

**The Environmental Protection Agency's
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG)
Letters of Support for the Mid-America Regional Council**

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A. CPRG Subaward Letters of Support

March 7th, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

BikeWalkKC extends this letter of commitment to Mid-America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

BikeWalkKC is a nonprofit organization working to make Greater Kansas City a place where residents are no longer required to drive to thrive. We envision a region where everyone moves through the city and its public spaces sustainably, equitably, safely, and comfortably.

We do this through public policy, Safe Routes to School programs, urban planning services, research and data analysis, and operating RideKC Bike, the region's bike share system that has seen year-over-year increase in ridership since its debut in 2012. BikeWalkKC serves the Kansas City metro area and prioritizes supporting transportation-insecure individuals who are also often the most impacted by climate change and air pollution.

BikeWalkKC has partnered with MARC for more than a decade. Our public policy staff actively serve on MARC committees and task forces that shape public policy for transportation and sustainability. We also partner with MARC on outreach programs and events to encourage individuals to choose sustainable transportation options. BikeWalkKC was involved in the planning process for this application by providing conceptual ideas for programs and activities, and by advising MARC on scopes and budgets for those initiatives. BikeWalkKC is committed to advancing three projects that prioritize energy and transportation justice and mitigate greenhouses in the Kansas City region:

- (1) **Bike Share for All Program** is a unique outreach and assistance program that provides clients of nonprofit social service agencies low- to no-cost access to shared micromobility options (specifically, electric bike technology.) BikeWalkKC will add 100 new electric bikes to our RideKC Bike bikeshare system, along with 10 new hubs with racks and signage to support this program. To ensure easy access to bike share, BikeWalkKC will also evaluate where bike share hubs are most needed to adequately serve the target population. This work will leverage CMAQ funding programmed through FFY 2026 for additional bikes and hubs. This funding will also provide bike skills and safety education for social service agency clients, language services to non-native speakers of English, including in-person interpretation services at education events, translation of print and digital resources, expanded language options within the bike share app, maintenance and operations funding for the life of the grant and personnel to support existing bike instructors and a new program manager.
- (2) **Bike Share for Cities.** MARC will leverage CPRG funds through a competitive subaward process to expand the RideKC Bike system into cities that express interest and meet CPRG program goals, like directly serving LIDACs. The funding will cover 300 e-bikes, hubs and racks for 30 new hubs, maintenance and operations for each bike, shop equipment, expansion and electrification of the

Our mission is to redefine our streets as places for people to build a culture of active living.

Ride KC Bike vans (4 total needed) that deploy and rebalance the bikes, installation of four publicly accessible EV charging ports, and two cargo e-bikes for educational program operations. Additional bike batteries (for swap-out system) will be purchased for both Bike Share for All and Bike Share for Cities, along with the expansion of shop charging capacity. Funding for the bike share expansion will be added to BikeWalkKC's subaward and will not go through the cities. However, cities must commit to paying for maintenance and operations of bikeshare infrastructure after the life of the grant. Several cities submitted proposals for bikeshare infrastructure during the PCAP process.

- (3) **Electric Bike Incentive Program.** BikeWalkKC will partner with MARC to create a new electric bike incentive program that will reduce the point-of-sale costs of personal electric bikes through rebates. Rebate incentives (approximately 5,000) will be distributed through an application and lottery process. It is MARC and BikeWalkKC's goal to distribute at least 50% of total incentive funds to qualifying low-income residents. BikeWalkKC will support MARC in the procurement of a vendor to administer the program, develop an effective communications plan and leverage our robust relationships with bike shops to help recruit retail partners. Several bike shops have already indicated enthusiastic interest in a regional e-bike incentive program. BikeWalkKC will provide educational programming to new e-bike owners to enhance confident and safe biking. Personnel supporting the Bike Share for All program will be leveraged to support this program.

The amount of funding requested is \$6,733,354 for programs and expenses outlined above. We have experience managing FHWA grants and will work with MARC to ensure timely spend-down of the funds and compliance with all EPA requirements.

BikeWalkKC has proposed these electric bike programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bring real benefits to members of the community, especially those whose lack of reliable transportation prevents them from accessing health services, job opportunities, grocery shopping and social networks. Electric bikes enable more people to bike and travel much farther while doing it. With electric motor assistance, people who previously avoided biking--due to fitness level or terrain--now have a viable option to make trips without a vehicle.

E-bikes can travel nearly 70 times farther than a gas-fueled automobile per pound of climate pollution. They have lower particulate matter emissions, encourage exercise, reduce the underlying cause of most traffic fatalities and severe injuries (high mass, high velocity cars and trucks), reduce congestion, take up much less room on the streets and in parking, facilitate emergency evacuations and reduce road wear.

We look forward to collaborating with MARC to bring real transformation to the Kansas City region.

Sincerely,



Eric Rogers, MPA
Executive Director
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March 14, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway Blvd., Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Tom:

Bridging The Gap is pleased to write this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your funding application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Bridging The Gap (BTG) is an environmental non-profit serving greater Kansas City, Missouri since 1992, with broad programming ranging from urban forestry and prairie restoration to workforce development and residential energy efficiency. BTG nurtures and engages a corps of 1,450 volunteers annually in direct environmental remediation, such as planting trees, collecting recyclables, removing exotic invasives from prairies, or picking up litter. BTG also maintains the City of KCMO's recycling centers and green infrastructure (GI), employs and trains citizens with barriers to employment in GI maintenance, and hosts an arborist pre-apprenticeship program. While BTG works in smaller municipalities in both Missouri and Kansas, much of our work is in the City of KCMO, particularly in six zip codes where lowest income households are concentrated. We enter homes in these zip codes daily to install energy- and water-efficiency devices such as faucet aerators and LED bulbs, replace leaking toilets, and in some cases insulate the home or replace missing doors, windows and furnaces with energy-efficient ones. This work reduces the disproportionate utility bill burdens borne by households of color, due in part to deteriorating housing stock which traces back to redlining practices, and Kansas City's extreme weather in both heat and cold.

Bridging The Gap is proud to be a very close working partner of Mid America Regional Council for many years, deeply involved in the development and writing of MARC's regional climate protection plan. As a subcontractor to MARC for EPA's Clean Air division from 2008-10, BTG taught climate change and engaged more than 9,000 citizens in greenhouse gas reduction actions, winning the EPA's national Clean Air Excellence award for education. Funded by MARC's Solid Waste Management division, BTG has engaged hundreds of area businesses in improved waste disposition and recycling practices for more than twenty years. BTG has served on MARC's Sustainable Places Policy Committee, its decision-making on awarding transportation dollars to grant applicants, and its water quality group, all addressing climate change concerns. In turn, we are grateful that you, Tom, have served on BTG's board for many years.

In preparation for this grant application, BTG held internal brainstorming and attended region-wide meetings held by MARC. We have proposed to lead two major initiatives for this CPRG grant. BTG shared research with MARC demonstrating that even a modestly-sized, low-income home produces roughly 12 tons of greenhouse gases annually. Because focusing on these poorly-insulated homes reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reduces utility bill burdens at once, making them energy efficient became a significant part of the strategy BTG has proposed to MARC for this grant.

Second, as one of the region's leading planters of trees, BTG has advocated for years about the power of trees to not only sequester carbon, but protect citizens from air pollution where they line major arterial streets and highways. Because real estate near

1427 W. 9th Street, STE 201
Kansas City, MO 64101
816-561-1087

www.bridgingthegap.org

Founded 1992

Printed on recycled paper.

busy roads is cheaper, lower income folks (disproportionately people of color) are more exposed to traffic pollution than average—one of the environmental stressors that shortens life expectancies in these homes. BTG therefore proposes heavily vegetating the arterial corridors on the east side of KCMO and in Kansas City, KS, where underserved communities are concentrated. This will sequester carbon, cool hot pavement, buffer air pollution for surrounding homes, and beautify historic boulevards and thoroughfares, which are less well maintained than in more affluent parts of the City. We also propose to experiment with the Miyawaki method of deep re-forestation through intensive planting of natives, in at least two parks in these areas.

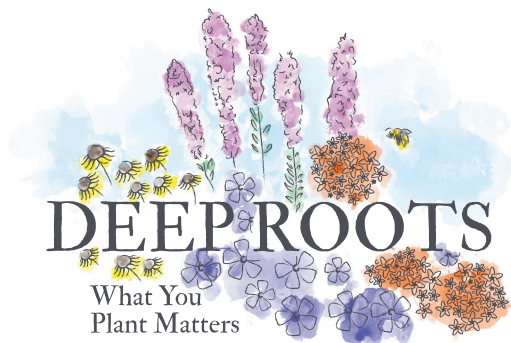
We hope we have conveyed in this letter that Bridging The Gap is deeply committed to making our community resilient in the climate change era, to its partnership with MARC, and to the outstanding execution of the strategies and purposes of this grant. In preparation for the grant, BTG will increase the size and training of our Heartland Tree Alliance and Energy and Water Efficiency teams with at least three full time incremental staff for vegetation of corridors, and one for home energy improvements. For at least the next five years after the grant is awarded, we commit to maintain this larger staff, and working with MARC to become a trusted presence in Kansas City's most challenged communities. For the grant, we respectfully request the sum of \$5,000,000, \$1,000,000 of which is for home energy efficiency and the remainder for trees. This will allow us to invest approximately \$12,500 in at least 48 homes in energy efficiency upgrades (or more homes for fewer average dollars), and to plant as many as 4,000 trees along heavily trafficked corridors.

Participation in this grant program will increase our capacity to ameliorate the effects of climate change through significant greenhouse gas reduction, while at the same time relieving our most challenged households of dangerous discomfort in extreme weather, the chronic worry of high utility bills, and the unhealthy presence of air pollution. We look forward to working with MARC to make energy efficiency and climate preparedness available in some of the most challenged homes in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Kristin Riott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristin" and last name "Riott" clearly distinguishable.

Kristin Riott
Executive Director
Bridging The Gap, Inc.
(816) 561-1087
Kristin.riott@bridgingthegap.org



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Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway Blvd., Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Tom:

Deep Roots KC would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Deep Roots KS is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization that seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change and habitat loss through native plant landscapes. Deep Roots offers hands-on learning opportunities and volunteer consulting which gives residents the tools to plant successful gardens and acreages. Working in Kansas City's urban and exurban communities, Deep Roots is changing the way our region landscapes.

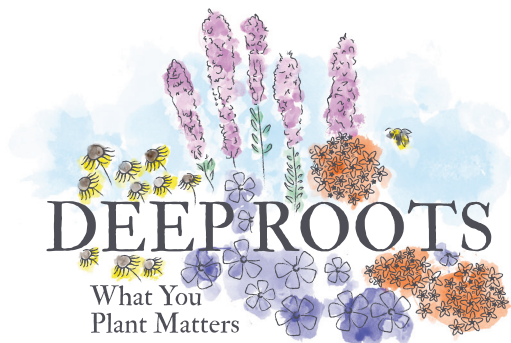
Planting native species is one of the most important acts for climate resilience. Native plants trap carbon, slow rain water run-off (reducing flash floods), filter water, and promote biodiversity. Native plants help mitigate the effects of climate change that are already happening.

Deep Roots KC has been an active partner of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) since its incorporation in 2016. Deep Roots actively engages in MARC committees and collaborates in program development and implementation. With MARC, Deep Roots created landscaping recommendations for vacant lots. Similarly, Deep Roots developed training modules for MARC and its partners to increase the capacity of businesses working in the Green Infrastructure sector.

Deep Roots is an active participant in MARC's planning, and we act as a conduit for our involved and invested multi-sector partners. With more than 60 collective impact partners, we solicit project solutions regarding climate change and environmental impact. Our collective impact organizations include local and state governments, other local and regional non-profits, private businesses, and citizens. Their collective synergy builds programs that are greater than the sum of our collective parts.

P.O. Box 32131
Kansas City, MO 64171

www.deeproots.org



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(Page 2)

Deep Roots seeks to share climate resilient native plant resources with historically underserved communities. Deep Roots will engage community members about native plants and will equip participants with native plant garden designs and the plants to populate the design. Deep Roots will lead garden tours and workshops, and its volunteers will provide personalized consultations. Deep Roots anticipates serving 20 communities and more than 650 residents over a five year period. Combined these residents will install more than 26,000 native plants.

