



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

3040 Williams Drive | Suite 200 | Fairfax, VA 22031

p: 703-642-0700 | t: 703-642-son

www.novaregion.org

March 12, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), I am writing to express our commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in implementing the projects and programs identified and described in COG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Phase 2 application for the Regional Accelerator for Climate Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All).

I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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).

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. Through NVRC's involvement in the RACE will allow COG to more effectively implement the activities and projects described in COG application by expanding our existing program which has resulted to date in 8.5 MW of new solar in the region helping offset more than 9,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis. 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 and our own climate goals.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission has worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets



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March 12, 2024

Page Two

We are excited about the opportunity to work with COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We have a proven track record and are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities, and sharing our solutions to scale climate action.

To demonstrate NVRC's commitment to this project, the Board of Commissioners of NVRC representing 13 major localities and more than 2.5 million residents unanimously adopted a resolution in December 2023 committing to working with COG and local partners on this invaluable carbon pollution reduction program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lazaro, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Attachment



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

3040 Williams Drive | Suite 200 | Fairfax, VA 22031

p: 703-642-0700 | t: 703-642-son

www.novaregion.org

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 24-14

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.

Executive Director

DATE: December 14, 2023

Authorization to Submit and Accept a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Whereas, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency is offering grants through the Inflation Reduction Act to help localities and regions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has been a leader in the Commonwealth in providing grassroots solutions in collaboration with its local government partners to help residents and businesses reduce their carbon footprint; and

Whereas, the grant from the Environmental Protection Agency in the greater Metropolitan Washington area will require coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Commission authorizes the Executive Director to submit and accept a Climate Pollution Reduction grant.



The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on December 14, 2023.

CERTIFICATION

ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER



March 20, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inc. I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*. 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. DC's BEPS and Healthy Homes Act aims to retrofit over 30,000 households and residential buildings, totaling over 10,000 sq ft, to meet efficiency requirements which requires a growth in minority contractors and workforce. 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 and our own climate goals.

Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inc. worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inc. to rapidly scale our existing programs, the Contractor Incubator and Architecture Construction Engineering Students (ACES) Engineering Pathway Program, to address residential building GHG emissions. These

programs will help build a local pipeline of minority contractors and increase awareness and accessibility for youth of color to high-road ACE careers. With an existing community advisory committee, ECC will expand its outreach and communication with local government agencies and schools in the MACOG territory by developing webinars on workforce education and training. ECC sees this application as pivotal in enhancing diversity in the EE and broader ACES sectors while reducing income and wealth disparities among DACs, mitigating GHG emissions, and enhancing health within DAC and HTR communities.

Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All will also facilitate the advancement of a regional workforce to facilitate weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification, and solar PV installation in residential buildings by forging new partnerships and expanding existing ones. This collaboration will empower the Contractor Incubator and ACES to advocate for local hiring standards for DAC/HTR professional workers.

Lastly, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inc., will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light-duty internal combustion vehicles that provide essential community services of economic inclusion and visually demonstrate leadership by example.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TDS".

Tabaris Smith
Regional Director, DMV
Emerald Cities Collaborative, Inc.
P: 803-200-7718

March 27, 2024

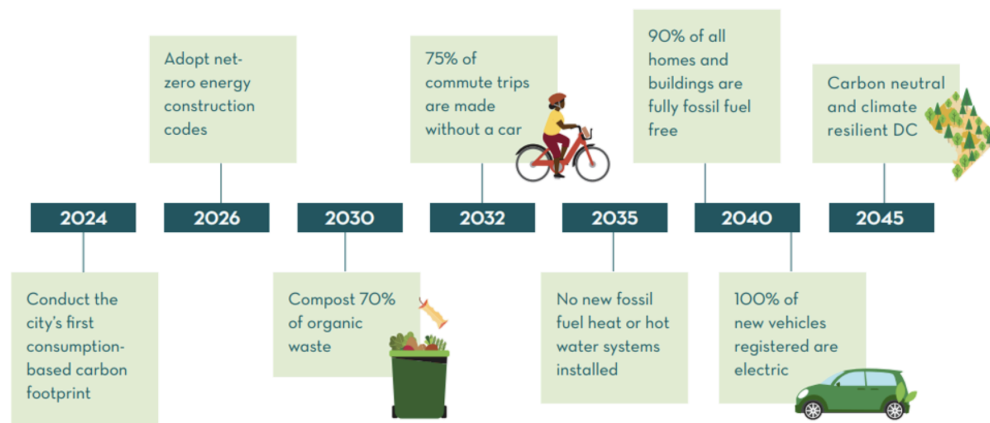
Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
 Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
 Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Electrify DC I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. In the District of Columbia, 90% of all homes and 100% of all new vehicles must be fully fossil fuel free by 2040. 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 and our own climate goals.



Through the development of the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. In the District of Columbia, Electrify DC plans to focus as much of its work as possible in Wards 5, 7, 8, which rank worst on pollution, socioeconomic, health and other factors when compared to the rest of the city and the entire region. Efforts to increase the electrification of home appliances and public transportation fleets not only improves indoor and outdoor air quality and health outcomes, but also gives families an opportunity to lower their energy costs. In addition, scaling the region's building decarbonization represents an historic opportunity to create new pathways to good-paying careers that don't require a college degree. In short, Electrify DC is fully committed to ensuring the Metropolitan Washington region has a just and equitable energy transition that doesn't leave long-neglected, LIDAC communities behind.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Electrify DC to rapidly scale our existing contractor-focused program Building for the Future and sister effort, Real Estate Agents Leading Electrification. Both programs focus on critical stakeholder groups needed to successfully address residential building GHG emissions. The Building for the Future program will work to engage and inform all home renovation professionals, including the smaller, mostly BIPOC, operations in the DC region, with a multi-pronged approach.

