a dynamic infrastructure system. In the last 200 years, this infrastructure has deteriorated, resulting in modern-day low-income housing, degraded neighborhoods, and lower property values.

According to the Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool, 11% of the City's population, 3880 residents, meet the following disadvantage criteria:

- 69<sup>th</sup> percentile for Low Income,
- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for Proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities,
- 98<sup>th</sup> percentile for Underground Storage Tanks and Releases.

According to EPA's Environmental Justice Screen, the 32,247 residents residing in Helena City limits meet the following disadvantage criteria when compared to the rest of the nation:

- 70<sup>th</sup> percentile for Proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities,
- 76<sup>th</sup> percentile for Wastewater Discharge,
- 87<sup>th</sup> percentile for Underground Storage Tanks,
- 69<sup>th</sup> percentile for Hazardous Waste Proximity,
- 74<sup>th</sup> percentile for Superfund Proximity,
- 69<sup>th</sup> Percentile for Cancer
- 69<sup>th</sup> percentile for Flood Risk
- 91<sup>st</sup> percentile for Wildfire Risk

Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

According to EPA's Environmental Justice Screen, the 70,340 residents residing in Lewis and Clark County meet the following disadvantage criteria when compared to the rest of the nation:

- 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for Wastewater Discharge,
- 76<sup>th</sup> percentile for Underground Storage Tanks,
- 79<sup>th</sup> percentile for Superfund Proximity,
- 78<sup>th</sup> percentile for Flood Risk
- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for Wildfire Risk

Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

As you can see, wildfire risk is the largest disadvantage criteria to both the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark residents. When wildfire strikes, low-income residents feel the effects more

drastically. If a low-income resident is asked to evacuate their home due to wildfire, they may not have the means to travel far, rent a hotel room, or take leave from work. If their home is damaged or destroyed due to wildfire, they may not have the means to repair or rebuild.

Additionally, when a wildfire is burning, it can emit large amounts of GHG into the atmosphere. The proposed CPRG grant aims to reduce the amount of excess yard debris and overgrowth, ultimately mitigating and preventing the potential effects of wildfires.

In addition, the City of Helena has recognized waste reduction and diversion as an effective way to improve disadvantaged communities. An expanded and improved compost program would have the following direct and indirect benefits to the entire Helena community, but more specifically to the 3880 residents located in the CEJST Census tract:

- Reduction in the number of overflowing garbage bins, reducing the presence of vermin, and improving community and housing quality.
- Reduce impediment of debris from stormwater inlets and drains.
- Increased longevity of the community's landfill.
- Improve soil quality and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Reduction in GHG emissions from decreased green waste going into the landfill.
- Reduction of the need to increase yearly solid waste fees, indirectly improving financial security specifically in lower-income families.

All City of Helena residents pay the same amount in Solid Waste Fees. For only \$179.60 a year, residents have convenient garbage services, dispose of an additional 3,000 pounds of trash, and drop off all recyclables at the Transfer Station. If Solid Waste fees needed to be increased for any reason, lower-income residents would be affected the most.

## **b. Community Engagement**

The City of Helena prioritizes community engagement in every aspect of its operations. Community outreach and engagement was a high priority in the development of the City of Helena's Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction. At the outset of the planning process, the City issued a media alert to inform the community about the opportunity to help identify community-led solutions for reducing waste and increasing reuse, recycling, and composting within the Helena community. Subsequent media alerts coincided with two virtual community planning events that took place in February and March 2022. Community input was instrumental in the selection of the Strategic Plan's waste reduction strategies with more than 100 residents participating in those events. The City launched a dedicated page on the "Be Heard Helena" website to provide an online opportunity for residents to engage with the planning process. At the close of the online engagement period, 225 residents had responded to the "Be Heard Helena" survey and 21 ideas had been posted on the Idea Board.

Between December 2021 and April 2022, the consultants interviewed 22 stakeholders representing local and regional reuse, recycling, and composting infrastructure, private collection service providers, large employers, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Conversations with these representatives provided valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges of waste reduction in Helena from a variety of perspectives. Five presentations followed by Q&A sessions about the project occurred with community groups and public agency bodies including the Helena Citizen Conservation Board,



Hometown Helena, Downtown Helena Inc. General Membership, Helena Business Improvement District trustees, and the City/County Consolidated Parks Board. Groups received customized presentations to highlight relevant waste reduction opportunities.

Additionally, in 2022, the City of Helena in partnership with Lewis and Clark County hired a team of consultants to develop an Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan (ISWMP). The goal of this master plan is to evaluate current City, County, and private waste management operations for their efficiency and effectiveness, identify alternatives to current practices, and discuss options for funding sources. In January of 2023, a communication plan was developed that paved a clear path on how the information would be communicated to both the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County and its residents. The goal of the plan was to optimize public engagement, broadly reach the impacted area, and create clear talking points for steering committee members, City and County Leadership, and others involved in the development of the ISWMP. The plan also noted ways to gather feedback and engage the community, which included a "Be Heard Helena" virtual survey, a physical copy survey, as well as Hybrid in-person and virtual open houses. The results of this ISWMP will be completed and released in July 2024.

Survey results from Phase One of this plan concluded that 55% of respondents are wanting to see "more diversion opportunities in the Helena Community." All this combined income is the reason the City feels so strongly in pursuing this grant.