Deep Roots requests funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 (\$200,000/year). This funding will underwrite staffing to organize community events, train volunteers, assist residents in their planning and implementation, and will support the purchase of plants.

According to Village and Wilderness, 63% of Americans say climate change is currently affecting their local community. MARC proposes a series of impactful strategies to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. Planting resilient species does both. With our combined efforts, we expect residents to actively participate in this program and reduce carbon emissions. We look forward to working with MARC and its partners to implement these strategies and measure our combined results.

Sincerely,

Stacia B. Stelk
Executive Director, Deep Roots KC
816 804 2097
stacia@deeproots.org

P.O. Box 32131
Kansas City, MO 64171

www.deeproots.org



Clyde McQueen
President & CEO

March 26, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Full Employment Council (FEC) is pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment to Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The FEC operates the public workforce investment boards for the greater Kansas City area on the Missouri side, including the 5 Missouri counties served by MARC. FEC assists disadvantaged job seekers with career guidance, job training, and connections to employers for apprenticeships and other employment opportunities. FEC has a long track record of building partnerships with employers and community-based organizations to support residents in gaining job skills and securing meaningful employment.

Our organization has a long history of working with MARC to advance regional initiatives that strengthen our workforce and support disadvantaged job seekers. Among the partnerships with MARC, there were several involved in training workers for emerging technology fields. FEC works with the region's community colleges, building trades councils, and unions among others to help job seekers secure needed training and credentials. In addition, FEC offers apprenticeship opportunities for job seekers to both earn and learn on the job. FEC recognizes the importance of working closely with partners to develop training curriculum for emerging fields such as electric vehicle technology or urban forestry and agriculture adjusting to a changing climate.

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The Full Employment Council, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Missouri Relay Service at 711.

The proposed Energizing Climate Action in KC program is expected to create significant job opportunities in the building trades and electric vehicle fields that could lead to good-paying jobs and career pathways. Over the next 5 years, if funded, FEC is prepared to assist MARC in helping residents prepare for jobs offered by area employers through career coaching, training, apprenticeships, internships, and other services. Through \$3,500,000 in EPA funds, FEC would be able to support an estimated 345 disadvantaged workers. FEC could match the new EPA funds with workforce dollars where job opportunities upon completion of training or paid apprenticeships are possible and document the leverage of \$1,750,000.

We are excited about the economic and environmental benefits that this grant program offers the Kansas City area and are committed to being part of its successful implementation.

Sincerely,



Clyde McQueen

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March 18, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Selection Committee,

The continued success of the Kansas City metro area requires a hard look at the future and the challenges to come. Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is leading our region to the future with a climate action plan. The City of Grandview is committed to this plan and I fully support MARC's application for federal funds to implement its Priority Climate Action Plan throughout the Kansas City region.

Receiving nearly \$190 million in grant funding through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) program would allow MARC to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide community benefits to disadvantaged communities throughout the region.

As Mayor of a minority-majority community split by an interstate, Grandview is committed to reducing carbon emissions for the planet and for the health of our citizens. If MARC is generously awarded CPRG funds, Grandview would benefit with \$1.25M to install solar canopies over two City parking lots. Grandview is landlocked and only 14.73 square miles, so using existing city parking lots for renewable power production provides the most efficient use of land and an opportunity to offset the environmental costs associated with asphalt.

In addition, as the winner of the 2024 Arbor Award of Excellence given by the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Forestry, Grandview looks forward to adding more

trees to our landscape. If awarded the CPRG funding, MARC has committed provide \$3,000-\$10,000 in funding the planting of additional trees throughout Grandview. Using City staff for planting would help minimize costs while beautifying our City and providing cleaner air for citizens and visitors.

Grandview is a resilient community, and with the EPA's investment and MARC's leadership, we look forward to becoming climate resilient as well. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to helping MARC bring transformational change to my City as well as the entire region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LDJ', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mayor Leonard D. Jones, Jr.



We build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter.

March 15, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional housing stock, Habitat KC supports a mission of building a healthier and more sustainable built environment for Kansas City residents by building energy efficient homes, providing energy saving minor and critical home repairs, and diverting millions of pounds of material from the landfill through our ReStore operations.

Habitat KC currently has partnerships with MARC through our Regional Housing Partnership and Aging In Place program. These partnerships have allowed Habitat KC to expand our model with the inclusion of a Community Land Trust partnership and provide minor and critical repairs for many individuals in need.

Receiving CPRG funds through MARC would help us lead the Home Modification Coalition of Greater Kansas City, make much needed modifications for low-income families, streamline an intake process and assess supply chain efficiencies among other benefits for our partner communities.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our staff, volunteers and supporters to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Thank you for your considered support of this meaningful request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Hicks'.

Lindsay Hicks
President and CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City

Heartland

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

14 March 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom:

Heartland Conservation Alliance (HCA) would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

HCA works with partners to protect, connect, and restore the Blue River watershed and its urban greenspaces for the benefit and enjoyment of all. We envision a sustainable environment that supports the health of all human and natural communities in the Kansas City region. In 2021, the Blue River watershed received a grade of “C” in HCA’s Blue River Report Card, with an overall score of 46%. The grade reflects the combined scores from six categories. Four categories (Water Quality, Development, Recreation, and Community Connections) received “C” letter grades; two categories (Governance and Habitat) received “D” letter grades. Most of the High Social Vulnerability tracts within Kansas City, MO identified by MARC fall within the Blue River watershed.

HCA serves as the Blue River Ambassador Organization for the EPA’s Urban Waters Federal Partnership, a role we originally shared with MARC dating back to 2013. As Ambassador and with the assistance of EPA funding, we recently convened partners to develop a [Water Equity Roadmap for the Blue River](#) and a [Blue River Greenway vision case statement](#).

Numerous municipal and not-for-profit partners, including MARC, are collaborating to fully protect, connect, and restore the Blue River Greenway from the Overland Park Arboretum in suburban Johnson County, Kansas to Corrington Park in urban Kansas City, Missouri, near the confluence of the Blue and Missouri Rivers. The project builds on our considerable public lands and trails, identifying gaps and opportunities to secure land and public access, protect and enhance habitat, and fully connect trails.

The Blue River is a unique urban waterway. Johnson County, Kansas and Cass County, Missouri headwaters are a mix of natural wetlands, forests, grasslands, pasture, and cropland. The river alternately flows through affluent, upper-middle-income, and middle-income suburban neighborhoods, middle- to lower-income, racially and ethnically diverse urban residential neighborhoods, and heavily industrialized areas protected by a levee system. Several regional and local parks are located at various points along the river’s pathway. This diversity is both a challenge and a tremendous opportunity for the river corridor to protect and restore physical, environmental, ecological, ethnic, socioeconomic, and political connections and serve as a model and catalyst for our region.

If MARC’s CPRG application and proposed subaward to HCA is approved, HCA commits to work with stakeholders and partners to perform restoration activities for the entirety of a 95.26 acres Demonstration Site, including 65 acres of former cropland converted to wetland forest habitat in the riparian corridor along the Blue River with a potential in-situ agroforestry food forest along the property edge. The project site is inside of EJ tracts designated by MARC and adjacent to an EPA EJ designated community where the community consists of 84% people of color, 88% low income, and 34% less than a high school education.

Additional restoration work may occur in 30 acres of existing forested habitat where mature black walnut trees were logged from the property and in areas where invasive honeysuckle may need to be removed. The site will also include opportunities for 1) community engagement (i.e., educational and recreational activities) and 2) workforce development for underrepresented and underserved youth through our close collaboration with Cornerstones of Care's Build Trybe Conservation Landscaping 10-week training program. To disseminate this work, a regional riparian buffer restoration manual will be developed.

Restoring 95 acres of land will sequester from 440 to 580 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (mtCO₂e)/year upon reaching maturity, for an estimated 13,300 to 17,500 mtCO₂e over a 40-year period. It will also provide cleaner water, reduced flooding risk, erosion control, habitat connectivity, biodiversity restoration, heat island mitigation, equitable access to nature, and workforce development for underserved youth.

HCA has secured the funding to acquire the proposed restoration site and is in the process of acquiring the property from the present owner. Should this land acquisition fall through, HCA would engage with community partners to find another comparable plot of land that meets the criteria outlined in the proposal above.

MARC's community and partner engagement process for this CPRG application was extensive and HCA was proud to be involved with the planning process for this application. HCA staff and board members participated in several planning meetings including the Climate Resilience Workshops in September 2023, the Community Coalition Meetings in November 2023, the Priority Climate Action Plan Workshop in December 2023, the Draft Priority Climate Action Plan Webinar and Q&A in February 2024, as well as numerous intermediate check-ins via email and in stakeholder meetings. Further, HCA contributed to MARC's 2021 Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan and 2019 Climate Action KC Playbook.

MARC estimates that current riparian forests in the Kansas City Region sequester approximately 600,000 tons CO₂e/year. Area forests, prairies and savannahs are estimated to sequester approximately 1.5, 3-5, and 5-7 t/year, respectively. Doubling well-managed riparian habitat would double carbon sequestration. Large landscape conservation practices, from grassland and wetland restoration to cover cropping and regenerative agriculture, create opportunities to scale up mitigation efforts by an order of magnitude. Sequestration opportunities will allow the region to achieve net zero reductions after energy generation, energy efficiency and transportation measures are implemented.

HCA looks forward to continuing to work with MARC and the EPA on nature-based solutions that are essential not only for our region's net-zero goals but also for the natural, transportation, social, economic, and political co-benefits they provide.

Sincerely,



Logan Heley
Executive Director | Heartland Conservation Alliance
816-316-6071
logan@heartlandconservationalliance.org



February 28, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom:

Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

KCCG empowers low-income households, schools and community groups in the greater Kansas City area to improve their food access and the environmental health of their communities by establishing food-producing gardens and orchards. We support a vibrant network of 3,500 backyard gardens and 800 community sites, helping provide healthy foods to more than 45,000 households each year.

Our Giving Grove orchard program works with residents to plant and sustain urban orchards, making orcharding an affordable and accessible endeavor for low-income communities. Since the program's inception in 2013, we have supported the installation of 158 orchards in CJEST communities, encompassing 2,366 fruit and nut trees. These orchards are primarily located in the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas.

We target orchard installation in neighborhoods with the greatest need for food justice – which, in nearly all cases, are neighborhoods that also have significant need for environmental justice. Urban orchards are an attractive choice for green space development because they provide multiple benefits – environmental, social and economic – to underserved neighborhoods. Orchards improve air quality, reduce the urban heat island effect and mitigate stormwater, while simultaneously serving as a placemaking strategy, improving community cohesion and providing a source of affordable healthy food.

MARC was instrumental in advising and coaching our leadership in launching the Giving Grove program and has continued to provide assistance over its decade of operation. Our work exemplifies one of the key tenants of MARC's Green Infrastructure Framework: establishing solutions which integrate human and social benefits while simultaneously providing the ecosystem services of cleaning the air and water.

We commit to working with MARC to sustain and expand a network of neighborhood-led urban orchards, located in CJEST communities throughout the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Over a 5-year period, we will:

- Establish 35 new orchards, recruiting and training neighborhood stewards to provide care for the trees,
- Provide sustaining support to a network of 158 established orchard sites, to include low-cost holistic care supplies, continuing education for stewards and onsite horticultural and community engagement coaching,
- Install educational signage to inform neighborhood members of the benefits of the orchards,

- Install and monitor 4 weather stations at orchard sites throughout the metro, using data to warn stewards of anticipated pest and disease pressures, as part of a holistic management approach, and,
- Develop and deliver educational resources for orchard stewards on the impact of climate change on local orchard care.

The amount of funding requested is \$917,913, over a 5-year grant period. This amount will provide salary and benefit funds for Giving Grove program staff to carry out the above-named activities, subsidize the cost of fruit and nut trees and orchard supplies for low-income orchard partners, and cover the costs of educational signage and the operation of weather stations.