First, it will provide relevant, contractor-focused education on electrification, its benefits to households and the business opportunity of decarbonization. Second, it will connect local contractor businesses with government programs and incentives. Finally, it will create a

community of home renovation professionals that can learn from each other, creating a multiplying effect on regional residential decarbonization. This funding is critical to ramping these efforts, allowing Electrify DC to create and compile new education opportunities, organize local businesses, and develop tools that help put decarbonization at the core of local contractors' operations and communication with local homeowners.

Finally, Electrify DC's partnership with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All is an opportunity to fully realize the benefits of developing a regional workforce focused on residential building weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships and expanding existing ones with local governments, small businesses and workforce-focused organizations like DC Sustainable Energy Utility, Emerald Cities Collaborative, and local community colleges.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Bertelli
Executive Director
Electrify DC
vanessa@electrifydc.org



ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Community Housing Partners
www.CommunityHousingPartners.org
550 Industrial Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 | (540) 260-9081, TTY: 711, fax: (540) 260-9084



March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Community Housing Partners (CHP) I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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 and CHP's climate goals. 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. Sharing a similar vision, CHP was an early member of the Better Climate Challenge, an initiative of the U.S Department of Energy to reduce portfolio wide GHG emissions by at least 50% within 10 years. In partnership with the Town of Blacksburg, CHP also developed the first EarthCraft™ Virginia Net-Zero Ready development in the state - Grissom Lane Apartments.

CHP worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG



ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Community Housing Partners

550 Industrial Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073 | (540) 260-9081, TTY: 711, fax: (540) 260-9084 | www.CommunityHousingPartners.org

implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

Thethree measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. Since 1976, CHP has been committed to serving LIDAC communities throughout the Commonwealth. Through the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, and more recently utility-sponsored age-and-income energy efficiency programs, we ensure healthier, safer, and affordable homes for low-income families.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable CHP to rapidly scale solar for LIDAC communities while reducing residential building GHG emissions. CHP's experience implementing a utility-sponsored solar program for LIDAC communities provides a foundation to reach qualifying households, utilize our extensive contractor network, and achieve program targets. CHP's outreach approach utilizes a multi-channel strategy, collaborating with governmental, community, and advocacy partners. With a history of creative and collaborative community-based events and campaigns, CHP has the experience and staffing to effectively reach underserved and historically marginalized communities. Low-income families face disproportionately higher energy burdens, and often face additional challenges around housing stability and health.

Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All will also enable the further development of a regional workforce to support residential buildings weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships and expanding existing ones.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

Mark Jackson
Vice President
CHP Energy Solutions
mjackson@chpc2.org



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Energy and Environment

March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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)*

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), I am pleased to support the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (Funding Opportunity EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07). DOEE looks forward to working with you to implement the measures described in COG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application entitled *Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including regionally reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and assisting the District in achieving its 2045 carbon neutrality target. Our partnership is essential to scale up the solutions and workforce needed to successfully achieve our shared climate goals. Buildings and transportation are the region's largest sources of GHG emissions; therefore, addressing emissions in these sectors is essential.

DOEE has a strong working relationship with COG and other partners, as evidenced by the development of the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common priority measures were identified for this grant application. These include:


- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light-duty fleets

These three activities will provide immediate and practical GHG emission reduction benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities identified through EPA's EJScreen tool and align with the District's commitment to advancing racial equity as we implement climate solutions.

As a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All grant, we will rapidly scale our existing residential weatherization and emergency heating and cooling replacement programs to address residential building GHG emissions. To achieve our carbon neutrality target, we must increase affordability and create comfortable, efficient, and safe homes. Funding from this grant will allow us to fill immediate and essential thermal safety needs while pivoting away from fossil fuels. Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All grant will also enable the development of a skilled regional workforce to support the design, construction, and maintenance of high-performance residential buildings including through work to weatherize, upgrade efficiency, and electrify buildings and systems.

DOEE supports the efforts of COG and other partners in accelerating priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All program.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

7E8D2F625D2B4AE...

Richard Jackson,
Director



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 15, 2024

Mr. Jeffrey King
Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Programs
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 N Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Prince George's County government, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and installing 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030. The County government has aligned itself with these goals, pledging a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, with the long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions in the region, and the County, therefore it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve COG's and our own climate goals.

Our pledge culminated in the completion of the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2022. Additionally, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks approved Executive Order No. 5 – 2022, establishing the Prince George's County Climate Action Implementation Task Force and the Prince George's County Resident Advisory Group for Climate Action and Environmental Justice (CRA). These groups are developing strategies and actions to achieve emissions and resilience goals such as increasing solar deployment and decarbonizing our transportation system.

Prince George's County government worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

Mr. Jeffrey King

March 15, 2024

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- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes.
- Expanding workforce development solutions.
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets.

Prince George's County government will contribute to the design and performance of the RACE to Clean Energy for All initiative. The county will also seek grant funding and technical assistance to accelerate projects and programs.