## **5. JOB QUALITY**

The City of Helena is home to world class fly fishing, water activities and boasts the States largest City park with over 1800 acres of natural, undeveloped park land. Local breweries, hand churned ice cream parlors, and farm-to-table restaurants make this City a number one destination for living and raising a family. This slow-paced ease of lifestyle has also brought an influx to the highly skilled labor force, with a dedication to job quality and standards. The City of Helena is confident that the current staff, and local available contracts will successfully implement the GHG measures outline in the proposal, in an efficient and effective manner.

## **6. PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY AND PAST PERFORMANCE**

### **a. Past Performance**

The City of Helena manages several grant funded projects awarded by both government and non-governmental organizations. Below is a selection of grants ranging in size from \$74,000 to \$8.5 million, awarded to the City of Helena in the past three years indirectly, all of which have been funded by a federal agency. In general, the City of Helena receives grants primarily from county, state, and federal agencies.

#### **1. Project Title: Violence Against Women Detective Personnel Support**

- Assistance agreement number: 23-W02-1485
- Federal funding agency and assistance listing number: U.S. Department of Justice (Passed through MT Board of Crime Control); 16.588.

- Brief description of the agreement: Violence Against Women Grant partially supports the Violence Against Women Detective position.
  - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement: Maureen Leo.
2. Project Title: Transit Support
- Assistance agreement number: 5311-111297
  - Federal funding agency and assistance listing number: U.S. Dept. of Transportation (Passed through MT Dept. of Transportation); 20.509.
  - Brief description of the agreement: Formula Grant for Rural Areas supports bus operations.
  - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement: Sandra Straehl.
3. Project Title: Local Government Recovery
- Assistance agreement number: MT2502
  - Federal funding agency and assistance listing number: U.S. Dept. of Treasury; 21.027.
  - Brief description of the agreement: ARPA funding; Claimed all as Revenue Loss expensed on government services.
  - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement: Jessica Kessler, MT Dept. of Admin. Contact.
4. Project Title: Capital 360 Fuels Reduction
- Assistance agreement number: 16-PA-11011500-039
  - Federal funding agency and assistance listing number:
  - Brief description of the agreement: Schools & Roads – Grants to States Program Funding to support tree thinning, slash piling, and mechanical chipping in the WUI around the city of Helena and on private and city-owned lands around the city's key drinking water sources.
  - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement: Kendra Wilson.
5. Project Title: MT Analytical Technical Information Center (formerly MT All Threats Intelligence Center) Personnel Support
- Assistance agreement number: EMW-2021-SS-00042
  - Federal funding agency and assistance listing number: U.S. Dept of Homeland Security (Passed through MT Dept. of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services); 97.067.
  - Brief description of the agreement: Homeland Security Grant Supports MT Analytical Technical Information Center Detective Position
  - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement: Pamela Fruh.

**b. Reporting Requirements**

The City of Helena is subject to an annual independent auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance of each major federal program and report performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The City's major federal programs auditor's results can be on page 193 of the document linked below.

[City of Helena Comprehensive Financial Report](#)

For all the grants listed above, the City has all filed required reports, along with our audited schedule of federal awards and financial reporting for bond covenants appropriately and on time.

**c. Staff Expertise**

The City of Helena Solid Waste Division provides residential and commercial solid waste collection, recycling collection services as well as operates and maintains the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station operates seven days a week and is seen as the centrally located and convenient drop-off location for all 33,540 community residents, 665+ commercial accounts and haulers. In addition to the Transfer Station, the City services six outlying recycling collection locations.

- Pete Anderson is the City's Solid Waste Superintendent and has over 30 years of experience with solid waste collection and recycling services in the City.
- Jacki Pierson is the City's Landfill Coordinator and has 8+ years of experience with compost operations. Including operator compost training, collection and reporting temperatures, recording material volumes, and compost analytics.
- Miranda Griffis, Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator, has 1 year of experience. Though new to the operation, she brings fresh ideas and motivation in the composting operation.

The City has a rigorous RFP process when selecting contractors and consultants and is confident that the staff can work together to select a highly skilled company to complete needed project activities.

**7. BUDGET (OPTIONAL BUDGET SPREADSHEET AND UP TO 10 ADDITIONAL PAGES MAY BE ADDED IF NEEDED AS AN APPENDIX TO THE WORKPLAN)**

**a. Budget Detail**

Please see Budget Narrative for detailed budget information.

**b. Expenditure of Awarded Funds**

The City of Helena has already taken the necessary preliminary steps to ensure that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. The information contained in both the Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction, and the Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan, uses evidence-based research, consistent public input, and extensive cost breakdown to support the measures outlined in this proposal. Extensive work has already been done, and there is overwhelming support for the measures outlined in this proposal which makes the City feel confident that it can execute funds in a timely manner. Additionally, In 2020, the City of Helena created a new position within its Public Works Department, dedicated solely to Recycling and Sustainability efforts. This staff member, with the support of additional city staff, has the

expertise and resources readily available to excuse grant funding in a timely and efficient manner.

**c. Reasonableness of Costs**

The probable costs outlined in the "Additional Budget Justification" reflect similar projects completed in Montana, and therefore are a good representation of potential costs. These costs were calculated in October 2023, and are reflective of current markets within our geographical location, making them very reasonable.

Extensive work has gone into the construction of both plans, which also support the measures outlined in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and the State of Montana's Preliminary Climate Action Plan.