At KCCG, we have long recognized the need for increased sustainability in our community – both in the health of our local food systems and the environmental health of our urban neighborhoods. We are excited by this opportunity and looking forward to working with MARC to grow our footprint of orchards to increase food sovereignty and increase environmental justice in underserved neighborhoods. Together, we can grow a healthier and more resilient Kansas City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Meyer".

Jennifer Meyer
Executive Director, Kansas City Community Gardens
(816) 912-3699
jennifer@kccg.org



March 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway Blvd. Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105
Email: tjacobs@marc.org

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) is pleased to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

KCPL provides educational and social services to the urban population of Kansas City, Missouri. The Library serves a wide diversity of patrons including communities which have been historically marginalized and disadvantaged by public systems. Our ten physical locations and robust mobile services and outreach divisions serve over 200,000 cardholders and more than 500,000 visitors annually. Beyond our wide-ranging services – lifelong literacy, workforce development, digital inclusion, community convenings, 1:1 and community-based education – all ten of our public library facilities provide refuge for Kansas City residents, offering heating, cooling, water and restroom access, and charging shelters for those without housing or adequate utilities year-round and during times of extreme weather.

The Library recognizes that evolving climate volatility and extreme weather directly impacts our patrons and challenges our capacity to serve our constituents. In addition to introducing specialized library services tailored to environmental literacy; access to a comprehensive collection of books, documentaries, and online resources on the effects of climate change on our natural and human-made ecosystems; the Library offers workshops and training resources to encourage sustainable living practices, renewable energy solutions, and strategies to mitigate human contributions to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

A key facet of the Library's community engagement practices is a robust network of partnerships with more than 200 community organizations, including MARC. Our MARC partnership has provided essential resources to support the Library's strategic planning processes, program evaluation activity, and internal efforts to reduce environmental impact and operate more sustainably. Our most recent MARC partnership is the creation of "Library Views," an online mapping tool to visualize current and forecasted data on our district demographics, patron needs, library accessibility, and service gaps impacting our constituents. These innovative collaborations stand alongside traditional and pragmatic sustainability initiatives, such as a recent Solid Waste Management Division grant enabling the necessary installation of a cardboard recycling baler. In terms of community engagement, the collaborative launch of a "Making a Great City" (MAGC) signature event series exemplifies the strengths of this partnership and of

both institutions' emphasis on collaboration and community engagement. Since launching in 2018, MAGC has invited the nation's foremost thought-leaders on sustainability, urban planning, and economic development interface directly with residents and decisionmakers, informing smart, sustainable, and equitable growth in Kansas City. The series has welcomed 4,000 participants and attendees, and engaged regional chambers of commerce, major funders, industrial and commercial leaders, and civic institutions and illustrates the long tail of collaborative planning.

The opportunity to partner with MARC as a subawardee of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant builds on this dynamic partnership. The Library requests a CPRG Subaward in the amount of \$1.5 million to support the transformation of the Lucile H. Bluford Branch Library -- busiest neighborhood branch in our system, which is situated in a community facing deep-rooted challenges, including intergenerational poverty, systemic racism, violence, and barriers to economic and healthcare opportunities. As many as 1,000 visitors per day rely on this facility, with significant increases by patrons seeking climate refuge during extreme weather. The current facility needs to be doubled in size to meet current demands. CPRG funds help to ensure that from design through commissioning of the facility, energy efficiency and sustainable building practices can remain at the forefront. These funds will allow the Library to prioritize energy efficiency through design and construction, and consider solar and alternative energy sources, sustainable construction methods, and building materials reuse.

Complementing the RPCAP and CPRG initiatives, a U.S. Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize Phase I grant was awarded planning of a system-wide Library sustainability plan, focused on energy-efficient facility upgrades to existing facilities and the creation of Climate Resilience Hubs within each of the Library's ten physical locations, paired with an experiential learning curriculum for the public. These initiatives will lay the groundwork for continued partnership and expansive opportunities to advance the goals of the Regional Priority Climate Action Plan while empowering Kansas City residents to operate as environmental stewards and champions for sustainability and resilience amidst rapid climate change.

We offer our wholehearted support and gratitude for MARC's leadership in the Regional Priority Climate Action Plan as well as the CPRG grant. This partnership will not only provide real, measurable benefit to the environment in the form of substantive reduction in GHG emissions, increase neighborhood resilience, and empower individuals to adopt sustainability measures in their daily lives, but it will also convey a powerful message to the greater Kansas City region about the importance of proactive engagement in climate resilience. Together, we can set a benchmark for the role of libraries in sustainable community development that can inspire similar efforts nationwide.

Sincerely,



Debbie Siragusa
Interim Director and Chief Executive
Kansas City Public Library
debbiesiragusa@kclibrary.org



County Administrator's Office

David W. Johnston, County Administrator

701 North 7th St., Suite 945
Kansas City, Kansas 66101-3064

Phone: (913) 573-5030
Fax: (913) 573-5540

March 11, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council (MARC)

Mr. Jacobs,

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) would like to extend this letter of commitment to the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The UG serves the residents of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (KCK). As a majority-minority population of approximately 167,000, our community is predominantly classified as a Justice40 community under the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Compared to the broader Kansas City Metropolitan Area, the UG experiences high rates of housing insecurity, food deserts, poor health outcomes (the second worst in the state compared to all other counties) and lack of access to opportunity. In particular, KCK's urban core suffers from decades of disinvestment as a result of historic redlining. Due to the proximity to vast highway infrastructure, previous industrial uses, and past demolition practices, KCK residents are impacted by legacy pollution and environmental injustice at a disproportionate rate in the region.

Through recent planning efforts, including the 2022 goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan, 2023 PlanKCK Citywide Comprehensive Plan, 2023 Urban Heat Island Mapping Initiative, and the ongoing Community Health Improvement Plan process, the UG is working with the community to assess challenges, identify future goals, and determine specific actions to not only achieve community desires but also access the historic federal funding available. These recent efforts have identified specific measures to work towards community prosperity and establish the necessary infrastructure and programming to create a vibrant and resilient community. This includes prioritizing active transportation, housing weatherization, renewable energy generation, access to healthy food, and increasing tree canopy and green infrastructure. The projects identified in MARC's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) not only help us reach our goals, but are informed by our community.

The UG is an active participant in MARC-led planning efforts and initiatives, such as the Regional Climate Action Plan, Connected KC 2050, Smart Moves, and Community for All Ages. To date, a total of 9 Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) grants have been awarded to the

UG since the program launched in 2013, as well as numerous other grants administered by MARC.

Since engagement began in Spring 2023, the UG and its community members have actively participated in the planning process for MARC's CPRG application. The UG has been in no less than 10 meetings hosted by MARC to identify and prioritize projects across the region. Additionally, the UG has engaged through our roles on MARC-led committees, including the Climate Environmental Council, Total Transportation Policy Committee, and First Suburbs Coalition. Further, the UG continues to incorporate and align ongoing planning efforts, such as those listed above, with MARC's regional planning initiatives.

We commit to working with MARC to continue participation in regional initiatives and implement regional goals. As part of the CPRG, the UG commits to implementing relevant projects identified in the PCAP, including construction of the Northeast (NE) KCK Heritage Trail, creation of resiliency hubs, participation in a regional weatherization, implementation of complete streets and active transportation projects, and supporting community solar. In particular, the NE KCK Heritage Trail is a key shared use path that will, upon completion, connect NE KCK to Downtown KCK, the American Riverfront Heritage Trail, and across the river into Kansas City, Missouri. The UG intends to work with MARC for the duration of this project and longer, if additional funding is acquired.

We look forward to working with MARC to implement critical projects in Wyandotte County and KCK that will have broader impacts on the region and long-term community resiliency.

Sincerely,



David Johnston
County Administrator
djohnston@wycokck.org



Department of Planning + Urban Design

Unified Government of Wyandotte County • Kansas City, Kansas

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April 24, 2023

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Subject: Support for MARC regional leadership on Climate Pollution Reduction Program

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) Planning and Urban Design Department strongly supports the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. MARC is well positioned to serve as the lead agency for the Kansas City metropolitan area given its leadership in the development of the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan along with its demonstrated capacity to administer and coordinate complex federal grants like this one.

The UG formally endorsed the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan by Resolution in 2022. Since that time, we have continued to advance our local climate action plans through our ongoing PlanKCK comprehensive plan update process in ways that align with the regional plan. Additional federal support to refine and enhance the regional climate action plan will invariably benefit our community and the entire metropolitan Kansas City area.

We look forward to participating in this upcoming work to create a more resilience future for our community.

Sincerely,

Gunnar Hand, AICP
Director of Planning and Urban Design



Office of the Chancellor

24 March 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

University of Missouri-Kansas City extends this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As the Chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), I am proud to lead an institution that is vital to Kansas City, Missouri, and beyond, serving over 15,000 students from a diverse array of backgrounds. Our commitment extends to over 10,000 students from the Kansas City Metropolitan region. UMKC is dedicated to offering exceptional educational opportunities, with a focus on supporting disadvantaged communities. This is evident in our financial aid statistics, where 39% of our degree-seeking undergraduate students receive Pell Grants and 90% of first-time, full-time students receive some form of financial assistance, totaling around \$217 million awarded annually for all UMKC students. Our student body's diversity is a cornerstone of our identity, with a substantial percentage identifying as part of a minority or international group, ensuring a rich, inclusive educational environment. Our mission is to deliver exceptional education, research, and engagement opportunities, focusing on urban issues, health disparities, and the arts. UMKC offers more than 120 academic programs, ensuring students have access to quality higher education and the support they need to succeed. Our commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and community service is unwavering, as we strive to impact not only our students but also the broader community we serve.

For over nine decades, the UMKC has been a community pillar in creating an exceptional quality of life throughout our region. In keeping with that history, I am writing to proudly join the MidAmerica Regional Council by fully supporting its Climate Pollution Reduction Grant proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

At UMKC, we understand that mitigating climate pollution not only helps our environment but also plays a pivotal role in developing community resilience, promoting sustainable economic development, and safeguarding public health. UMKC recognizes the negative impacts of climate change and the proliferation of criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants on communities. From respiratory illnesses to compromising water and food security, these pollutants pose threats to public health and environmental well-being. Our urban environment is particularly exposed to greenhouse gases, with vulnerable populations being the most susceptible to its adverse effects. At UMKC, we will allocate the necessary resources, expertise, and workforce to ensure the successful implementation of the proposed initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout our region. Together, we can forge a path towards a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for our region.

As Kansas City's university and as the nonprofit association of city and county governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Kansas City region, UMKC and MARC partner regularly. MARC and UMKC are both partners in the Government-2-University initiative that is building a stronger talent pipeline for public sector careers in the region. David Warm, executive director of MARC, serves on the UMKC Architecture and Urban Planning Advisory Board that assists in furthering the goals of the programs, engages the university leadership, and participates in academic functions. The two organizations also partner on community-engaged research, such as the Transit Zero Fare Impact Analysis, the Eastern Jackson County Homelessness Coordination, and the Study of the Community Health Worker in the Kansas City Region.

UMKC has been engaged in the planning process for this application at each step of the way. UMKC faculty serve on MARC committees, such as the Sustainable Places Policy Committee and the Climate Environment Council. The University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) has actively contributed to MARC's Climate Action Plan, demonstrating a deep commitment to regional climate resilience and sustainability. UMKC's involvement includes faculty service on key MARC committees, direct participation in the planning and feedback process for the KC Regional Climate Action Plan, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. The engagement extended across approximately 15 faculty members, including a dean and a vice-chancellor, alongside 5 staff members. This collaboration underscores UMKC's dedication to community engagement, equity, and environmental justice, supporting the development of initiatives that address the unique needs of the Kansas City region through academic and community partnership.

As Chancellor of UMKC, I am fully committed to the success of UMKC's provision of capacity building, leadership, evaluation, assessment, and data collection (called Co-LEAD) for the regional CPRG initiative. UMKC faculty and staff at both the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership and the Center for Neighborhoods will offer a comprehensive suite of resources, expertise, and infrastructural support aimed at empowering small nonprofits and local communities to actively engage in and contribute to the regional CPRG initiative.