More specifically, partnering with COG in RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Prince George's County to rapidly scale up its existing programs. These programs include:

- The Clean Energy Program, which focuses on providing incentives for homeowners to perform energy efficiency retrofits and deploy solar panels.
- Green fleet initiatives to deploy electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), along with the charging infrastructure.
- Occupational skills training for solar PV installation, energy auditing, weatherization, and hybrid and electric vehicle repair.

All programs and projects will have an emphasis on serving low-income, disadvantaged communities (LIDCs).

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to LIDAC through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Floyd E. Holt
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for
Government Infrastructure, Technology and
Environment

Cc: Andrea L. Crooms, Department of the Environment
Erica S. Bannerman, DoE



PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 28, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

On behalf of Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) division of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the planned collaboration between the college's Sustainable Energy and Workforce Development Program (SEWDP) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030. As buildings and transportation represent the largest sources of GHG emissions it is essential for COG and PGCC's Sustainable Energy Workforce Development program work closely on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, below are priority measures identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions (by providing scholarships for eligible Prince George's county residents seeking certification training)
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

This workforce training partnership between PGCC and Counsel of Government will potentially provide, Prince George's County residents with needed certifications and credentials thereby maximizing opportunities for employability and careers in the Sustainable and Renewable Energy sector in the high demand area of the Greater Washington Region.

In conclusion, Prince George's Community College is pleased to support the Counsel of Government grant application entitled *Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All)*. in their efforts to emphasis equitable access to education, and the development of meaningful and innovative workforce development initiatives for Prince George's County residents.

Sincerely,

Michael Smith

Michal Smith
Interim Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development Prince George's
Community College
301 Largo Road
Largo, MD 20774 smithmw@pgcc.edu



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 21, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. King:

Montgomery County, Maryland wholeheartedly supports the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) grant application: **Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All)**. This exciting undertaking under the EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07 will directly benefit Montgomery County's 1.1 million residents. The RACE to Clean Energy for All strategies align with the County's ambitious goals for eliminating climate pollution: in 2017, we declared a climate emergency and accelerated our climate goals to reduce emissions [by 80 percent by 2027 with total emission elimination by 2035](#).

Montgomery County recognizes we need to do everything we can to tackle climate change. In June 2021, the County published a comprehensive [Climate Action Plan](#) outlining actions to mitigate climate emissions, identifying equity enhancing measures, and modeling the greatest climate hazards in the County. The actions in the Plan reflect a future reimaged, one in which our buildings and transportation system are all realigned to meet our generation's greatest challenge—climate change.

The County must also be flexible and creative in our approaches to addressing the largest sources of GHG emissions in the region—buildings and transportation—and take advantage of new opportunities that arise to achieve our climate goals. Serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Montgomery County to rapidly scale our existing programs to address residential building GHG emissions in neighborhoods and communities most in need of assistance. Developing a regional workforce to support residential buildings

weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships will further our efforts.

Montgomery County is successfully implementing numerous projects, many of which are grant-funded, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the residential building sector including:

- [Capital Area Solar Switch](#) program,
- [Montgomery Energy Connection](#) outreach and engagement program,
- [Electrify MC](#) electrification pilot program,
- [Healthy, Efficient, Electrified, Climate-Adapted Pilot Homes Grants Program](#),
- [Montgomery County Homeowner Energy Efficiency Program](#),
- Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) [Utility Assistance Program](#), and
- Low-cost financing programs offered through the [Montgomery County Green Bank](#).

On the transportation side, Montgomery County has been a leader in decarbonizing how people move around the County and the region. The County continually seeks opportunities to green its fleet, reduce fuel consumption, and use alternative fuel vehicles that emit fewer GHG emissions. Through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, Montgomery County will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles with low-emitting options that provide essential community services. To date, [the County has made extensive use of alternative fuels. The County's fleet was comprised of 39.6% alternative fuel vehicles, including electric, compressed natural gas, E85 \(ethanol\), and hybrids as of the most recent annual report.](#) The County also plans to procure electric (100) and hydrogen fuel cell electric (13) buses and develop a hydrogen fueling station over the next several years with funding from the Federal Transit Administration.

The County worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to implement key measures in the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (e.g., energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes;
- Expanding workforce development solutions; and
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. With communities who are low income or Black, Brown, or Indigenous being known to face greater energy burdens and

climate change hazards, this project delivers the benefits to them. [Low-income households are estimated to be over 100,000 or 28% of households in the county.](#) Using the [EPA EJScreen Tool](#), forty census tracts or 193,347 County residents are identified as low-income or disadvantaged (when selecting tracts at or above Maryland's 90th percentile for at least one index). In addition, as one of Maryland's most diverse counties, Black, [Indigenous](#), and other people of color make up 57% (599,000+) of the County's total population, and this number is projected to steadily increase. Our County's diversity does not stop at these statistics – 40 percent (421,000+) of the County's residents speak a language other than English at home and youth (5-17 year old residents) make up almost a quarter (263,000+) of our population.

I fully support COG's application for this extraordinary funding opportunity that will accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region, reduce GHG emissions in support of the Biden Administration's and the region's climate goals, improve air quality, and provide benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Elrich", with a stylized, flowing script.

Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive

March 17, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Green Bank, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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).

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. The Montgomery County Green Bank has supported Montgomery County's ambitious GHG reduction goals for over five years, leveraging over \$50 million in private sector investment. 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 and our own climate goals.

