

March 15, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: MnTAP Support of the State Minnesota's participation in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant coalition proposal, Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge (NOFO EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) affirms our partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in its coalition with the State of Michigan in response to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation funding opportunity (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07). We are pleased to endorse the Midwest Industrial Coalition's objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the region's top polluting, hard-to-decarbonize industries.

Through the Midwest Industrial Coalition program period, we anticipate collaborating with the MPCA to deliver incentives programs to reduce industrial GHG emissions, including but not limited to industrial energy efficiency, fuel-switching, and innovative technologies. Our commitment extends to supporting program development and implementation of industrial emission reduction strategies.

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework and Michigan's Healthy Climate Plan, both published in 2022, as well as both states' Priority Climate Action Plans align our two states with many shared goals for equitable climate action that supports a robust clean economy. This proposal connects strongly with the ambitions in those documents and of our states to be national leaders in collaborative climate action.

The proposed GHG reduction measures will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions, provide substantial community benefits in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and complement other funding sources to maximize both GHG reductions and community benefits. The State of Michigan, through the Office of Climate and Energy (OCE), has a commendable track record of effectively utilizing state and federal grants while actively engaging with low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Given our states' shared goals and proven success in implementing equitable climate policies that support a clean economy, we have full confidence in Michigan's ability to lead the development the Midwest Industrial Decarbonization Challenge and achieve the objectives laid out in the application. These objectives include emissions reduction and mobilizing financing and private capital to address barriers to implementing clean and innovative industrial processes. Furthermore, this initiative will stimulate increased investment in clean industrial projects critical to achieving the state's climate objectives, particularly within historically underinvested communities facing longstanding challenges.

MnTAP is excited to collaborate in this industrial decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission: strengthening Minnesota businesses by improving efficiency while saving money through energy, water, and waste reduction. Our organization is based at the University of Minnesota in the School of Public Health. MnTAP takes pride in collaborating with others to identify practical, cost-effective solutions that help create environmentally conscious, safe, and efficient operations. We prioritize quality in our work and provide continual support through the implementation of each project.

We have provided pollution prevention technical assistance for businesses and organizations throughout Minnesota since we began in 1984. During that time, we have been involved in reducing industrial GHG emissions through activities such as site-specific energy audits, summer-long internship projects, and targeted training programs.

In addition to this work, MnTAP and MPCA have a long history of project partnerships. Following are some specific recent examples of projects that MnTAP partnered with MPCA:

- **EPA P2 Grant 2022** EPA-HQ-OPPT-2022-001 (Grant period 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2025)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568812)
 - “Pollution Prevention for Minnesota Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2022** EPA-I-OCSP-OPPT-FY2022-001 (Grant period 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2025)
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant ID 4U – 00E03258-0
 - “PFAS Pollution Prevention Best Management Practice Options and Opportunities for Minnesota Manufacturing Industries”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2020** (Grant period 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2023)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices and Implementation for Minnesota Metal Fabrication Industries”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2018** (Grant period 10/1/18-9/30/21)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “Alternative Trichloroethylene (TCE) Solvent Replacements: Pollution Prevention Assistance”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2016** (Grant period 10/1/16 – 9/30/18)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “P2 Grant: Pollution Prevention Opportunities in the Minnesota Food Processing Industry”

We are excited to support this collaborative proposal because we all have a role to play in making the Midwest a national leader in industrial decarbonization and a clean economy. We are enthusiastic about partnering with the MPCA to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ambitious and vital CPRG program.

Sincerely,



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