- **Training and Workshops:** We will conduct regular training sessions and workshops throughout the duration of the CPRG initiative (2025-2030), aimed at building capacity within small nonprofits and community groups for effective climate action and environmental justice.
- **Technological Support:** The development and launch of a specialized app, alongside a dynamic data dashboard, are scheduled within the first 12 months of the project. These tools are designed to facilitate streamlined data collection, evaluation, and real-time reporting, enhancing the program's efficiency and impact assessment capabilities.
- **Community Engagement:** Through the Center for Neighborhoods, UMKC will mobilize local stakeholders for the advocacy and execution of environmental projects, offering continuous support from 2025 to 2030.
- **Evaluation:** The Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership at UMKC will conduct an ongoing formative and annual summative evaluation to monitor progress, with comprehensive reviews planned each year from 2025 to 2030.

This commitment to the Co-LEAD program reflects UMKC's dedication to fostering sustainable community development, environmental justice, and the collaborative pursuit of climate action goals. We are enthusiastic about working closely with MARC and all stakeholders involved to make a meaningful impact in our region. Our collective efforts will not only address the pressing challenges of climate change but also build a more resilient and inclusive community for future generations.

UMKC is committed to supporting the Mid-America Regional Council's leadership on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program, and we look forward to engaging learners and faculty in broader efforts of environmental justice, sustainability, and community empowerment. This collaboration reflects our ongoing efforts to foster a resilient, inclusive community and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Sincerely,



C. Mauli Agrawal, Ph.D.
Chancellor



April 1, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway Blvd., Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Vicinity Energy (Vicinity) would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Vicinity is the largest independent owner and operator of district energy systems in North America, with a portfolio of 19 downtown municipal systems serving 12 major cities, including Kansas City. Vicinity and its predecessors have been providing safe, reliable, and critical services for over a century and have completed many technology and fuel transitions, continually leading in the transition to cleaner energy services. In Kansas City, Vicinity supplies both steam and chilled water to more than 4-million square feet of commercial building space in the downtown skyline. Our customers include the T-Mobile Center, Bartle Hall, City of KCMO (City Hall, Police Headquarter, KC Municipal Court, Jackson County Jail, and Jackson County Courthouse), Marriott Hotel, Flashcube Apartments, 909 Walnut Apartments, Loews Hotel, and Hotel Phillips.

Recognizing the pressing need to address carbon emissions, particularly from commercial buildings, Vicinity is committed to pioneering sustainable solutions. Our project will electrify and decarbonize our Kansas City district cooling plant by procuring and installing a state-of-the-art 3,000-ton electric chiller. This transformative step will replace our current fossil-fuel powered, steam-driven chiller, resulting in an annual reduction of 6,036 metric tons of CO₂e emissions and a water savings of over 77 million gallons.

Vicinity first learned about the CPRG opportunity in October of 2023 after participating in a community coalition meeting hosted by MARC. During this meeting, Vicinity described how decarbonizing district energy systems can help downtown corridors meet sustainability goals and talked about several of our shovel-ready projects, including replacing our steam-driven chillers with electric chillers. Since the October community meeting, Vicinity has worked with MARC to prioritize projects within our decarbonization plan that will accelerate the decarbonization of buildings we serve in Kansas City. Further, Vicinity is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions across the entire system by 2050.

Vicinity is committed to working with MARC to accelerate the decarbonization of buildings we serve in Kansas City. The investment of an electric chiller presents a scalable solution that extends the benefits of decarbonized cooling to both existing customers and to future developments in downtown Kansas City. This ensures a sustainable and environmentally approach for the long term, furthering the benefits of the CPRG investment. The installation of this electric chiller,

powered by carbon-free electricity, is shovel-ready and will take 18-20 months to complete and will be developed to ensure uninterrupted service to the community.

Vicinity is requesting assistance in the amount of \$4.12 million to facilitate the purchase and installation of a renewable electricity-driven chiller. Over the past 3 years, Vicinity has made over \$4.125M in investments to expand the existing cooling system auxiliaries to support the future installation of an additional electric chiller. In 2024, Vicinity will be investing an additional \$725K to support the future electric chiller.

Over the past century, district energy systems have demonstrated a commendable ability to easily switch fuels. The replacement of our fossil-fuel powered, steam-driven chillers with the installation of electric chillers at Vicinity's central plant allows customers to avoid the need for upgrading electrical infrastructure building by building and allows for increased electrical load to a single source, thereby reducing costs and accelerating the transitions to decarbonization. Since all investments will be made into infrastructure that currently serves downtown Kansas City, the benefits will remain local and support businesses within the city.

Vicinity is dedicated to a clean energy future. We look forward to working with MARC to meet this moment and reduce and reverse the harmful impacts of climate change. By making proactive investments in district energy systems, urban cores like Kansas City can rapidly reduce their carbon footprint.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner on this important decarbonization effort. Vicinity looks forward to a long, productive relationship with MARC that aligns with Kansas City's mission to simultaneously promote social equity, economic vitality, and environmental quality.

Sincerely,



Jeannie Morris
Vice President, Government Affairs
610.453.2951
jeannie.morris@vicinityenergy.us



March 18, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

**Re: *Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants
General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.***

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

Workforce Partnership (WP) is pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

WP serves as the public workforce development board within the greater Kansas City area for Wyandotte, Johnson and Leavenworth counties in Kansas – all counties served by MARC. While WP can provide basic employment services to any area resident, we specialize in assisting job seekers with barriers to employment by providing career guidance, job training resources, supportive services and direct connections to employers for employment opportunities. We also serve as an apprenticeship intermediary and can assist employers in the building of new apprenticeship pathways and help recruit job seekers for those apprenticeship roles. WP has a strong track record of building partnerships with employers, community colleges, building trades councils and unions, and other community-based organizations to help job seekers secure needed training and credentials as well as secure meaningful employment.

Our organization also has a long history of working with MARC to advance regional initiatives that strengthen our workforce and support disadvantaged job seekers. Most recently, WP and MARC worked with other partners to attract unemployed and underemployed adults in Wyandotte County and provide them with employment and training services. Despite its sizeable employment base, Wyandotte County is the most distressed county in the bi-state Kansas City area, and during and following the pandemic, many of its adult residents remained unemployed or underemployed. With additional EDA funding through MARC, WP had the means to increase the number of individuals in Wyandotte County whom we could assist, including individuals who were employed, but in very low-paying jobs. As part of this project, WP provided career coaching, resume and interview assistance, funding for training and upskilling for in-demand job skills, and connections to employers.

WP recognizes the importance of focusing on the future of work so that our residents are prepared for emerging jobs. We appreciate the need to work closely with partners to develop training curricula for new fields such as electric vehicle technology, sustainable building practices, and new urban forestry and agriculture methods designed for a changing climate. The proposed Energizing Climate Action in KC program is expected to create significant job opportunities in the

building trades and electric vehicle fields that could lead to good paying jobs and career pathways. Over the next 5 years, if funded, WP is prepared to assist MARC in helping residents prepare for jobs offered by area employers through career coaching, training dollars, apprenticeships, internships and other services. Through \$2.1 million in EPA funds, WP would be able to support employment services for an estimated 400 disadvantaged workers, some of whom would also be supported by leveraging the EPA funds with WP's other workforce dollar resources where possible.

We are excited about the economic and environmental benefits that this grant program offers the Kansas City area and are committed to be part of its successful implementation.

Sincerely,



Keely J. Schneider

Executive Director

keelys@workforcepartnership.com

913-577-5959

B. Missouri Letters of Support

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

HOUSING AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

CAPITAL MARKETS SUBCOMMITTEE



FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(HELSINKI COMMISSION)

[HTTPS://CLEAVER.HOUSE.GOV](https://cleaver.house.gov)

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am writing this letter of support to respectfully request full and fair consideration of Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) application on behalf of the Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area for Phase 2 of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program.

Passed in 2022 via the Inflation Reduction Act and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the CPRG program is a transformational two-phase opportunity for states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to develop and implement bold strategies for reducing harmful emissions. With their Phase 1 award, MARC has developed a Primary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the Kansas City Metro Area.

With MARC's continued leadership on climate action, they help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan.

MARC is now applying for \$190 million in Phase 2 funding to execute the strategies identified in their PCAP and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Kansas City Metro Area. These plans include, for example, reducing energy burdens in underserved communities, investing in greener neighborhoods and expansive multimodal transportation options.

I appreciate your consideration of this application and request the EPA give full and fair consideration to MARC's CPRG application on behalf of the Kansas City Metro Area.

Respectfully

Emanuel Cleaver II
Member of Congress

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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PLEASE REPLY TO:
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Marc Poston
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Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway Blvd., Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

The Missouri Office of the Public Counsel ("OPC") would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

For millions of Missouri homes and businesses, investor-owned utility companies operating as state-sanctioned monopolies are the sole provider of essential electric, natural gas, water, wastewater, and/or steam heat services. The Missouri Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) was established in 1975 to represent and protect the interests of the public receiving such services. For the past six years, OPC has taken a proactive interest in mitigating the Urban Heat Island ("UHI") phenomenon in the greater Kansas City region with stakeholders including (but not limited to) the Mid-America Regional Council, the City of Kansas City, and Evergy Missouri Metro and Evergy Missouri West (the two investor-owned utilities within the Missouri-region of the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan region) from the perspective of utility resource planning and demand-side management strategies.

As such, we have been successful in securing limited funding backed by Evergy's ratepayers through state-level regulatory filings to investigate the feasibility and potential implementation of greater federal funding for community-centric UHI mitigation measures and actions. OPC's primary focus (per our statutory charge) is on reducing energy use and deferring future supply-side investment that should result in financial savings to all customers (e.g., lower peak demand fuel savings); however, we are fully aware of and support the secondary and tertiary benefits (e.g., reduced emissions, improved quality of life, etc...) that would necessarily be created through the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant program.

The OPC is committed to playing a complementary role in the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan by providing necessary personnel, time, and resources to ensure that the

aforementioned savings and benefits materialize and serve (hopefully) as a force multiplier for the long-term quality of life for the citizens of Kansas City.

The City of Kansas City and its many stakeholders have already put in a considerable amount of time, energy, and resources towards ensuring an equitable outcome with a mind towards long-term sustainable resilience. Funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant program would enable those planning efforts to result in tangible actions and transformational changes for current and future generations. OPC recognizes the importance of this grant application and unequivocally supports the efforts of the Mid America Regional Council to secure funding. We hope that the US EPA supports this application, and we look forward to making a difference with this funding moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Marke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoff Marke, PhD
Chief Economist
Missouri Office of the Public Counsel
Geoff.marke@opc.mo.gov
(314) 956-4487 cell
(573) 751-5563 office

March XX, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer and Environmental Programs Director
Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

REF: Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program Letter of Support for MARC Implementation Grant Application Under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Dear Tom Jacobs,

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program's appreciates the strong coordination and collaboration our agencies have displayed as we developed our priority plans required under the planning phase of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. This coordination and collaboration has continued as our agencies have worked to develop strong applications to compete for funding under the implementation phase of the grant program to implement the measures we included in our respective plans.

The application MARC is developing to apply for funding to implement emission reduction measures in the Kansas City region will help reduce air pollution, spur economic growth, and provide tremendous benefits to the communities and citizens. We are fully supportive of MARC's efforts to secure these benefits for the Kansas City region. Due to the strong collaboration between our agencies, we have ensured the measures we are including in our respective applications are not duplicative, but rather complimentary to each other.

We are committed to continue collaborating and engaging with MARC throughout the implementation phase of this grant program. If both our applications are selected to receive funding under this program, our agency will share progress and details on all projects and measures we plan to implement in the Kansas City area, and we will ensure we have safeguards in place to prevent any projects from double-dipping and receiving CPRG funds from both of our grants. This

will ensure compliance with EPA's grant requirements and maximize the amount of projects and benefits we can achieve together.

We look forward to the continued coordination and collaboration between our agencies on this important mission. If you have any questions as we continue these collaborative efforts, please contact Mark Leath with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program at P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or by telephone at (573) 751-4817.

