

March 28, 2024

Executive Dow Constantine
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Support for King County's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue MSA (**Accelerating Equitable Building Decarbonization throughout the Building Lifecycle**)

Dear Executive Constantine:

On behalf of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), I am pleased to convey strong support for King County's application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The proposal works across the building sector to decrease climate pollution, fill gaps in current state and federal programming, and increase community resilience and high-quality jobs for the most vulnerable populations in our region. Climate pollution from the building sector has been a focus of Puget Sound Energy for decades by encouraging and educating our customers to use less energy and use energy more efficiently, and this proposal's focus on transitioning fossil fuel systems in buildings to efficient electric heating systems will help provide more opportunities to deliver these benefits.

King County has committed to implementing programs in a collaborative way to ensure the benefits of this investment show up in communities across our region and leverage existing programs in these sectors. PSE staff commit to supporting this work through the life of the grant by working with King County and the program implementation teams to:

- Connect program staff and project teams to PSE multifamily and small commercial incentive programs to provide equipment and implementation expertise to maximize energy efficiency and customer benefit;
- Help use existing communication channels to connect building owners across our service territory to these programs to maximize uptake and are equitably distributed;
- Leverage PSE experience and tools to better identify and track participation and benefits to customers in Named Communities¹;

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Named Communities include both Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations:

Highly Impacted Communities are designated by the Department of Health based on the cumulative impact analysis required by RCW 19.405.140 or a community located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country," as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

Vulnerable Populations are communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.



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PSE staff have decades of expertise in managing programs to reduce energy and emissions in multifamily and small commercial buildings that can inform successful implementation of these proposed programs. PSE has been an early leader in addressing climate change, investing billions in renewable resources and energy efficiency for homes and businesses. PSE has been a national leader saving 67 billion electric kWh and 600 million natural gas therms through energy efficiency programs since the inception of our programs that help our customers save energy. PSE is committed to helping ensure benefits accrue to low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) and implementation maximizes equity outcomes in our service territory.

King County has a strong track record of working with partner jurisdictions and utilities to implement programs that benefit the region and PSE is committed to supporting these programs throughout the life of the grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Aaron August'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Aaron August
Senior Vice President, Chief Customer & Transformation Officer
PUGET SOUND ENERGY