



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Mahony,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice & Equity (OEJE) within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), I am writing to express our enthusiasm for partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application. We are committed to working with MA DOER in its effort to support medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification in Massachusetts and the application's goal to equitably benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.

While medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles in Massachusetts represent around 5% of total vehicles on the road, they contribute approximately 20% of on-road transportation greenhouse gas emissions and almost all of on road diesel particulate matter emissions. In addition, the emissions from these vehicles are inequitably concentrated in urban and federally designated low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs), disproportionately affecting the health of residents in those communities.

In the CPRG proposal, MA DOER has proposed a set of comprehensive and effective strategies that will address the many electrification challenges faced by fleets and enable the Commonwealth to achieve the substantial emissions and pollution reduction goals outlined in the CPRG application. If awarded, this program will support an accelerated transition to zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles among fleets throughout the Commonwealth through enhanced electric vehicle rebates, technical and financial support for charging infrastructure, expanded fleet advisory services, LIDAC-based outreach and engagement efforts, and workforce development programs targeting training for essential electric vehicle maintenance and repair.

MA OEJE will directly support both the outreach and engagement and LIDAC prioritization components of the MA DOER CPRG program through a host of commitments, including:

- Support MA DOER to help launch and manage a competitive process to select and work with various CBOs with geographic, language, and cultural diversity to play a key role in conducting outreach to fleets with direct impacts on LIDAC communities.
- Solicit input and feedback from CBOs on program design issues, such as how to define equitable investments, how to encourage a diverse workforce, etc.
- Partner with community-based organizations to identify transportation hot spots or specific fleets that are a priority for electrification and develop effective outreach and communication strategies.
- Conduct (or participate in) community meetings and events regarding the importance of reducing diesel emissions and how communities can take advantage of state and federal programs to support vehicle electrification, while ensuring a sensitivity to the dates and times, taking into consideration working families (e.g., work towards ensuring that childcare is available at all in-person community meetings and assist with transportation or provide transportation reimbursement).
- Work directly with, and provide compensation to, CBOs to conduct targeted outreach to:
 - Private fleets that have been identified as important environmental justice priorities
 - Non-profit community institutions that use MHD vehicles, considering opportunities to support vulnerable populations, such as schools, hospitals, religious institutions, youth and senior citizen centers.
- Provide community input as we build our relationships with public health researchers looking into quantifying the benefits of MHD vehicle electrification for LIDACs and for workers, e.g. providing feedback on program design, identifying projects that could work as case studies for research.
- Translate all materials into Massachusetts top ten languages and to have translators at in-person and virtual/hybrid meetings.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has proven to be committed to the decarbonization and electrification of Massachusetts and its fleets specifically. MA OEJE is excited about the possibility of joining MA DOER to implement this important and far-reaching program. As evidenced by its oversight of the MOR-EV medium- and heavy-duty rebate program, as well as other related programs, we believe MA DOER has demonstrated a clear ability to manage this CPRG grant and all its components. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



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