Sincerely,

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Stephen M. Hall
Director

SMH:mls

c: Tom Jacobs, MARC - tjacobs@marc.org
Emily Miller, MARC - emiller@marc.org
Karen Clawson, MARC - kclawson@MARC.org



Office of the Mayor
CARSON ROSS
Blue Springs, Missouri

March 14, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the City of Blue Springs, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. In the City of Blue Springs, local priorities that align with climate action include improving energy efficiency, enhancing green spaces, and promoting sustainable transportation. The City has demonstrated a commitment to these areas through past efforts such as the implementation of energy-efficient lighting in public buildings, development of parks and recreational areas, and initiatives to encourage the use of alternative transportation methods like biking and walking.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. The requested grant will enable us to continue and expand our participation in climate action by enhancing inclusivity, increasing accessibility, and strengthening education and outreach.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC on various projects and initiatives. MARC serves as a planning organization that helps cities in the Kansas City region, including Blue Springs, to manage issues that cross city boundaries, like transportation, community

Tom Jacobs
March 14, 2024
Page 2

development, and environmental concerns. The collaboration has focused on improving the quality of life for residents, ensuring efficient transportation systems, and promoting sustainable growth. Through meetings, shared planning, and funding opportunities, Blue Springs and MARC have aimed to create a stronger, more connected community.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort and we applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carson Ross', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carson Ross
Mayor
City of Blue Springs, Missouri
PH 816-228-0111
cross@bluespringsgov.com



March 4, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Independence, Missouri, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. The City of Independence has collaborated extensively with MARC over time.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

Rory R. Rowland, Mayor
City of Independence, Missouri



JACKSON COUNTY
Parks + Rec

22807 Woods Chapel Road
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
MakeYourDayHere.com

Michele Newman, Director
(816) 503-4800
Fax: (816) 795-1234

April 26, 2023

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Subject: Support for MARC regional leadership on Climate Pollution Reduction Program

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Jackson County Parks + Rec strongly supports the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. MARC is well positioned to serve as the lead agency for the Kansas City metropolitan area given its leadership in the development of the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan along with its demonstrated capacity to administer and coordinate complex federal grants like this one.

Jackson County supports the goals and objectives of the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan adopted by the MARC Board of Directors, of which Jackson County officials are members. We continued to support our local climate action plans in ways that align with the regional plan. Sustainability is the key to a healthy parks system. We work collaboratively with MARC and other regional partners to advance our common goals, such as riparian area restoration and native habitat creation, including pollinator habitat development and the protection of important wetlands and glades within our Jackson County parks.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to further implement smart climate pollution reduction initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Brian Nowotny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Nowotny, Deputy Director
Jackson County Parks + Rec



Frank White Jr., County Executive



Office of Environmental Quality

Office of the City Manager

4th floor, City Hall
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

816-513-3452

April 25, 2023

Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Subject: Support for MARC regional leadership on Climate Pollution Reduction Program

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The City of Kansas City, Office of Environmental Quality supports the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. MARC is well positioned to serve as the lead agency for the Kansas City metropolitan area given its leadership in the development of the Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan along with its demonstrated capacity to administer and coordinate complex federal grants like this one.

The City's Climate Protection & Resiliency Plan, adopted in 2022, builds upon the Regional Climate Action Plan. Additional federal support to refine and enhance the regional climate action plan will invariably benefit our community and the entire metropolitan Kansas City area.

We look forward to participating in this upcoming work to create a more resilient future for our community.

Sincerely,

Andrew Savastino
Chief Environmental Officer



QUINTON D. LUCAS
Mayor

March 14, 2024

Michael Reagan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Commitment for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Funding

Dear Administrator Regan:

Please accept this letter of commitment for the Mid-America Regional Council's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The City of Kansas City has supported and collaborated with the Mid-America Regional Council since its founding in 1972. The City of Kansas City is the largest municipal member of the Mid-America Regional Council and participates on its boards and committees, including the Climate & Environmental Council, the Air Quality Forum, and Solid Waste Management District. Kansas City has been active in the development of the Mid-America Regional Council's Priority Climate Action Plan, which served as the basis for the City's 2022 Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan.

Mid-America Regional Council's proposal is a broad set of climate mitigation measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the resiliency of historically underserved communities. These communities suffer from above average energy burden and the impacts of the urban heat island effect. This proposal will assist the region in reaching our shared goal of creating resilient communities and leading climate action initiatives.

The City of Kansas City looks forward to and is committed to working with Mid-America Regional Council on the programming outlined in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program. I appreciate your time and attention to this proposal, and would be available should you like any additional information.

Very truly yours,

Quinton D. Lucas



**KC WATER
ENGINEERING**

4800 E. 63rd Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64130
www.kcwater.us

816-513-0304
Fax: 816-513-0288

Date: 3/7/2024
To: Tom Jacobs, Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
Subject: CPRG Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The City of Kansas City, Missouri Water Department (KC Water) would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

“KC Water maintains and operates water collection, treatment, and distribution systems; wastewater collection and treatment systems; and stormwater management systems for 170,000 residential and business customers in Kansas City. Our focus is on providing a high quality product and excellent experience to our customers today as we prepare for the water needs of future generations.”

As we consider the water needs of the future, KC Water recognizes the effects that climate change has on these needs. “In the Kansas City area, we are experiencing climate change through increased temperatures, increased periods of drought, and more frequent flooding.” Acknowledging these impacts, the City of Kansas City, Missouri (the City) and community developed the first Climate Protection Plan, which includes the Equity-Centered Engagement Plan as we realize that “climate change does not impact everyone equally.”

“KC Water is dedicated to improving water quality in Kansas City’s rivers, lakes, and streams through participation in regional water quality initiatives and partnerships.” One example of those partnerships includes our work with MARC and its Water Quality Public Education Committee to produce educational material distributed to residents.

As KC Water is dedicated to improving water quality, and in conjunction with the goals outlined in the KC Spirit Playbook, we are committed to implementing projects that mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable areas from natural hazards such as flooding. We are also committed to projects that mitigate exposure to poor water and air quality and contamination in underserved communities. KC Water has been in partnership with MARC and other organizations and local governments in developing a database of projects as part of the Priority Climate Action Plan (the Plan). It is our belief that these submitted projects will achieve the objectives of ‘Urban Greening’, a priority action area detailed in the Plan, by reducing flooding, increasing vegetation for pollution filtration, increasing biodiversity, and other benefits, particularly in areas where these outcomes are most needed.

We recognize the importance that reducing impacts of climate change has on our ability to provide and manage water resources in a healthy, safe, sustainable and equitable way. We hope this program will enable the City to implement strategies developed in the Climate Protection Plan that seeks to “help our community achieve greenhouse gas emission goals of climate neutrality citywide by 2050.” KC Water looks forward to working with MARC to implement the urban greening climate action measures as developed in the Plan that will put us on track in doing our part to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Andy Shively
Deputy Director
(816) 513-0304
Andy.Shively@kcmo.org



March 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Liberty I am pleased to extend this letter of support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action helps facilitate meaningful progress toward shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Liberty's priorities include walkability, tree-preservation, the protection of greenspace, and creating multi-modal transportation opportunities.

In 2019, the City of Liberty invested in solar power panels at the its Sports Complex, water wells, and sanitary sewer lift stations. This has helped offset the costs of electricity for powering the both facilities with an environmental impact equivalent to planting 448,139 trees.

In addition to a long-standing tradition of encouraging the expansion of the urban forest, Liberty Parks & Rec expanded its Community Garden and Orchard at Ruth Moore Park in 2022, providing beds of fresh fruits and veggies for the community to pick and enjoy. The Giving Grove Orchard is maintained in partnership with the Kansas City Community Garden and has the potential to produce 2,584 pounds of fresh, healthy fruit annually. These are only two examples of projects in Liberty that align with MARC's Regional Climate Action Plan.

In 2023, the City embarked on the replacement of a quarter round barrel roof at City Hall that made heating and cooling the facility extremely difficult. This project is expected to provide a more comfortable environment for staff and save significant sums due to more efficient design while still letting in natural light.

The City of Liberty has collaborated extensively with MARC in many fronts in the past, including participation in the Solar Ready KC Initiative, the Academy for Sustainable Communities, the Community for All Ages Initiative, the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee, and numerous transportation committees and initiatives.

Looking ahead, the City of Liberty is working towards a number of energy savings projects, including replacement of 40-year old heating and cooling systems, solar panel installation at the Water and Wastewater treatment plants, both of which require high energy usage.

City staff are also exploring other sustainability initiatives including, a third-party energy audit, the use of battery electric vehicle in lieu of selected vehicles with internal combustion engine (ICE), collaborating with electric vehicle charging station operators, and installation of battery energy storage systems in lieu of ICE generators.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration with MARC and other jurisdictions through this effort.

Sincerely,

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

Greg Canuteson
Mayor

Liberty, Missouri
816.439.4585

gcanuteson@libertymo.gov

March 18, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of the City of North Kansas City, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. North Kansas City has been exploring solutions to mitigate heat island impacts and enhancing environmental justice.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. North Kansas City has developed a community wide Electric Vehicle charging station plan and we've been investing in multi-modal transportation network throughout the city.

The City/County has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. Add a short description of past collaborations with MARC, and how this grant will connect to other areas of work or build from previous collaborations.

Our Community Development Director is a member of the Climate Environment Council invited by Mid-America Regional Council. North Kansas City has been working on a new stormwater master plan and has planned to start working on its very first sustainability plan that incorporates on ongoing planning efforts regarding climate change/environmental impact.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. We will continue our support in all regional meetings and dialogues.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryant DeLong'.

Bryant DeLong

Mayor

City of North Kansas City, Missouri



CITY OF PARKVILLE * 8880 Clark Avenue * Parkville, MO 64152 * (816) 741-7676 * (816) 741-0013

March 8, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Parkville (City), I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. In 2021, the City approved Resolution No. 2021-009 endorsing the *KC Regional Climate Action Plan*, which provides a framework to help mitigate climate change and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The City has been named a Tree City USA for 33 years in a row through our robust tree care practices, annual forestry budget, and work from our Community Land and Recreation Board (CLARB). We adopted stream buffer protection, steep slope preservation, and tree cover preservation ordinances in 2023. And this past year we also held informational work sessions with our residents, elected officials, and home builders on next steps for adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Grant programs such as CPRG provide the City opportunities to further our sustainability goals and initiatives.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. For years, the City has provided free spring & fall cleanup, paper shredding and electronics recycling events for our residents, as well as free yard waste drop off services. Funding from the CPRG program can expand these types of programs and services for communities like ours.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. We've utilized federal-aid funding through MARC's Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) program to support the creation of our *Route 9 Corridor Study* for Complete Streets improvements, as well as for the creation of the *City of Parkville Transition Plan* to ensure all individuals with disabilities have reasonable access to public accommodations. Regarding the CPRG program, I currently serve as Missouri Co-Chair of MARC's Sustainable Places Policy Committee, where we collaborate with local communities to update and implement land-use strategies that support equity, environment, and conservation principles, including input on the region's carbon-reduction efforts and the Justice40 initiative.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. At the local level, the City has explored alternative fuel projects, public electric vehicle charging stations, and zero-emissions equipment for our fleet vehicles. While we don't have a specific amount identified at the moment, CPRG funding provides the City an opportunity to pursue these types of projects which we otherwise wouldn't be able to.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Katerndahl", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Katerndahl

Mayor

City of Parkville

816-741-7676

dkaterndahl@parkvillemo.gov



March 20, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Tom:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. This program, and the regional approach MARC has championed across the region, truly offers a once-in-a-generation chance to chart an environmentally sustainable future for the Kansas City metro.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures are built on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus is on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures that aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Riverside has consistently worked towards the goals of the Regional Climate Action Plan as our community has grown. From energy-efficient LED street lighting and pro-active stormwater management to a robust trail network and our complete streets program, environmental stewardship is a value deeply engrained in our community. These efforts tell a compelling story to our residents and business community that has been a catalyst in the transformation of Riverside over the past two decades. The MARC plan enables our neighboring communities to drive similar smart policies and sustainability initiatives.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time to deliver outstanding projects to our community and the Northland as a whole. Riverside is currently partnered with Kansas City and North Kansas City to develop a Planning Sustainable Places plan through MARC that will provide a safer, non-motorized linkage between our communities. Currently, there are no suitable means for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel between southern Clay and Platte counties. The recommendations of this plan will provide direction for continued regional cooperation of the communities to better serve all our residents. Our complete streets efforts are helping to drive improvement projects partially funded by MARC that will improve traffic flow, while also increasing pedestrian safety, reducing idle time, and enhancing stormwater management.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. The City continues to explore energy efficiency upgrades to our municipal campus and other City properties to better provide leadership for residents and businesses in Riverside.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,



Kathy Rose
Mayor

C. Kansas Letters of Support

U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice L. Davids
Kansas Third District

March 12, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

As the United States House Representative of the Third District of Kansas, I respectfully request full and fair consideration of Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) application on behalf of the Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area for Phase 2 of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program.

