



comedSM

AN EXELON COMPANY

March 29, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
RE: Letter of Support for MMC LEEP Application
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith,

Please consider this our formal letter of support for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' (MMC) proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models." The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

ComEd is focused on building a clean energy future in support of Illinois' ambitious goals to decarbonize its economy, including supporting our customers and communities in efforts to electrify their equipment to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve air quality and health outcomes, and make our communities more resilient in the face of disruptive events. The LEEP project is therefore well aligned with our mission and objectives.

We support the Caucus' intent to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project and expect to support LEEP by participating in discussions about lawn and garden equipment (LGE) electrification and exploring how the learnings from this effort could inform future Beneficial Electrification (BE) efforts after the compliance filing of our first BE Plan in 2023.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application, which will enable communities in Illinois to benefit from the clean energy transition.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Scott Vogt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Vogt
Vice President, Strategy & Energy Policy
ComEd
1919 Swift Drive
Oakbrook, IL 60523



COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Environment &
Sustainability

Deborah Stone

Director

(312) 603-8204

Deborah.Stone@cookcountyil.gov

69 W Washington

Suite 1900

Chicago, Illinois 60602

TONI PRECKWINKLE

President
Cook County Board
of Commissioners

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1st District

DENNIS DEER
2nd District

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JOHN P. DALEY
11th District

BRIDGET DEGNEN
12th District

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13th District

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14th District

KEVIN B. MORRISON
15th District

FRANK AGUILAR
16th District

SEAN M. MORRISON
17th District

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) is pleased to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment and replace with zero emission electric models.

DES is an environmental regulatory agency in air and land pollution for suburban Cook County (134 municipalities and nearly 2.5 million residents). The department regulates emissions from commercial and industrial facilities and solid waste facilities, conducts solid waste inspections on behalf of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and develops the Solid Waste Management Plan.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with the department's mission and objectives to *reduce emissions of hazardous air pollution harming respiratory health; and to support communities in achieving regional and local climate objectives.*

Therefore, DES commits to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded their grant request, the department will participate in the grant projects as a subrecipient. DES's involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and the department will actively participate in its strategic design. DES is developing a household hazardous waste take-back facility on the campus of South Suburban College, and looks forward to discussions on how that facility can support the goals of the MMC's program.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application.

Sincerely

Deborah Stone
Director



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Deborah A. Conroy
Chair

District 1

Cindy Cronin Cahill
Michael Childress
Sam Tomatore

District 2

Elizabeth Chaplin
Paula Deacon Garcia
Yeena Yoo

District 3

Lucy Chang Evans
Kari Galassi
Brian Krajewski

District 4

Grant Eckhoff
Lynn LaPlante
Mary FitzGerald Ozog

District 5

Sadia Covert
Dawn DeSart
Patty Gustin

District 6

Sheila Rutledge
Greg Schwarze
James Zay

DEBORAH A. CONROY
County Board Chair

630-407-6060
chair@dupagecounty.gov

March 27, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Director Makra,

DuPage County is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

DuPage County is committed to making the County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Part of that commitment is requiring DuPage County to lower air pollution, which this project aims to do. This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with DuPage County's strategy in lowering greenhouse gas emissions and providing a healthy environment for its residents.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will participate as a subrecipient. Our involvement will be a critical to the success of the program, and we actively participate in its strategic design. DuPage County expects to support LEEP by implementing this program through event holding and advertising.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Conroy
Chair
DuPage County

FARMWORKER &
LANDSCAPER
ADVOCACY
PROJECT



PROYECTO
DE AYUDA PARA
TRABAJADORES
DEL CAMPO Y
JARDINEROS

100 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2500
Chicago, IL 60602
1740 Ridge Ave., Suite 117
Evanston, IL 60201
info@flapillinois.org
1-888-451-3527
www.flapillinois.org

March 15, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project-Proyecto de Ayuda para Trabajadores del Campo y Jardineros-FLAP is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our organization earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago Metropolitan Region.

It is **FLAP** understanding that The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models. This is something that highly concerns **FLAP** because of its mission to improve working conditions and opportunities for low-wage workers and their households in the landscaping and snow plowing industries through advocacy, community outreach and education, and information and referrals free of charge.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with **FLAP** mission and objectives to protect low-wage workers who are persons of color from harmful pollution impacts; reduces emissions of hazardous air pollution harming respiratory health and reduces environmental pollution from the landscaping industry.