The Montgomery County Green Bank worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

Stephen Morel
CEO
smorel@mcgreenbank.org



March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Montgomery College (MC), I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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).

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. MC has been a leader in energy, resource conservation and sustainability, and environmental action since the first "energy crisis" of the 1970s and has historically integrated renewable solar and wind energy into its building programs. All new buildings receive a Gold LEED Certification. MC is particularly proud of these accomplishment because these buildings are teaching laboratory facilities with inherent high ventilation loads, which pose engineering design and operational challenges in order to minimize energy consumption. The College promotes sustainability education and awareness through staff education, media outlets, and coordination with other government agencies and professional societies. Further, in support of green practices, Montgomery College Cable Television (Channels 10 and 998 Montgomery County) produces a MC Green television program highlighting sustainability efforts of the College, local businesses and the community.

Montgomery County, MD, where MC is located, has a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to cut GHG emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. In May 2014, Montgomery County was the first county in the country to adopt a building energy benchmarking and transparency law. The Building Energy Benchmarking Law requires property owners to capture and report high-level, whole-building energy use annually using EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Most non-residential properties 50,000 gross square feet and larger have been required to benchmark since 2016. In 2022, the benchmarking law was amended by the Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards (BEPS) - Amendments law. The latest amendment

expanded the number of buildings covered by the benchmarking requirement and established a building energy performance standard. The amendments drop the benchmarking square footage threshold to 25,000 gross square feet and add multifamily and previously-exempted building types like warehouses and self-storage facilities. Group 3 commercial buildings 25,000 - 50,000 gross square feet and previously exempted commercial buildings of all sizes and Group 4 multifamily properties 250,000 gross square feet and larger were required to begin reporting calendar year 2022 data by June 1, 2023.

Additionally, Zero-Emissions Vehicles are an important part of Montgomery County's CAP. Transportation on roads made up 34 percent of the County's GHG emissions in 2020. To reduce transportation emissions and meet the County's GHG reduction goal, 100% of private and public transportation options in the County will need to be powered by zero emissions technologies by 2035. The goals of the county's Zero-Emissions Vehicle initiatives are to increase use of electric vehicles by residents and local businesses while encouraging less driving and more public transportation and active transportation, such as walking and bicycling. The Montgomery County EV Purchasing Co-op (EVPC) works with local dealerships to highlight incentives and discounts that will save residents money to purchase or lease new and pre-owned electric vehicles. Fleet Management is assisting in Montgomery County's effort to reduce harmful emissions that contribute to the Washington Metropolitan Region's serious air quality problem. Fleet Management purchases environmentally-compliant vehicles and maintains the County's vehicles, including the buses for the County's mass transit system, Ride-On, thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. Older vehicles generating more pollution are removed from service and sold or shredded and recycled as scrap metal. Buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions in the region; therefore, it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve COG's and our own climate goals.

Montgomery College worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common-high priority measures were identified for this application. These include the following:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification, and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding buildings sector workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single-family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications. The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing

benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. Of the 232 census tracts in Montgomery County, 27 are both overburdened and underserved, 109 are only underserved and 6 are only overburdened (61.21% of census tracts). Ninety (38.8%) census tracts are neither underserved or overburdened.

Founded in 1946, MC provides residents with a high-quality postsecondary educational opportunity at a reasonable cost. The college serves the entire county with three campuses, workforce development training facilities, community engagement centers, and satellite instructional sites. MC is one of the most diverse postsecondary institutions in the nation and serves students from 155 countries in a variety of non- and for-credit programs. In fiscal year 2023, approximately 17,000 credit students and 25,000 noncredit students enrolled at MC, with 21% receiving a Federal Pell Grant. MC is a Minority Serving Institution, with designations as a Hispanic Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution that excels at serving students who face social, cultural and economic barriers.

Serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable MC to rapidly scale existing programs. The MC Automotive Technology program and the Building Trades Heating, Ventilation and Air Condition (HVAC) program can address residential building GHG emissions and the service and repair of electric vehicles (EVs). Funding for the training program is needed to purchase HVAC equipment, an EV, and an EV trainer. Training students to become repair and installation technicians on electric heating and cooling units such as the mini-split and solar PVs will assist with developing a workforce to address replacing gas furnaces with green energy units in homes. Training students to repair EVs will contribute to developing a workforce to support the County's goal of zero emissions technologies by 2035.

Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All will also enable the further development of a regional workforce to support residential buildings weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships and expanding existing ones. The MC Automotive Technology program and the Building Trades program can support COG climate and green energy goals by training individuals from underserved low-income communities in the construction and automotive industries. Building Trades courses and Automotive Technology program courses prepare students for the industry recognized Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) exams and certifications. Construction trades courses will provide classroom and practical hands-on instruction for the installation and maintenance of clean energy HVAC equipment and solar technology. The Automotive program prepares individuals for a career in automotive service and repair. Students will receive training on electric vehicles (EV). The training and development of construction trades and automotive technicians will contribute to expanding the workforce and supporting COG's clean energy initiatives.

