



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron St., P.O. Box 8647 • Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

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March 11, 2024

Lindsey Kerkez
Engineer, Environment and Infrastructure
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
1001 Woodward Avenue, #1400
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Lindsey,

I'm delighted to support this letter of support on behalf of the City's of Ann Arbor, Michigan indicating our 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.

SEMCOG's strategically designed proposal leverages existing building improvement programs available in Southeast Michigan and fills many of the considerable existing gaps and challenges to scaling and integrating these programs. More specifically, SEMCOG's Building Decarbonization initiative has been designed to leverage exciting existing local programs, bringing them to more residential and municipal buildings, and integrating them into comprehensive decarbonization plans that can scale throughout the region, state, and nation. This approach is paired with strategic funding to fill existing gaps. Combined, 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. It will:

- **Reduce energy cost burdens through comprehensive retrofits.** The program will develop a unique and comprehensive plan for residents across the region. This includes coordinating multiple contractors and multiple stages of work rather than providing piecemeal improvements. Ensuring the work is comprehensive, accessible, and well-funded will ensure participating building owners realize long-term utilities savings, 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 reduce the effort and expertise required from municipal agencies and building owners, while still ensuring the work is done correctly. Much needed funding and support will also be allocated for municipal building.
- **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. This further aids capacity constrained local government agencies and builds upon the workforce development efforts already in place rather than competing.



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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.

Coordination of the kind proposed is critical for decarbonization to scale. In the City of Ann Arbor we are fortunate to have launched many cutting edge initiatives that have the potential to deeply and meaningfully help the region reduce climate pollution, improve indoor and outdoor air quality, enhance quality of life, and stimulate significant amounts of workforce opportunities. Our local goal of community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030 means we need to do all things, seamlessly and simultaneously, to usher in a just transition and a vibrant future for all. Yet, despite our work, we know more is desperately needed, especially for our most vulnerable. That is why we are excited to contribute to and support SEMCOG's project – and we are eager to help make the investments this critical funding with support.

For these reasons, the City of Ann Arbor is happy to support the SEMCOG CPRG application. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Missy Stults

Sustainability and Innovations Director, City of Ann Arbor, Michigan

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