Therefore, **FLAP** commits to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded their grant request, we will participate in the grant projects as a subrecipient. **FLAP** involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and the organization will actively participate in its strategic design. **FLAP** expects to support LEEP by providing community outreach and education, translation and interpretation services.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Sossa, FLAP Bilingual Executive Director
asossa@flapillinois.org



March 27, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

On behalf of Go Green Illinois, we are pleased to offer this letter of commitment for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP). Go Green Illinois intends to collaborate towards the success of the Project, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

We are pleased that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to reduce emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

Go Green Illinois is an affiliation of community-based environmental advocates and advocacy groups in 40 Chicagoland suburbs. We began discussing gas-powered leaf blowers a decade ago. In 2019, we organized the first of several multi-community meetings on the topic, and invited municipal staff and elected officials to participate. This effort led to the formation of the Regional Leaf Blower Working Group (Working Group) in 2021. The Working Group studied the impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers, alternative technologies and how communities could mitigate the impacts of this equipment.

The Working Group was comprised of elected and appointed officials, professional municipal staff, and representatives of the landscape industry. The Working Group utilized consultants, the American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) & Quiet Communities to assist with technical components of the report. A Final Report was produced in December 2022 which provided recommendations for phased local regulation with seasonal consideration. The Working Group also identified a need for a buy-back or incentive program like that proposed through LEEP.

The Priority Strategy and LEEP approach aligns with Go Green Illinois' objectives. Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project.

Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will advise the Caucus on program design and share information about the program with our member groups in 40 Chicagoland communities. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and we have actively participated in its strategic design. We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application.

Sincerely,

Beth Drucker and Kim Stone

Beth Drucker and Kim Stone, Co-Chairs

March 27, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a unit of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

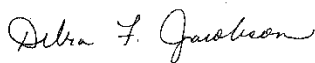
The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

This effort is aligned with ISTC's mission, which is to encourage and assist citizens, businesses, and government agencies to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and reduce waste to protect human health and the environment of Illinois and beyond. ISTC integrates applied research, technical assistance, and information services to advance efforts in the areas of pollution prevention; water and energy conservation; and materials recycling and beneficial reuse.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will participate as subrecipient. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and we will actively participate in its strategic design. ISTC expects to support LEEP by providing overall program and execution support and assistance.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application.

Sincerely,



Debra F. Jacobson, CSP
Associate Director

March 22, 2024

Edith Makra
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W. Van Buren St., Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Ms. Makra,


On behalf of The Lake Michigan Air Director's Consortium (LADCO), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) proposal to the U.S. EPA for an Implementation Grant under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. MMC's proposed strategy to transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low- and zero-emissions models has the potential for near- and long-term beneficial impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and on criteria and hazardous air pollutant emissions. These impacts will benefit Chicago, our region, and in particular, our neighbors who are already overburdened by air pollution and by the effects of climate change.

LADCO is a Chicago-based 501(c)(3) air quality research and planning organization that provides technical assistance to our member states on problems of urban to regional-scale air quality. Our membership includes state air agencies for Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. LADCO uses complex computer models of weather, emissions, and atmospheric chemistry to investigate the main drivers of air pollution in the Great Lakes region. We work with federal, state, tribal, and local air agencies to improve air quality in the region.

LADCO commits to working with MMC on developing, evaluating, and tracking strategies to reduce emissions from landscaping equipment. We will provide decision support services to the project team using our knowledge of air emissions inventories, our expertise with the U.S. EPA's MOVES model for estimating emissions from landscaping equipment, and our capabilities to develop emissions reduction scenarios for pollution sources. I will work closely with our staff at LADCO, MMC staff, and other partners to ensure that the project goals are met.

As Executive Director of LADCO, I greatly value our partnership with MMC and fully support its leadership in the effort to transition landscaping equipment in the Chicago area to options that combine low emissions, low noise, and high acceptance by operators and communities.

Sincerely,



Zachariah Adelman
LADCO Executive Director



2625 Butterfield Road Suite 104S
Oak Brook IL 60523-1257
630-472-2851 – fax 630-472-3150
www.ilca.net / information@ilca.net

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(847) 475-7917

Michael Massat
The Growing Place Garden Center
(630) 355-4000

Kevin McGowan
Kaknes Landscape Supply, Inc.
(630) 416-9999

Nikki Melin
Midwest Groundcovers
(847) 468-2024

Becky Thomas
Spring Grove Nursery, Inc.
(815) 448-2097

Mark Utendorf
Emerald Lawn Care, Inc.
(847) 392-7097

Executive Director
Scott Grams

ILCA letter of Commitment

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models." The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

The Illinois Landscape Contractors Association is the largest trade association for landscape professionals in the State of Illinois with over 900 members. We represent the residential, commercial, and public works contractors who use this equipment every day. We support prudent, responsible, and voluntary transition plans from gas to electric. Given the high costs of battery equipment per crew, incentives are essential to a smooth transition, especially within low income and marginalized communities.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with our mission and objectives to *empower the landscape industry to operate sustainably, profitably, and safely, and protect low-income workers who are persons of color from harmful pollution impacts.*

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will participate as subrecipient. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and we actively participate in its strategic design. ILCA expects to support LEEP by hosting training and workshops, landscape equipment exchange events, and promoting participation to our members through print and digital communications.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application. Thank you.