Additionally, MC's Solar training will be a preferred training program for this grant. MC is a NABCEP registered program and MC offers two courses - Solar PV Design and Installation and Advanced Solar PV. Upon completion of the Solar PV Design and Installation course students

are eligible to take the NABCEP PV Associate exam. Passing the exam results in an industry credential recognized nationally. The Solar PV course is 50 hours and includes lab activities. The Advanced PV course is 25 hours and mostly dives deeper into the content taught in the Solar PV course, as well as introducing advanced concepts and installations. Solar PV is the pre-requisition for the Advanced PV course. While the MC program is designed to help students prepare for the NABCEP PV Associate credential, other credentials are available from NABCEP, most requiring additional training and experience. Enrollment in Solar PV Design and Installation is open and while some electrical knowledge and experience is helpful, such as through taking Fundamentals of Electrical Wiring and Residential Electrical Wiring, students will receive enough basic electrical training to fully understand solar systems and their operation. Solar PV is closely related to the electrical field so additional electrical training is valuable to the students and will help better prepare them for employment, since a significant portion of the solar work being done in our region is performed by electrical contractors. MC currently offers three sections of Solar PV Design and Installation per year (F,Sp,Sum) and one section of Advanced Solar PV (F).

MC fully supports COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Deidre Price, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/College Provost
Montgomery College
Deidre.Price@montgomerycollege.edu



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

March 20, 2024

Jeffrey King
Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. King,

I am writing to express my support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) in implementing the measures identified and described in MWCOG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation grant application entitled *Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All)*.

MWCOG 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. Frederick County is committed to doing our part to address the Climate Crisis. In 2022, the Frederick County Council passed Climate Emergency Resolution 20-22 that resolved to cut greenhouse gas emissions to half of 2010 levels no later than 2030, reduce levels 100% by 2050, equitably address impacts from climate change, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere. To guide the work, the Council established an independent volunteer-based Climate Emergency Mobilization Work Group. The workgroup's Climate Response and Resilience Report (CRRR) offers recommendations based on the work of over 70 volunteers, who together invested 18,500 hours over the course of a year. The Division of Energy and Environment (DEE) was created at the beginning of FY'23 to implement Frederick County Government's (FCG) climate emergency mobilization efforts. This included the creation of a Department of Climate and Energy. To achieve its goals, DEE structures Climate and Energy's efforts around the following initiatives:

- Climate and Energy Action Planning (CEAP)
- Clean Fleet and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Building Energy and Resiliency
- Clean Energy Procurement

DEE partnered with MWCOG to complete its Climate and Energy Action Plan for Internal Operations (Internal Ops CEAP) in March of 2023. The CEAP includes greenhouse gas emissions inventory baselines and business-as-usual projections, a plan to mitigate these emissions, a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, and a Resilience Plan. The plan includes the County's role in the community and recommendations for environmental justice and equity. Buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions in Frederick County; therefore, it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve MWCOG's and our own climate goals.

The transportation sector produces 41% of the greenhouse gas emissions from FCG operations. FCG released the Frederick County Alternative Fuel Vehicle Fleet Transition Plan (AFVP) in November of 2023. This plan, which includes substantial collaboration with six County divisions, “right sizes” our fleet and proposes electrification of specific vehicles. A companion plan, the Frederick County Community-wide Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (EVRP), was completed in partnership with MWCOG in December of 2023 to address the 48% of all greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector in the County at large. This plan addresses equity and environmental justice.

Frederick County worked closely with MWCOG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region’s Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All comprise single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications..

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA’s EJScreen and CEJST.

More specifically, serving as a partner to MWCOG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Frederick County to rapidly scale our existing Power Saver Retrofits (PSR) program to address residential building GHG emissions. PSR has served over 810 households, funded by County contributions and the Energy Efficiency Equity grant from the Maryland Energy Administration. From 2022 to 2023, over 110 low- and moderate-income households received energy saving Power Saver Retrofits; this innovative program received a grant for \$571,948 from the MEA and was recognized with a MWCOG Climate and Energy Leadership Award for Equity for its work with community leaders and non-profit partners to increase participation and diversify audience engagement. Frederick County has requested \$1.4 million from MEA for this program in FY24. With additional RACE to Clean Energy for All program funding, the PSR program will be able to focus on increasing participation of homes within the identified LIDAC census tracts (identified through CEJST and EJScreen tools). The additional funding would help with targeting outreach and PSR services, to include in person events within the LIDAC identified census tracts, coordinating a mailer about the PSR program to homes in the identified census tracts, identifying/establishing relationships with community-based organizations in the recognized census tracts, and other affirmative advertisement. This targeted outreach approach would ensure that received funding be fully utilized within the designated census tracts.

Further, RACE to Clean Energy for All will allow Frederick County to advance our fleet electrification efforts to reduce transportation GHG emissions. Frederick County plans to replace nine traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) fleet vehicles with electric vehicles (EVs) in FY26. With high daily/annual mileage and fuel consumption, these vehicles will benefit greatly from electrification. Additionally, as these vehicles are highly visible to the community, replacing them with EVs will help with the County's goal to lead by example and be a resource to the public about vehicle electrification. Frederick County will seek direct pay through the IRS to help cover vehicle costs. Additional RACE to Clean Energy for All program funding will ensure the County is able to replace these vehicles with EVs by helping offset the higher upfront cost.

We fully support MWCOG and other partners throughout the area to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton

County Administrator

March 19, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Charles County Government, we are writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. Charles County is currently undergoing a climate action planning process for both government operations and the broader community, which will also create climate goals, such as those related to fleet transition and residential and commercial building decarbonization. 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 and our own climate goals.