Passed in 2022 via the *Inflation Reduction Act* and administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the CPRG program is a transformational two-phase opportunity for states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to develop and implement bold strategies for reducing harmful emissions. With their Phase 1 award, MARC has developed a Primary Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the Kansas City Metro Area, which includes three counties in the Third District.

After extensive stakeholder engagement, MARC is now applying for \$190 million in Phase 2 funding to execute the strategies identified in their PCAP and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Kansas City Metro Area. These plans include, for example, reducing energy burdens in underserved communities, investing in greener neighborhoods and expansive multimodal transportation options, sequestering carbon through green infrastructure and increased tree canopies, and building resilience through regenerative agriculture.

I kindly request that the EPA give full and fair consideration to MARC's CPRG application on behalf of the Kansas City Metro Area. Should you have further questions, please contact Patrick Hampton in my office at patrick.hampton@mail.house.gov or 913-621-0832.

Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Division of Environment
Curtis State Office Building
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 400
Topeka, KS 66612-1367



Phone: 785-296-1535
Fax: 785-559-4264
www.kdheks.gov

Janet Stanek, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

March 14, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

RE: Support for MARC Climate Pollution Reduction Program

Dear Tom:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) supports the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) application to the EPA for a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Program grant. MARC consistently demonstrates leadership in many sectors of climate planning, including but not limited to, energy, transportation, air quality, and workforce development. MARC is well-positioned to implement a Climate Pollution Reduction Program grant benefitting the Kansas City metropolitan areas across Kansas and Missouri state lines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rick Brunetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Brunetti
Director, Bureau of Air
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 310
Topeka, KS 66612

Richard.Brunetti@ks.gov

785-296-1551



City of Basehor

March 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Basehor, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The City of Basehor has collaborated extensively with MARC and is honored to have been awarded more than \$8 million in grants to fund numerous walking trails and multi-use paths. These new trails are designed to promote walkability and active transportation, as a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to gas-powered vehicles.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

Dick Drennon
Mayor, City of Basehor
P: 913-724-1370
E: ddrennon@cityofbasehor.org



City of Bonner Springs

KANSAS

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of City of Bonner Springs, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. As examples:

- City has been working on tree plantings and expanding the urban canopy
- City has been a designated Tree City USA through The Arbor Day Foundation since 1986
- City would like to plan for expanded trail system for increased bike/walk and interconnectivity of the City, such as that laid out by our MARC funding Planning Sustainable Places Project focused with connecting our Downtown to our greater community
- City would like to plan for use of electric fleet vehicles and associated charging infrastructure to reduce GHG
- City would like to plan for evaluation of power/resource use in public facilities to determine reduction options, higher efficiency equipment, etc.
- City would like to plan for Tiblow system that is electric or other options and acquire facilities to support the Tiblow public transit system – reduce GHG, etc.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. The City has demonstrated this commitment with the recent adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance makes clear our current and future focus to conserve not only environmentally sensitive areas, related to the floodplain, but also sequester carbon through the conservation of these natural areas

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. Notably the K-32 Multimodal Plan that lays out a vision for a multimodal transit hub to be located in Downtown Bonner Springs. This facility would house the City's local transit system and enhance access to our regional public transit while offering a connecting hub for a variety of transportation options.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Stephens", written over a light gray background.

Tom Stephens
Mayor, City of Bonner Springs

DE SOTO

KANSAS

Rick Walker
Mayor

March 15th, 2024

Mike Brungardt, P.E.
City Administrator

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Brandon Mills, MPA
City Clerk/
Assistant City
Administrator

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

Patrick G. Reavey
City Attorney

On behalf of the City of De Soto, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Joe Johnson, PE
City Engineer

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost-effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures are built on strategies already included in local plans.

CITY COUNCIL:
Victoria McMoran
Rob Daniels
Kevin Honomichi
Danny Lane
Courtney Tripp

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. This application is in line with our continued support for future-ready and climate-reducing initiatives in our community, including multimodal transportation routes, complete streets, energy-efficient facilities, and EV battery manufacturing.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits for disadvantaged communities. While De Soto does not have projects in this proposal, our commitment to reducing climate pollution is evident, as De Soto will be the future home of the Panasonic Energy Electric Battery Facility.

The City/County has collaborated extensively with MARC over time, including participating in several regional planning efforts and transportation planning grants aimed at making our community safe and resilient for our current and future residents.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions, and many other community partners on this effort.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,



Rick Walker
Mayor of De Soto, KS



DOUGLAS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1100 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-3064
(785) 832-5328 Fax (785) 832-5148
splinsky@douglascountyks.org

Sarah Plinsky
Interim County Administrator

March 19, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

The Douglas County Sustainability Office would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The mission of our office is to develop, adapt, and implement public programs and policies across the county that strive to elevate the interdependence, and balance the priorities of, our living systems and the built environment, in pursuit of a high quality of life for all residents, including healthy homes and green spaces, cultural and community belonging, and economic stability and opportunity. A countywide Food System Plan directs our work, as well as two additional plans currently underway: an Open Space Plan and a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

In support of MARC's priority action area on agriculture, our office commits to sharing knowledge and best practices for our long-standing community gardening and urban agriculture program, Common Ground. Additionally, we look forward to collaborating regionally to build resilience in low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) and reduce energy burden and cost.

The relationship between MARC and Douglas County extends back before the 2019 Regional Climate Action Plan, in which Douglas County was included. MARC's staff have been invaluable throughout our climate action planning process. Early in the development of our plan, Tom Jacobs was a guest speaker for our steering committee. Staff from our office have also attended several MARC convenings around climate action including all the Regional Climate Summits.

We commit to supporting MARC in regional collaboration on the implementation of the KC Regional Priority Climate Action Plan throughout the CPRG timeframe.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hofling
Sustainability Impact Analyst
Douglas County, KS
1006 New Hampshire
Lawrence KS, 66044
785-330-3017
jhofling@douglascountyks.org

Kim Criner Ritchie
Sustainability Manager
Douglas County, KS
1006 New Hampshire
Lawrence KS, 66044
785-551-9436
kcrinerritchie@douglascountyks.org

March 21, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of Johnson County, KS Government, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost-effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Johnson County has a deep history of leading our region in areas such as green building, renewable energy procurement, stormwater management, solid waste management, and greenspace preservation and restoration. This commitment was recognized in 2022 by achieving USGBC's LEED for Cities and Communities Gold certification, just the 25th local government in the world to achieve this certification. Our commitment to serve our residents through the protection and enhancement of clean air, water, and soil reflects our understanding of the connection between a healthy environment and a thriving community. We're committed to furthering that pledge with climate-aligned local investment.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that directly benefit disadvantaged communities. In 2023, Johnson County collaborated with Wyandotte County and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct our community's first urban heat island mapping campaign to identify what areas of our community are experiencing disproportionate impacts of our changing climate. The next phase of that effort will be to implement mitigation and adaptation initiatives to address both the causes and effects of increased extreme weather. CPRG funding will be critical to our ability to target populations most in need with programs such as residential energy efficiency, tree planting, and access to cooling centers and resilience hubs.

The County has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. We were proud to be the first county to endorse the Regional Climate Action Plan in September 2021. Our staff and elected officials continue to provide leadership on MARC committees such as the Total Transportation Policy Committee, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Air Quality Forum, Sustainable Places Policy Committee, and Climate and Environment Council as well as the MARC Board of Directors.

This commitment to partnership extends to other jurisdictions and our many other community partners in this effort. A healthier, cleaner, more resilient region benefits us all and Johnson County is proud to play its role.

Johnson County appreciates the opportunity provided by MARC to be integrally involved in the creation of the PCAP and this application for implementation funding. We have identified many projects and programs ready to leverage this once-in-a-generation funding opportunity including: home energy efficiency programs, watershed protection and enhancement projects, innovative biogas reuse for wastewater treatment, facility retro-commissioning, and high-performance standards for new health services and emergency medical response buildings.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,



Mike Kelly



March 8, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of The City of Lenexa I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Many of the priority climate measures build on strategies are either already included in plans approved by Lenexa or are goals we have for future projects.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. The City of Lenexa includes 'Sustainable Policies and Practices' as one of its Governing Body guiding principles, in which we aim to lead by example in implementing sustainable and resilient practices where financially and operationally practical as well as enact community-wide policies and strategies that motivate both residents and businesses to do so when reasonable.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. In 2019, the Lenexa chose to invest in 100% renewable electricity for City facilities through Evergy Renewables Direct. City taxpayers save about \$300,000 annually in electricity costs through converting street lights to LED.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. Most recently, after the City installed six public charging EV stations at two public locations, we joined with other municipalities to submit for the federal Carbon Reduction Program and plan to use those funds to install EV charging and solar infrastructure at our new Justice Center, opening this summer.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort, to further our goals of smart development and prioritizing the maintenance of our existing infrastructure to support future resilience. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

Julie Sayers, Mayor
City of Lenexa
(913) 620-9023
jsayers@lenexa.com



March 14, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Mission, Kansas I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Mission has a long-standing commitment to advancing the cause of sustainability and resiliency in our community. In fact, Mission was one of the very first cities to sign onto our electric utility's green energy subscription program, Evergy's Renewables Direct back in 2019. We were also one of the very first cities to endorse MARC's Regional Climate Action Plan in 2021. As Mayor, I subsequently established a Climate Action Task Force in 2022, focused on setting short-term and longer-term emissions reduction goals and strategies. The CAP Task Force is made up of key staff from Public Works, Police, Planning, and Administration, along with members of the governing body and relevant commissions or committees – illustrating substantial buy-in from both staff and our community. We also recently completed an updated greenhouse gas inventory to inform our decision-making in this area. In our 2023 budget, Mission dedicated \$550,000 or 4% of its General Fund budget to sustainability-related initiatives. Because we are a small city of only 10,000 residents, outside grant funding is often necessary to help us achieve our ambitious goals.

While our evaluation of where we can make the biggest emissions-reduction impact with our taxpayer dollars is ongoing, we know that buildings and transportation represent the largest carbon emitters in our community (and across the region). Securing the CPRG grant would enable Mission to tackle key initiatives in this area – some illustrative examples of the types of efforts we could undertake with these funds are described in more detail below.

As a city, we have already participated in the Kansas Corporation Commission's Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) to make substantial energy efficiency upgrades to city facilities, but we know much more needs to be done to improve the climate impact of our built environment. Programs

that address emissions from buildings, such as ***residential home weatherization and outreach*** efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the neighborhood scale (we have already conducted a successful pilot program), and/or ***initiatives to implement solar power on public buildings***, are a couple of ways CPRG funding could benefit our community and help us to achieve our emission reduction goals. These initiatives address equity and the environment through efficient resource allocation that can help Mission's residents (by improving efficiency, improving the quality of the lived environment, and reducing costs) and provide energy-efficient public services more effectively while promoting education around climate issues.

At a broader scale, transportation and mobility efforts geared at reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) may be accomplished through project-focused improvements. Mission recently completed a study to develop a plan for complete streets and trail corridor improvements in a segment of the community (Rock Creek Trail corridor) that would connect residents and employees to activity centers and build on active transportation connections to adjacent jurisdictions via a major transit station in Mission. This study is funded by MARC's Planning Sustainable Places (PSP) program, and CPRG funding may be allocated toward implementation ***of the complete streets and trail corridor plan***. Additionally, a broader study of city-wide bicycle and pedestrian connections under the same PSP program is nearing completion and ***implementation of recommendations from the bicycle and pedestrian plan*** will build on the complete streets and trail corridor plan, which will connect residents to parks, activity centers, and commerce within Mission as well as the larger regional context.