Regards,

Scott Grams
ILCA Executive Director

ILCA's Mission...To enhance the professionalism and expertise of members by providing leadership, education, representation, and services while promoting environmental awareness and the value of the landscape industry.



City of Highland Park

1707 St. Johns Ave.

Highland Park, Illinois 60035

847.432.0800

cityhpil.com

March 28, 2024

Edith Makra

Director of Environmental Initiatives

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

433 W Van Buren, Suite 450

Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The City of Highland Park is pleased to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to reduce emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" We are pleased the Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

The City of Highland Park was co-lead in establishing the Regional Leaf Blower Working Group ("Working Group") in late 2021 to evaluate the need and impact of leaf-blower regulations. The Working Group consisted of 22 members including 11 municipalities, representatives of the landscape industry and other professionals. The Working Group studied the impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers, alternative technologies and how communities could mitigate the impacts of this equipment. The Working Group conferred with the American Green Zone Alliance & Quiet Communities to assist with technical components of the report. A Final Report was produced in December 2022 which offered recommendations for phased local regulation with seasonal consideration. There was also need expressed for a buy-back or incentive program like the proposed, LEEP.

The Priority Strategy and LEEP program approach aligns with our Working Group objectives. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will partner with the Caucus on program design and share our findings from our Regional Leaf Blower Working Group Final Report. We look forward to this partnership for this important initiative.

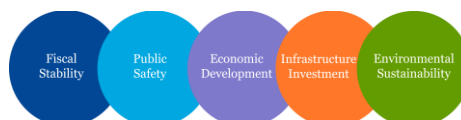
We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge the favorable consideration of their application.

Sincerely,

Ghida S. Neukirch

City Manager

c: Mayor Nancy Rotering, City of Highland Park
Village Manager Phil Kiraly, Village of Glencoe
Village Manager Mike Braiman, Village of Wilmette





March 29, 2024

Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

PowerForward DuPage is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed **Landscape Equipment Electrification Project** (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with our mission to function as a professional partner for businesses, developers, contractors, individuals, and municipalities to further excellence and growth in the electrical industry. We listen, educate, inspire, and partner with the community to place the spotlight firmly on the electrical industry in Chicagoland.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the **Landscape Equipment Electrification Project**. We plan to help support LEEP by providing educational resources and support that focus on necessary infrastructure improvements that may be required for commercial landscaping contractors as well as developing residential customer educational materials that explain the benefits of owning and operating zero emission electric models and equipment.

Our membership includes the most highly skilled and trained electricians as well as the most sought-after electrical contractors and through this partnership, we can encourage safe and effective beneficial electrification, which includes ***empowering the landscape industry to operate sustainably.***

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application.

Thank you,

Karyn M. Charvat, Executive Director
PowerForward DuPage



PURSuing HEALTHY LUNGS AND
CLEAN AIR FOR ALL

March 31, 2024

Ms. Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

Respiratory Health Association (RHA) is excited to offer this letter of commitment to express our intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region through reduced exposure to air pollutants.

We understand that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, *"Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models."* The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models, eliminating the most polluting equipment in use.

RHA has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today, RHA addresses asthma, COPD, lung cancer, tobacco control, and air quality with a comprehensive approach. Working to reduce air pollution since the 1960's, RHA has been especially focused on reducing emissions from fossil fuel engines because of the disproportionate health risk they create in low income and minority communities. By reducing emissions of hazardous air pollution that harms respiratory health and protecting highly exposed low-income workers now using exhaust-emitting landscape equipment while reducing the greenhouse gases driving long term health threats from climate change in disadvantaged communities, this Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with our mission to prevent lung disease and promote clean air.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded their grant request, we will participate in the grant projects as a subrecipient. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the

OUR LEADERSHIP

Daniel Lavin
Board Chair

Cathy Catrambone
Cynthia Gronkiewicz
Co-Chairs Elect

Joel J. Africk
President and
Chief Executive Officer

GET IN TOUCH

1440 W. Washington
Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607

312.243.2000

info@resphealth.org

resphealth.org



We meet all 20 standards for charity
accountability of the Better Business
Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

program, and we actively participate in its strategic design. RHA expects to support LEEP by helping to communicate the health benefits of equipment replacement.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Urbaszewski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a small dot at the end.

