



April 1, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Letter of Commitment for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' application for the Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, Funding Opportunity EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to express our strong commitment to working with our application partners in implementing the measures identified and described in COG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation grant application entitled Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All). All of our partners who will be subgranted funds and are critical to RACE's success have signed commitment letters and were integral in the development of the CPRG application.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030. Buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions in the region and therefore it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve COG's climate goals. Despite existing efforts, the region faces key challenges in meeting its goals while also curbing emissions growth from an increasing population.

COG has shaped the RACE to Clean Energy for All to address these key challenges accordingly by bundling proven program design strategies and a number of ready-to-implement projects under the RACE to Clean Energy for All program, which will collectively provide community benefits, demonstrate leadership by example, and fill substantial existing funding gaps.

The three components of the RACE to Clean Energy for All:

Measure 1: Scale existing programs that provide energy efficiency and electrification upgrades, and solar panels to residential buildings. This measure funnels money into existing programs that provide proven benefits to single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit buildings. Funds will be prioritized to first serve low-income residents in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs) as identified through EJScreen and the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), then serve other low-income residents across communities not in LIDAC Census blocks and tracts, and finally serve other residents in EJScreen and CEJST LIDAC Census blocks and tracts that are not low income. At least 40% of the benefits will go to low-income residents in LIDACs. CPRG funding will allow these programs, many of which cannot meet current demand let alone the wider potential market, to reach substantially more homes over the next five years at an accelerated pace.

Measure 2: Electrify municipal light-duty fleets and provide supporting charging infrastructure. In line with many of the existing climate plans and goals within the region, these funds will speed up the rate at which fleets that serve critical public functions (e.g., first responders, shuttling elderly

populations), particularly in LIDACs, will be electrified. It will also provide the needed charging infrastructure to support this fleet conversion away from fossil fuels.

Measure 3: Expand existing workforce development programs and initiatives to support a larger workforce to upgrade residential homes and maintain EVs and charging infrastructure. This key enabling measure will expand the reach of existing programs and training to ensure that the workforce needed to create expedited and permanent GHG reductions through measures 1 and 2 is available. This measure will also strengthen the pipeline of qualified workers to support measures 1 and 2 and ensure they have high-quality jobs available to them at the end of their training/apprenticeships. It will also expand opportunities for quality jobs for LIDAC residents in the region and workers who are in a primarily fossil fuel-based sector to transition to work with electrified equipment and solutions.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to LIDACs.

With the RACE to Clean Energy for All, COG is committing to working with its local government and not-for-profit partners through subgrants and pooled procurements to realize key program outcomes, including reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities and more broadly across the COG region.

We look forward to working with you on this immensely needed and highly impactful project beginning in the second half of 2024. Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs, at 202-962-3238 or jking@mwkog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clark Mercer

Clark Mercer
Executive Director