Charles County Government worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2 -4 unit homes.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen Tool or the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. In Charles County, residents in one Waldorf census tract that is bounded by MD-5 to the north, US-301 to the west, Smallwood Drive to the south, and St. Charles Parkway to the east will be eligible for this funding.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Charles County Government to scale up the existing Maryland Weatherization Assistance Program in Southern Maryland to address residential building GHG emissions. Funding would be used to increase energy efficiency and reduce heating and cooling costs for low-income, disadvantaged residents in the identified Waldorf census tract. Since 2017, this program has completed weatherization projects for 177 homes in Charles County. Funding is needed to assist more residents in Charles County with weatherization.

Lastly, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, Charles County Government will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles that may provide essential community services and visually demonstrate leadership by example.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,
**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*



Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
District 4



Gilbert O. Bowling, III
District 1



Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
District 2



Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.
District 3



City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-314-5000
TTY 240-314-8137

March 29, 2024

Mr. Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

SUBJECT: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of City of Rockville (City), I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in implementing the measures identified in COG's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation grant application entitled *Regional Action for Climate and Equity (RACE to Clean Energy for All)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030. The City shares these regional climate goals and has an adopted Climate Action Plan that contains 42 actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, foster resiliency, and further equity throughout implementation. The Rockville public and the Mayor and Council are eager to see rapid implementation and the city has made progress on many actions; however, achieving these goals is an ambitious task that will require effort on the part of every resident and business in the community as well as municipal governments. Buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions in Rockville and in the region; therefore, it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve our mutual climate goals.

The City has served as an active member of COG's Climate, Energy, and Air Quality programs for decades and participated in and benefitted from COG's climate work since the first COG Climate Action Plan in 2008. Over the last five years, the City partnered with COG on a Memorandum of Agreement to develop our Climate Action Plan and Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. Rockville staff also served on the working group with COG and other partners to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this most recent process, the following four high priority measures were identified for the RACE to Clean Energy for All application, three in the residential buildings sector and one in the transportation sector:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes.
- Piloting an emergency electric heating and cooling program in homes.
- Expanding buildings sector workforce development solutions.
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets.

The four measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities. The City is committed to equity and addressing disparities and this Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity will help the City meet those objectives by fully funding existing programs and expanding our community assistance programs to include a low and moderate income renewable energy program,

MAYOR
Monique Ashton

COUNCILMEMBERS
Kate Fulton
Barry Jackson
David Myles
Izola (Zola) Shaw
Marissa Valeri
Adam Van Grack

ACTING CITY MANAGER
Craig Simoneau

CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF
COUNCIL OPERATIONS
Sara Taylor-Ferrell

CITY ATTORNEY
Robert E. Dawson

Mr. Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs

March 29, 2024

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the “Sun Power Grant Program” managed by the City. The City is partnering with Rockville Housing Enterprises, a low and moderate income housing provider who manages several hundred homes in the City, and this CPRG grant will enable their first solar installations to offset residents’ energy burdens.

Serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All program will enable the City to work with partners to rapidly scale low and moderate income solar systems through the City-led Sun Power Grant Program, and existing residential programs, such as the Montgomery County Electrification Incentives, the Capital Area Solar Switch, Rockville’s Home Repair Loan Assistance and Home Energy Assistance Programs to address residential building GHG emissions in low-income, disadvantaged communities. Rockville has vast experience managing grants and has a triple A bond rating. Currently the Environmental Management Division is managing the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant program and the RainScapes Rebates grant programs and collaborates closely with Montgomery County on climate and energy initiatives. The Community Planning and Development Services program manages community assistance applications for Rockville residents. The City has successfully managed hundreds of grants and collaborative partnerships over the years.

Rockville is an incredibly diverse City by any measure, yet still has work to do to ensure equity for all as recognized in the City’s Social Justice Resolution and development of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion program. As identified through EPA’s EJ Screen and CEJST, Rockville’s disadvantaged areas are primarily located in the Twinbrook neighborhood, plus a small area north of Rockville Town Center. These areas contain a mix of workforce housing, with 2,356 modest single-unit dwellings and townhomes adjacent to a well-traveled commercial corridor that hosts diverse international vendors, medical office buildings, and retail. Many of these homes were built in the 1950s and could benefit greatly from lower energy bills and improved energy efficiency. This funding is needed to help close a gap for financially strapped households and assist in the transition to electric appliances and investment in energy improvements to create healthy and efficient homes. As an added benefit, the RACE to Clean Energy for All coalition will also foster the development of a regional workforce to perform residential building weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification, and solar PV installation.

On the transportation side, the Mayor and Council adopted a Clean Fleet Resolution to replace light duty fleet vehicles with clean fuel technology when models are available to meet the duty-cycle. Through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, the City plans to work with COG through pooled procurement to electrify several vehicles in the municipal light duty fleet that provide services for low-income, disadvantaged communities. Rockville operates a free senior bus-shuttle service for residents aged 60 and above to remain healthy, active, and socially engaged. The bus service transports seniors from their individual residences to the Senior Center, retail, club meetings and events. Rockville seeks to replace the Senior Center transit buses with low floor electric versions that do not create emissions harmful to vulnerable seniors, reduce noise, improve accessibility for seniors, and visually demonstrate leadership by example. Should the CPRG grant be awarded, Rockville plans to explore leveraging a combination of CPRG funds, matching City funds, Maryland state grants, and Direct Pay.