Brian Urbaszewski
Director, Environmental Health Programs



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

Antioch	Highland Park	Lindenhurst	Third Lake
Bannockburn	Highwood	Long Grove	Tower Lakes
Beach Park	Island Lake	Mundelein	Vernon Hills
Deer Park	Kildeer	North Barrington	Volo
Deerfield	Lake Barrington	North Chicago	Wadsworth
Fox Lake	Lake Bluff	Park City	Wauconda
Grayslake	Lake County	Port Barrington	Waukegan
Great Lakes NTC	Lake Forest	Riverwoods	Winthrop Harbor
Green Oaks	Lake Villa	Round Lake	Zion
Gurnee	Lake Zurich	Round Lake Beach	
Hainesville	Libertyville	Round Lake Heights	
Hawthorn Woods	Lincolnshire	Round Lake Park	

March 27, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Subject: Letter of Commitment, MMC CPRG Grant Application

Dear Edith:

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, IL (SWALCO) is glad to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, "*Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models.*" The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

SWALCO represents 43 municipalities and the County of Lake, and we focus on sustainability initiatives on behalf of our members. We own and operate one of five permitted household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities in Illinois which will be an asset to the Caucus' proposed program since we are trained and experienced in managing used oil, gasoline and batteries (typical by-products of gas powered landscaping equipment) at our HHW events. We have managed literally hundreds of one-day collection events and know the importance of proper planning, logistics and education to make sure such events are successful. We believe our Agency is uniquely qualified to coordinate the events being proposed in this grant application.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with our mission and objectives to empower the landscape industry to operate sustainably and reduce the greenhouse gases associated with their work; protect low-income workers who are persons of color from harmful pollution impacts; and to support the members of SWALCO achieve local climate objectives.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will participate as subrecipient. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and we actively participate in its strategic design. SWALCO expects to support LEEP by assisting in the planning and implementation of the one day events that will be held to buy-back old gasoline powered equipment.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge you to favorably consider this application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter S. Willis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being more prominent than the last name "Willis".

Walter S. Willis
Executive Director



March 27, 2024

Edith Makra
Director of Environmental Initiatives
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
433 W Van Buren, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith:

The **Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)** is pleased to offer this letter of commitment to express our earnest intention to collaborate towards the success of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' proposed Landscape Equipment Electrification Project (LEEP) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit low income and disadvantaged communities in the Chicago metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (Caucus) is seeking CPRG Implementation funds to make meaningful progress towards reducing emissions by implementing the Priority Strategy #D15, *"Transition gas-powered landscaping equipment to low and zero emission models."* The Caucus is designing this program as a buy-back program to provide program participants incentives to retire old gasoline-powered equipment with zero emission electric models.

SWANCC facilitates solid waste management for its 23 member communities representing approximately 800,000 residents to achieve environmentally sound waste disposal and diversion and provide collection programs and education and outreach services that promote waste reduction and recovery and reduce the impact of wasting behaviors on the environment, including through greenhouse gas emissions. We assist our member communities to conduct approximately 20 one-day collection events annually for items that are readily diverted from disposal but are not conveniently collected at the curb; collection of gas-powered landscaping equipment is expected to be easily integrated into many of these events to provide resident convenience and access across our region.

This Priority Strategy and program approach aligns with SWANCC's mission and objectives to reduce environmental impacts of waste generation and management and supports our member communities in achieving their climate objectives. As a municipal joint action agency, we value collaboration and regional approaches such as that proposed by the Caucus.

Therefore, we commit to partnering with the Caucus to implement the Landscape Equipment Electrification Project. Should the Caucus be awarded a grant for this project, we will participate as subrecipient. Our involvement will be critical to the success of the program, and we will actively participate in its strategic design.

George Van Dusen
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Karen Darch
Vice Chairman,
Board of Directors

Jon Sfondilis
Secretary/Treasurer,
Board of Directors
Chairman,
Executive Committee

Christina Seibert
Executive Director



SWANCC expects to support LEEP by contracting with service providers to empty fluids from equipment and haul fluids and equipment to designated management facilities and coordinating collection events in partnership with our member communities.

We strongly support the Caucus in their LEEP proposal and urge U.S. EPA to favorably consider this application. Please contact me for any additional assistance or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina M. Seibert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christina" being the most prominent part.

Christina Seibert
Executive Director