



OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID COULTER

Eric Quetell, Environmental Sustainability Officer

(248) 600-9001 • quetelle@oakgov.com

To Whom It May Concern –

We are pleased to indicate Oakland County's support for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' (SEMCOG's) application to the US-EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program Implementation Grants to lead a Building Decarbonization program in Southeast Michigan.

While there are a number of building improvement programs and incentives available to Southeast Michigan, there are considerable gaps and funding shortfalls. SEMCOG's Building Decarbonization initiative has been designed to leverage these programs, bringing them to more residential and municipal buildings, and integrating them into comprehensive decarbonization plans. This approach will accelerate the success of our ongoing initiatives and ensure existing funding sources are well used. Most importantly, it will result in greater reductions in energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy cost burdens than could be achieved by smaller programs on their own. The program will be unique in the following ways:

- **Reduce energy cost burdens through comprehensive retrofits.** The program will develop a unique and comprehensive plan for residents across the region, including coordinating multiple contractors and multiple stages of work rather than providing only piecemeal improvements. Ensuring the work is comprehensive, accessible, and well-funded will result in long-term utilities savings for building owners and occupants, reducing energy cost burdens in our region.
- **Add capacity to local governments and make it easier for building owners.** The program will provide 'energy advisers' who will evaluate each building's initial condition and energy efficiency, create a unique 'pathway to carbon neutrality' for that building, and then work with the owner to schedule and fund as much of the work as possible. This will ensure work is done correctly and under the highest building decarbonization programs for residential, commercial, and municipal buildings.
- **Leverage existing funding.** Energy advisers will identify and draw upon existing incentives and rebates to cover the work, first. The CPRG funds will be used to fill gaps in these programs to ensure that all existing funding sources are optimized, and building decarbonization is realized. This further adds capacity to local municipalities and builds upon the existing workforce development programs.

SEMCOG, as the regional planning organization and designated lead local air-quality planning agency under the federal Clean Air Act, is well positioned to lead this work in the region. Its established relationships in the region and State will allow it to coordinate planning and reporting and leverage existing committees to adequately distribute and manage funds.

In early 2024, Oakland County launched their Oakland SAVES program, an ARPA funded program targeting owner occupied homes for energy efficiency, weatherization, and renewable energy systems, and successfully enrolled over 1,100 single family homes – expending \$5M in just under 5 days. This CPRG funded program would allow the County to continue that program and expand to other areas of our population including multifamily housing and rental properties.

Oakland County is willing and enthusiastic to work with SEMCOG and provide support to implement the program. We understand that SEMCOG is structuring the program to ensure that Oakland County and the entire region will benefit from the work completed, and that this work will reduce energy cost burdens and improve the health, resilience, and quality of life for residents in our community and across the region.

We sincerely appreciate your time for review of this proposal, and look forward to advancing clean energy, energy efficiency, and decarbonization efforts throughout Southeast Michigan with SEMCOG and all of the other supporting partners.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Quetell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Quetell  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
Oakland County, MI  
[quetelle@oakgov.com](mailto:quetelle@oakgov.com)