Finally, transit-***oriented development (TOD) projects*** at one or two key nodes in Mission that serve a broader regional population may benefit from CPRG funding that may include economic, environmental, and social co-benefits. These TOD projects could become resiliency hubs, green infrastructure demonstration areas, multi-modal transportation connectors, and models of energy efficiency and alternative energy solutions that take advantage of funding through private/public partnerships funded by CPRG. The location of a Johnson County Transit "hub" – the Mission Transit Center – in our city makes Mission an ideal spot for further growth in density and transit-oriented development projects.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. A weatherization program in Mission would benefit lower-income households by reducing utility costs, while also improving residents' quality of life. Improvements at key corridors that encourage active transportation through complete streets initiatives and trail or sidewalk connections benefit populations without access to vehicular transportation, while reducing VMT and emissions that negatively impact health and the environment. Additionally, TOD nodes may promote public transit ridership and provide hubs of activity that benefit the wider regional population through economic development, environmental stewardship and resiliency, and social/environmental justice with affordable housing and green infrastructure.

Mission has collaborated extensively with MARC over time, and we look forward to the opportunity to engage further with MARC should MARC receive the CPRG grant. In particular, Mission has worked most recently with MARC on the two previously referenced Planning Sustainable Places initiatives, aimed at mobility efforts that will not only benefit Mission's stakeholders, but also regional partners. These initiatives sought to engage area stakeholders through extensive public engagement that involved city officials, staff, residents, property owners, business owners, and non-profit organizations. MARC has been instrumental in planning activities that develop and build upon community engagement and stakeholder buy-in, which is important to developing successful projects.

In addition, Mission was a key contributor to the creation of MARC's Regional Climate Action Plan (and multiple city elected officials also helped develop its predecessor guidance document with Climate Action KC, the Climate Action KC Playbook). Mission is an ongoing participant in many of the activities associated with Climate Action KC and MARC's implementation of the Regional Climate Action Plan. Also, when she was still with the city, our former Deputy City Administrator, Emily Randel, participated in MARC's Climate and Environmental Council, which has informed the CPRG application process.

We look forward to continuing to work with MARC, other jurisdictions, and many other community partners on this effort. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Solana Flora".

Solana Flora
Mayor
City of Mission, KS
913.676.8350
sflora@missionks.org

March 25, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015



Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of *The City of Olathe*, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Some of our past efforts that intersect with climate change include a food waste program, recycled asphalt, methane gas scrubbing at our wastewater treatment plant for reuse within the boilers, and solar use for parks lighting, school beacons, and pedestrian crossing. This grant would allow the City of Olathe to complete more projects that provide continued leadership on climate action.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. We have offset 268,916 gallons of diesel fuel through the use of CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles for sanitation and street sweepers. This has reduced carbon dioxide by 1,731,816.12 lbs. In addition to the CNG vehicles, 10 electric vehicles have reduced carbon dioxide by 24,000 lbs. Our compressed natural gas trucks are fueled at the CNG station located at the City of Olathe's Infrastructure Campus. This station also supports as many as 100 transit busses operated by Johnson County Transit and Ride KC. Olathe is currently operating 6 solar vehicle charging stations and are currently executing a project to install charging at 6 more City facilities to allow for expansion of the electric vehicle fleet.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. We are an active participant in monthly meetings and communicate with MARC representatives on a regular basis. Completed projects in the past that have included collaboration with MARC is the 135th & Pflumm project, and Pflumm Road 143rd to 151st. We also have two active projects that include collaboration with MARC. Those are the Cedar Creek Trail Phase 3 and Quivira Road, 143rd to 151st.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. The City of Olathe has four projects we have requested funding for, and they are as follows:

The insulated roofing project would provide a new roofing system on top of existing raised panel roofs. This would provide an additional R value of 19.9 and the solar reflectivity of a white roof membrane. It will lessen the heat island effect of a metal roof and extend the useful life of the building.

The solar canopy project is to provide shelter for compressed natural gas solid waste vehicles that has a solar component to provide energy to support the structures lighting, block heaters, and additional load for other on-site buildings. The structure would cover approximately 52,000 square feet of space.

The Olathe Community Recycling Center Solar Farm project will construct a solar panel field within our community recycling center. Currently, the City has 5.8 acres of rough paved land that will be converted into a 900kW solar farm. This will enhance the educational experience for not only our residents but also the local Olathe West Green Technology Program. By constructing a solar farm, the City will offset 638 Metric Tons of CO2 emissions by utilizing this renewal resource and not relying on the electrical grid.

The Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Digestion and Biogas Recovery project will install three digesters that will co-digest sanitary biosolids and food waste with utilization of the methane gas being produced within this operation to fuel equipment at the plant. Currently, the City's biosolids from this facility are trucked to the Johnson County Landfill. By removing the trucking needs of our biosolids to the landfill, the City will remove 57.2 Metric Tons of CO2 emissions from diesel fuel usage. The City will harness and utilize over 5,110 MCF of methane gas from our digesters and use this fuel to operate on-site boilers that would normally use natural gas, this is a net reduction of 7,868 Metric Tons of CO2 that will not be released to the atmosphere. Additionally, the City is anticipating 2,730 MCF of methane gas generated (4,200 Metric Tons of CO2) that will be used. With co-digestion, a minimum of 15 tons of food waste will also be diverted from the landfill. Food waste diversion in schools has been successfully proven by the neighboring Shawnee Mission School District, with students diverting over 600,000 pounds in 2017. The City of Olathe plans to partner with the Olathe School District to implement a similar program, starting at the high school level at the Green Tech and Geotech Academies. The project will include a full-time City employee to collect food waste 3 to 5 times per week, and assist with student education. As the program grows, high schoolers can earn community service hours as part of their Academy curriculum while teaching younger students how to properly separate recyclables, food waste and landfill waste.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,



Beth Wright, Deputy Director of Public Works

City Hall • 8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
913/895-6000 • Fax 913/895-5009

www.opkansas.org

March 7, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Overland Park, I am pleased to extend this letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Overland Park endorsed the Regional Climate Action Plan in 2022, and appreciates MARC's continued leadership in the metropolitan Kansas City area to make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. In 2023, the City Council adopted a strategic framework of sustainability to inform work towards their goals and initiatives. Overland Park recently completed an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan in 2023, shortly after completing large-scale building energy efficiency retrofits in 18 city facilities and a citywide streetlight conversion to LEDs. Looking forward, we have nearly finished updating our Comprehensive Plan, Framework OP, that sets thoughtful and innovative policy recommendations and actions to move our City in a sustainable direction and we will complete our Urban Forest Management Plan before the end of 2024.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. This aligns with our newly introduced weatherization pilot program to help reduce energy bills for our residents while providing additional carbon reduction benefits. Through partnerships and programs outlined in this grant

Page Two
Mr. Tom Jacobs
March 7, 2024

application, we could expand that program to reach more residents and provide additional sustainability and resiliency benefits.

The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. As a former Chair of the MARC Board of Directors and a founding committee member of the Planning Sustainable Places Consortium, I work to ensure that Overland Park staff and elected officials have an opportunity to be involved in regional work. Overland Park staff participate actively in MARC Committees ranging from transportation and planning to those making an impact in environmental and climate related issues. This grant will connect the work of all these committees in a way that brings multiple benefits to the region and to Overland Park.

Overland Park was proud to support the planning efforts for this application through our involvement with the MARC Climate and Environment Council, as well as the input both our staff and elected officials provided at the MARC hosted community outreach events. We will continue to support these efforts through participation in regional partnerships and projects associated with implementation of this grant program.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. We are excited at the possibility of expanding community focused initiatives like our home weatherization pilot project and improving existing partnerships across state lines for larger projects like restoring the Blue River corridor.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,



Curt Skoog
Mayor
Overland Park, KS
913-895-6590
curt.skoog@opkansas.org

THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE

STAR OF KANSAS

March 6, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Prairie Village, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Prairie Village has actively invested in environmental protection for over 30 years, with much of this work realized through the work of the volunteer Environmental Committee. The Committee began work in 2021 to shape initiatives to meet the Cities Race to Zero commitment. Most recently, the City has contracted with KERAMIDA for sustainability program management. This grant could spread some of the cost burden of managing these programs to a regional effort.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. While the demographics of Prairie Village are relatively high overall income levels, like any community we have residents in a variety of economic situations and being a municipal government we serve all of our residents.

The City of Prairie Village has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. Currently, I serve on the MARC Board of Directors and Councilmember Ian Graves serves as the Co-Chair of the First Ring Suburb Coalition. In addition to serving in leadership capacities, our staff and elected officials have long participated in MARC trainings and professional opportunities. Public Works has worked with MARC to achieve multiple infrastructure grants over time.

In my capacity on the Board I have been kept updated on the planning process for this application. City senior level staff have participated in most climate change related initiatives and meetings.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. The City of Prairie Village has requested supplemental funding for several projects which we are already pursuing and are close to being "shovel ready". The first is a new Civic Center campus including a new City Hall and Police Justice Center. It has been proposed this facility achieve LEED Platinum, so funding could help achieve this goal. The second requested project is a potential Community Center. The City is currently engaged in a public process with the YMCA and Johnson County Library on a feasibility study for a new facility. It is expected that if such a facility proceeds it would achieve some level of LEED certification as well. Finally, the City would support a Johnson County-wide weatherization program to directly help our residents complete weatherization projects on their homes.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

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

Eric Mikkelsen
Mayor
City of Prairie Village
emikkelsen@pvkansas.com



City of Roeland Park

4600 W. 51st Street
Roeland Park, KS 66205
(913) 722-2600

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the City of Roeland Park, KS, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

Roeland Park supports initiatives and policies that contribute to achieving net-zero emissions and transitioning to a sustainable and environmentally responsible future. The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities.

Roeland Park supports emerging technologies in wind, solar, and energy efficiency—through equitable clean energy solutions—which provide fair and inclusive access, opportunities for job growth, and enhanced climate resilience. MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities.

Roeland Park has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael Poppa
Mayor
City of Roeland Park



March 3 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of *The City of Shawnee*, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. As a community, Shawnee is committed to sustainability and sustainable development practices. This commitment is evident in the City's ongoing efforts to invest in energy efficient upgrades to our public facilities. Reducing greenhouse gasses is a priority for Shawnee not only locally, but regionally. Shawnee's state legislative priorities support a modern transportation development. Investing in these industry best practices will create a more diverse, affordable, and sustainable mode of transportation for our residents.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. Shawnee has made a commitment to be leaders for surrounding communities as it relates to sustainable practices. It is the City's official position to support projects that aim at reducing greenhouse gasses and provide more equitable options for transportation services. Our city supports enhancing airport facilities and services, developing recreational trails, and improving passenger and freight rail service, such as the Heartland Flyer Extension. Receiving this grant will only aid our efforts of support.



The City has collaborated extensively with MARC over time. As Mayor and a previous Councilmember, I have a long standing relationship with MARC representatives. I am a representative for the MARC Board Meetings. Discussions about regional efforts to reduce climate pollution, along with sustainable implementation practices are of great value. I am also involved in the Bi-State Commission facilitated by MARC. This Commission is a region wide coalition aimed at the future development of Union Station. Implementing sustainable regional practices is a priority for the City of Shawnee and its residents.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

Mickey Sandifer

Mayor

City of Shawnee

msandifer@cityofshawnee.org

D. Nonprofit/Community-Based Organization Letters of Support



March 13, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom,

After the Harvest would like to provide this letter of commitment for the Mid America Regional Council to support your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

After the Harvest (ATH) rescues fresh produce to feed hungry people in the greater Kansas City region. We work with farmers, produce packers and others in the produce industry to prevent the unnecessary waste of nourishing produce – often destined for landfills – while at the same time providing critical nourishment for low-income, food-insecure families, children and seniors in our community. The produce we rescue is perfectly good to eat, though often cosmetically imperfect and therefore unmarketable. ATH partners with Harvesters, the local food bank, as well about 370 food agencies in our region, to distribute this nourishing and tasty bounty to individuals and their families.