We fully support COG and the other partners to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. This funding will create a unique opportunity for this regional coalition to transform the building and transportation sectors and better serve our historically excluded residents.

Mr. Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs

March 29, 2024

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We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

Craig Simoneau

Craig L. Simoneau

Acting City Manager, City of Rockville

ES/AC/kmc

cc: Erica Shingara, Chief of Environmental Management

Amanda Campbell, Sustainability Coordinator

Day file



March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of the City of Takoma Park, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. As a leader in the climate action space, our City has set its own aggressive goal of achieving Net Zero by 2035, and signed a Climate Emergency Declaration and a Climate Change Emergency Response Resolution in 2019. With the majority (over 67%) of our City GHG emissions coming from our residential and transportation sectors, the CPRG funding opportunity is an important instrument for us to move forward on local programs for residents and municipal fleet transition that will curb these emissions. Overall in our region, buildings and transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions and therefore it is essential to address emissions in these sectors to achieve COG's and our own climate goals.

The City of Takoma Park worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to

exclude CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. The City of Takoma Park's Wards 5 and 6 are the most vulnerable areas of our community in metrics listed in this screening tool, as they have notable high levels of air pollution and particulates due to close proximity to traffic, as well as a higher concentration of people of color living below the poverty line. Based on our City's commitment to our Racial Equity Initiative, we believe the CPRG presents an opportunity channel supportive funds for programs that meet the needs of our underserved populations.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable the City of Takoma Park to rapidly scale our existing low- to moderate-income (LMI) Home Efficiency program to address residential GHG emissions. Working with contracting partners, we reach out to elderly and LMI homeowners to connect them with free weatherization and repair resources, as well as no-cost solar installation. Funding would support us being able to increase our outreach to eligible residents and provide the City funds to be used in an LMI single-family home grant program for electrification projects. Lastly, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, the City of Takoma Park will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles that provide essential community services, such as Administrative Pool vehicles, Code Enforcement Vehicles, non-response Police vehicles, and light duty maintenance vehicles which visually demonstrate leadership by example.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Talisha Searcy
Mayor
City of Takoma Park
talishas@takomaparkmd.gov



COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Mark J. Schwartz

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 302, Arlington, VA 22201
Phone: 703-228-3120 | Fax: 703-228-3218 TTY: 703-228-4611
www.arlingtonva.us

March 18, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Arlington County, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. As a regional leader in climate and energy performance, Arlington County has committed to 100% renewable energy resources for government operations by 2025 (achieved in 2023); carbon neutral government by 2040 and a carbon neutral community by 2050. 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 and our own climate goals.

Arlington County worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged

communities as identified through the US Department of Energy CEJST Tool and the US Environmental Protection Agency's EJ-Screen and CEJST. Arlington's socially-vulnerable communities represent the largest and oldest unified communities in the County.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable Arlington County to rapidly scale our existing Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) Program, as well as our Commercial Market Resiliency Initiative 2.0 to address low-income residential building GHG emissions. Over the past year, our Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management (OSEM) completed a technical study with the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) focused on profiles and analytics of our low-income housing and small commercial buildings as the foundation of a decision-support tool that will model energy performance upgrades for highest outcomes, including indoor environments and public health impact metrics. At the same time, OSEM has worked closely with Arlington Economic Development and the Affordable Housing Bureau, as well as community-based organizations to form and develop core relationships in vulnerable communities, assess and calculate greenhouse gas, energy efficiency, and human health indicators in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All will also enable the further development of a regional workforce to support residential buildings weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships and expanding existing ones.

Lastly, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, Arlington County will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles that provide essential community services. The County has been a regional leader in service fleet electrification, with EVs representing 56% of our non-pursuit light-duty fleet. This covers a range of County services including but not limited to Human Services programs, environmental management, non-pursuit law enforcement and fire, and core infrastructure crews, inspectors, and engineers.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



3B97A255DD9741F...
Mark J. Schwartz
County Manager



Office of Climate Action

301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of the City of Alexandria I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. Alexandria's Energy and Climate Action Plan set targets for the city to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and 80 to 100% by 2050. The level of action required to achieve the city's targets is ambitious and includes retrofitting 53,000 or more housing units with efficiency upgrades and having 49% of existing housing units use electric heating, all 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 and our own climate goals.

The City of Alexandria worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets
- Expanding workforce development solutions

Residential buildings in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2 to 4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable the City of Alexandria to rapidly scale our existing Home Rehabilitation Energy Efficiency Loan Program to address residential building GHG emissions. Currently, the program focuses on loans for home upgrades related to health, safety, and code and structural issues. Expanding the program will allow for more energy efficiency upgrades to be included, and for more homes to participate—which will both reduce GHG emissions and reach a greater number of LIDAC community members. The program engages these community members directly as participants and loan recipients, and on a community-wide scale as part of the City's housing master planning engagement.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



Ryan Freed
Climate Action Officer
City of Alexandria
Ryan.Freed@AlexandriaVA.gov



March 18, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Loudoun County, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030. In FY 2023, the County completed the County Energy Strategy that will guide sustainable energy efforts in the coming years, with goals defined through 2050. The Environment and Energy Work Plan initiated by the Board of Supervisors contains five initiatives: Sustainable Energy; Natural Resources; Environmental Justice; Public Engagement; and Government by Example. This grant proposal will further the County's efforts in the areas of residential buildings and fleet electrification.

