



TAB

Technical Assistance to
Brownfield Communities

Letter of Commitment

Re: New Jersey Institute of Technology Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Commitment for Mid-Hudson Municipal Landfill Emissions Mitigation Application to the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

To: Carla Castillo, Executive Director - Hudson Valley Regional Council

From: Cailyn Bruno, Director – NJIT TAB

Dear Ms. Castillo:

New Jersey Institute of Technology Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (NJIT TAB) commits to participating in and supporting the proposal being submitted by the Hudson Valley Regional Council for the Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. As the TAB provider for New York, NJIT TAB understands the importance of redeveloping brownfields for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate change. We are eager to support these Mid-Hudson municipalities working to significantly reduce emissions from their closed landfills, which are currently **vacant or underutilized contaminated properties**.

The Mid-Hudson Region has a high number of small municipal landfills and is an excellent candidate to implement a biofilter solution to reduce the emissions from these landfills. This proposed project funding is critical for beneficial reuse of these properties, because otherwise municipal dumps are a category of brownfields that are often ineligible for other types of funding and **persist for decades without redevelopment**. According to the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool, **20% of the residents in this region live in disadvantaged tracts** meeting at least one and up to 10 burden thresholds, including threat of agriculture loss, building rate loss, energy cost, and high rates of asthma. Data show that low-income, linguistically isolated, and those without high school education in the mid-Hudson Region are **vulnerable to the impacts of climate change**. This project has the potential to go beyond the reduction of municipal GHG emissions by stabilizing energy prices for residents, improving air quality, reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff, lowering land surface temperatures, and creating quality habitat.

This project aligns with climate action plans already initiated through NY state sustainability programs such as Climate Smart and Clean Energy Community designations. NJIT TAB will provide community engagement support for outreach, educational programming, and site reuse visioning sessions,

particularly to disadvantaged communities throughout this project. NJIT TAB will also facilitate practitioner learning sessions, such as panels at regional or national conferences.

NJIT TAB supports the goals of Hudson Valley Regional Council's proposal for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program and we look forward to being part of the project if selected. This proposal has the potential to significantly reduce GHG emissions in the region. Additionally, this multi-municipal effort will help New York State meet the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as well as the United States' goal to reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030.

Respectfully submitted,

Cailyn Bruno, PG, LSRP
Director, Environmental Services
NJIT Center for Community Systems, NJIT TAB