



**MAYOR**  
JON MITCHELL

## **City of New Bedford Conservation Commission • Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship**

133 William Street • Room 304 • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Telephone: (508) 991.6188

**Conservation • Energy • Environmental Stewardship • Resilience**

March 25, 2024

Elizabeth Mahony  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge St. 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Mahony,

On behalf of the City of New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, 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 on road diesel particulate matter emissions. In addition, the emissions from these vehicles are inequitably concentrated in urban and 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 application. 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, this project, if awarded, will definitively support an accelerated transition to zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles among fleets throughout the Commonwealth.

New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship works closely with the City's Departments of Public Infrastructure and Facilities and Fleet Management to maximize the efficiency of the City's municipal fleet, replacing passenger vehicles with EVs as the existing petroleum fleet ages out. We were also awarded an EPA Clean School Bus Grant to replace 14 school buses with new electric buses. We also received funding to design and build a charging depot, for which the Request for Proposals will be issued in the next two weeks.



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New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship will directly support both the outreach and engagement and LIDAC prioritization components of the MA DOER CPRG program through a host of commitments, including:

- Commit to partner with community-based organizations and MA DOER on outreach to and recruitment of fleets.
- Engage with fleets in the community and support state efforts to effectively communicate with them on the opportunities of the program.
- Prioritize the participation and recruitment of fleets that operate or garage vehicles within a LIDAC area.
- Provide ongoing feedback on the program and provide recommendations on any components that could be altered to be more effective.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has proven to be committed to the decarbonization and electrification of Massachusetts and its fleets specifically. New Bedford's Department of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship 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 don't hesitate to call my office at 508-979-1487 or [michele.paul@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:michele.paul@newbedford-ma.gov) with any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Sincerely,



Michele Paul, LSP

Director, Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, City of New Bedford