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 and our own climate goals.

Loudoun County worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets and charging stations

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST.

On behalf of Loudoun County, I fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. Under leadership of the Department of General Services, the County commits to supporting this proposal to reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality, and provide benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Govan". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "George" and "Govan" being capitalized and prominent.

George Govan
Director
Department of Finance and Procurement
Loudoun County Government
George.govan@loudoun.gov



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

March 22, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Fairfax County, I am pleased to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to implement 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)*.

COG has set ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and deploying 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030. Fairfax County has adopted its own operational and community-wide climate goals, the latter of which were developed in coordination with COG. Fairfax County is working toward carbon neutrality in its government operations by 2040, and in the community by 2050, including strategies to increase production of onsite renewable energy and electrify the county fleet by 2035, among other measures. With buildings and transportation as the largest sources of GHG emissions in the region, it is essential to address these sectors to achieve COG's and our own community climate goals.

The Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high-priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

These three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST. As identified in the PCAP, Fairfax County has 140 disadvantaged census block groups that will be the focus of services and programming delivered under this opportunity. This focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities closely aligns with the county's One Fairfax policy, which commits the county to intentionally consider racial and social equity when designing or delivering programs and services.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable our low-income and disadvantaged residents increased access to regional programs like Solarize NOVA, which is a community-based outreach initiative that reduces the cost and complexity of going solar. Through this initiative, 529 solar systems have been installed in Fairfax County since 2014. This funding opportunity would allow for the rapid scale-up of the Solarize NOVA program, allowing additional households in Fairfax County to participate in and realize the benefits of going solar, with targeted engagement within underserved and historically marginalized communities. Our office will work in collaboration with the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development to pursue opportunities for qualifying households; such efforts are vital to achieving our climate and equity goals.

Additionally, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, Fairfax County will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles that provide essential community services and visually demonstrate leadership by example. Fairfax County's fleet includes over 300 electric and hybrid vehicles; that number is expected to increase as the county works to electrify its fleet by 2035. This initiative will help the county reach its operational climate goals and improve air quality in and around disadvantaged communities as it conducts its work.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,



John Morrill, Director
Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
john.morrill@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-1792



FALLS CHURCH CITY

March 21, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: Letter of Support 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of The City of Falls Church I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. Similarly, the City of Falls Church recently adopted a Community Energy Action Plan (CEAP) and a Government Operations Energy Action Plan (GOEAP) as roadmaps for the City government to support and collaborate with the community to pursue Falls Church's ambitious climate targets of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below 2005 levels by 50% 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 and our own climate goals.

The City of Falls Church has worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged residents.

More specifically, serving as a partner to COG in the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable the City of Falls Church to rapidly scale existing programs and partnerships that bring weatherization, electrification, and rooftop solar to residential buildings in the City.

Additionally, through the RACE to Clean Energy for All, the City of Falls Church will work with COG through pooled procurement to rapidly replace light duty internal combustion vehicles that provide essential community services such as public safety and building inspections and visually demonstrate leadership by example.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wyatt Shields". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wyatt" being more prominent than the last name "Shields".

Wyatt Shields
City Manager
City of Falls Church
wshields@fallschurchva.gov



March 19, 2024

Jeffrey King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
Department of Environmental Program (DEP)
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Subject: 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

Dear Mr. King:

On behalf of Prince William County, I am writing to express our strong support for and commitment to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 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)*.

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. Prince William County has also adopted Climate Mitigation and Resiliency goals, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030, and achieving 100% renewable electricity county-wide by 2035. 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 and Prince William's climate goals.

Prince William County's Office of Sustainability worked closely with COG and other partners on this application to develop the Metropolitan Washington region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). Through this process, three common high priority measures were identified for this application. These include:

- Implementing decarbonization (energy efficiency, weatherization, electrification and solar) measures in homes
- Expanding workforce development solutions
- Electrifying municipal light duty fleets

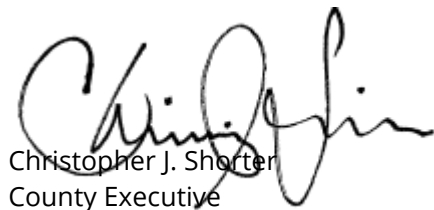
Residential buildings included in the RACE to Clean Energy for All include single family homes, townhomes, and 2-4 unit homes. This definition was designed in coordination with other state and regional CPRG implementation grant applicants to explicitly exclude any CPRG funding requests for applying decarbonization measures in larger residential or commercial buildings to eliminate any overlapping requests between regional and state applications.

The three measures represent common regional priorities and offer immediate and practical GHG emission reductions with an explicit focus on providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities as identified through EPA's EJScreen and CEJST.

Partnering with COG on the RACE to Clean Energy for All will enable the further development of a regional workforce to support residential buildings weatherization, efficiency upgrades, electrification and solar PV installation through building new partnerships and expanding existing ones.

We fully support COG and other partners throughout the region to accelerate priority climate actions in the Metropolitan Washington region. We are committed to reducing GHG emissions, improving air quality, and providing benefits to low-income, disadvantaged communities through shared action that will be accelerated via the RACE to Clean Energy for All.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Shorter", written over a printed name and title.

Christopher J. Shorter
County Executive