We are keenly aware of the ever increasingly harmful impacts of climate change on our community, our country and our world. For the past decade, ATH has been working to prevent the unnecessary dumping of fresh produce into area landfills, thereby mitigating the effects of greenhouse gasses from area landfills and reducing the carbon footprint of the produce we provide for hungry people in our community. We support MARC in its pursuit of the Priority Climate Action Plan implementation.

ATH has partnered with MARC on climate mitigation efforts for the past several years. ATH's founding executive director has served on MARC's Food Loss and Waste Reduction Advisory Committee since it was founded in 2021. This partnership is especially important because the prevention of food waste is one of three pillars of the mission of After the Harvest. The very execution of our mission supports the climate pollution reduction efforts of MARC.

Even before MARC established its Food Loss and Waste Reduction Advisory Committee, ATH worked with MARC. In 2015, ATH presented at its first MARC Conference, and in 2016, ATH received MARC's first Sustainability Award given in recognition of ATH's efforts on behalf of protection of our environment. ATH and MARC have been partners ever since.

We are grateful for MARC's leadership in drafting KC's Priority Climate Action Plan and for their continued leadership in moving this effort into the implementation stage and beyond. The Kansas City region is comprised of many smaller towns and cities surrounding Kansas City on both sides of the Missouri/Kansas state line. Our area is so

fortunate to have MARC working on behalf of these many entities on this and other large, regional issues and efforts.

After the Harvest is committed to partnering with MARC and many other community organizations and leaders to follow through with the climate pollution reduction efforts outlined in KC's Priority Climate Action Plan. In our work with area farmers, we have already seen the impacts of climate change on regional crops and growing cycles. We have a vested interest in ensuring that this region remains a successful agricultural region well into the future. We will remain engaged in the implementation of the MARC Priority Climate Action Plan to ensure the project's success.

For these reasons, we remain committed to this project and ask your support in funding this critically important Climate Pollution Reduction implementation grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Watson", followed by a period.

Michael Watson
Executive Director
After the Harvest
816-921-1903
michael@aftertheharvestkc.org



3/21/2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

American Farmland Trust (AFT) would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

AFT's mission is to protect the land that sustains us by protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. AFT is the only national agricultural organization that approaches its work in this comprehensive, holistic manner. We recognize the connection between the land, forward-looking farming practices, and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. We also acknowledge the power of combining on-the-ground projects with objective research and effective advocacy.

At AFT, we have expanded our reach to urban agriculture as we recognize these farms' role in supporting green infrastructure in our cities, sustainable food production, and farm education and training. We will provide our farming and conservation expertise to support the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at the resilience hubs.

While this is our first opportunity as an organization to partner with MARC, we applaud the food systems initiatives they have taken in the region. Our Kansas City-based employee, Annalise Lallana, has been involved with the Priority Climate Action Plan for several years in this role, and she previously worked with The Kansas City Food Hub. She sat on the Food Loss and Waste Action Plan Advisory Committee and is now bringing her new role of Urban Conservation work to the Regenerative Agriculture Resilience Hubs during the planning phase.

We will work with MARC to advise and support the Regenerative Urban Agriculture Resilience Hubs throughout this project. Our participation in this project brings a new level of expertise in regenerative agriculture. We understand the need for urban farming in our communities to provide ecosystem services, green space, education, and training, improving the resiliency of our local food systems. We look forward to working with MARC to implement the Kansas City Priority Climate Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Kris Reynolds
Midwest Regional Director
(217) 556-1896
kreynolds@farmland.org



March 14, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs:

Antioch Urban Growers would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

My name is Mark Samborski. I am 63 years old and have always resided in the Northland of Kansas City. Second generation Polish immigrants who farmed in the east bottoms and north of the river since the 1920s. I Retired from United Parcel Service in 2014 with 36 years served and retired from ministry as well, with 20 plus years served. I am now the owner of Antioch Urban growers which is a family owned and operated farm and land development initiative. We have been at the location at 2727 Northeast 44th Street in Kansas City, Missouri 64117 for 10 years plus now. Our introduction to MARC was in 2015 when we were honored as one of Kansas City's Sustainable Success Stories. It was like saying (sick em!) to a bulldog. We have been serving and training the local youth community in agreements with Job Corps. North Kansas City School district. Easter Seals Midwest. University of Missouri, Kansas City. Local schools and homeschooling groups. Boy Scouts of America. Girl Scouts. Local community initiatives at metropolitan libraries. And speaking engagements at churches and community centers. And the list goes on and on as far as our community involvement.

The services we provide our community are a demonstration of sustainable living initiatives. Organic growing, water catchment and hands on farming and soil sciences projects at a community level. We have venue space for community events in seasons. We have classes in areas of interest like food preservation, tool libraries, consulting, empowering, and educating with local and regional cooperation encouraged. We have in season produce stand, on-site soil regenerative projects, recycling of food products from local homeless shelters and assistance centers, lawn care, raised bed construction, animal husbandry demonstrations, beekeeping demonstrations, aquaponics and so much more. We are often called upon for the immediate needs of our community by providing emergency housing and assistance. Serving the many different social classes and ethnic groups that live in our neighborhood. In our spring plant sale alone from mid-April to mid-June, we serve hundreds of local gardening enthusiasts and have developed an incredible understanding of the lack of accurate knowledge that the community is experiencing. Just yesterday Maggie and I took baby chicks and baby rabbits to several daycare centers in the community and introduced over 100 children to urban agriculture, and experienced pure joy.

The North Kansas City School district serves 130 + ethnic groups in our zip code. We are across the street from the Northland mosque and have great relationships with the congregation and have taught groups of their homekeepers how to garden in this zone. Our neighborhood north of the river is one of the oldest neighborhoods with very little infrastructure like sidewalks or water runoff drainage. And our demonstrations concerning water catchment and development of moisture retaining soils shows great hope in the neighborhoods that have a lot of drainage issues. All in all, we touch the lives of thousands of individuals a year from many different ethnicities and income brackets.

In a project with UMKC during the 2019 pandemic, we did research and development and data collecting on the status of the surrounding neighborhoods and zip codes. We are on the border of food deserts north of the river as well. Our objectives all deal with this data and we feel we can accurately provide resources for our findings in the world of food and food understanding.



We are boots on the ground, and we have asked for shovel ready projects. Everything that we asked for and all support provided will be directed towards the scale of the need we have discovered and are currently addressing. From one-on-one conversations with local gardening and food handlers, we have a lot of data to work with.

We have relationships with local homeless and food assistance programs. We are already picking up hundreds of pounds of food scraps daily from these care centers. We are the last stop for food that has no longer become donatable to immediate human needs. With the rest we feed animals and create compost and raised bed gardening initiatives. And probably the best thing we have going for us is our zoning which is a huge hurdle to get over in the city. We are one of the few areas that can legally handle food and food waste appropriately. And with our location we can demonstrate on a large scale community initiatives that make a difference.

We have partnered with Mid America Regional Council since 2015. Have spoken at events in 2017 and have participated in numerous zoom calls and personal meetings over the years with representatives of Mid America Regional Council. Tom Jacobs has provided one of the most beautiful and impacting referrals for one of my grant applications that I have ever read. Brought tears to my eyes for a moment to think someone was actually recognizing us. Our pledge of serving the community with MARC's assistance and our participation is worth noting.

We have been involved in this grant application mainly by being active in as many requests that have come our direction. We've known what we were needing and being active in knowing what will meet the need. We have been in almost weekly chats with our urban agricultural community and feeling the weight of the work and not being recognized for our consistent investment into these now Recognizable challenges. Although we've contributed much, we were called upon to share our perspectives and not only listened but spoke out at just about every meeting believing our voices were being heard. We were asked what we needed to take our initiative to scale and that's what this grant is to us.

If awarded this grant Antioch Urban Growers will be able to demonstrate a template model of a community hub. This hub will be a center for developing community around the initiatives we are already practicing. With greenhouses that will act as growing centers for food, soil sciences, recycling, and community motivated solutions. Demonstrating the value of multi-use facilities powered by solar panels that reduce our energy use and provide supplemental grid exchange. With our community kitchen and upgraded bathroom facilities We will be teaching future chefs and food related businesses about new choices that many don't even know exist because of the grocery store varieties only mentality while providing accessible, clean bathrooms for children and disabled farmers.

Because of our work in landscaping and tree pruning. We have a lot of compostable materials that mix well with food scraps to create the premium compost and livestock feed. And with our ask of salaried positions in marketing, labor generating, kitchen manager/ compost manager. We plan in the next 5 years to create a model for duplication that every city in the United States will see as a solution to imitate.

Our participation in this project is crucial. This is what we've been doing for 10 years and we know from our own farming experience that the climate is a consistent challenge in the world of farming. We know as farmers how much waste is created in the world of food. And we know as a business that managing cost and consistently informing and providing for our community will bring greater results than any individual or government only implemented rules. Antioch Urban Growers is already doing everything that this grant is asking for. The only way we can take it to scale is by receiving the funding. Thank you for empowering us with the tools necessary to make this difference.



Sincerely,

Mark & Maggie Samborski
Antioch Urban Growers
816-699-4953
info@antiochurbangrowers.com



Friday, March 15, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Arnold Development Group would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional buildings, Arnold Development Group (ADG) brings an impressive legacy of successfully realizing high-performance, mixed-use, and transit-oriented real estate and infrastructure projects that prioritize decarbonization. Our mission reflects our unwavering commitment to developing solutions that actively combat climate change and enhance the sustainability of our built environment. For over two decades, ADG has been at the forefront of large-scale high-performance buildings with cutting edge heating and cooling systems, contributing substantially to the advancement and application of these technologies. ADG has worked with MARC, Climate Action KC, and BE-Ex KC in the past to develop strategies for implementation of Federal Funds and where they may best be used. We believe the CPRG will help make substantial improvements to the region for its climate goals.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our development team to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support

the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Arnold", is positioned above the printed name.

Jonathan Arnold
Principal
Arnold Development Group

March 18, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

BarkleyOKRP would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid-America Regional Council for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRG-23-07.

BarkleyOKRP is an independent, full-service marketing agency with offices in Kansas City, Chicago, Denver, Pittsburgh and New York. As a creative idea company, we are committed to knowing modern consumers better than anyone — this is key to changing minds and behaviors in fun, engaging ways. We do this through three idea centers: transformation + strategy, design + experience and communications + activations. This means we have in-house expertise that spans a spectrum of capabilities.

As one of the largest Certified B Corporation agencies in North America, BarkleyOKRP strives to meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability across our whole brand. We measure our progress across the four pillars of our Add Good Plan: Partner, Planet, Clients and Community. As a consultancy, we know our greatest impact is through the work we do for others, and we are on a mission to build a world with more whole brands that put purpose at the center of everything they do and measure success by balancing profit and performance with impact on people, planet and the communities they serve.

Our partnership with MARC is a wonderful example of our commitment. It began in December 2022, when we initiated pro-bono consulting services (totaling \$110,000 USD) to develop a comprehensive public-facing behavior change program to drive sustainable behaviors in the Kansas City metro area. A BarkleyOKRP representative attended bi-monthly Climate and Environment Council meetings and then weekly communication subcommittee meetings as well as coordinating community stakeholder outreach across 25 different institutions on the development of the plan.

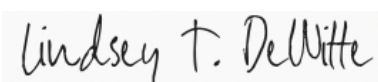
BarkleyOKRP's Media Team developed a Kansas City Metro target audience segmentation study using quantified YouGov data to develop sustainability mindsets and identify relevant

behaviors to target. The outputs of this work formed the framework for a full -day communications planning workshop in September 2023 hosted and facilitated at our Kansas City office and included 45 community representatives from local non -profit organizations, energy companies, businesses and art institutions. Following the workshop, we developed a creative brief and BarkleyOKRP's Executive Design Director led the Creative Work through a Social Innovation Design class at Kansas City's Art Institute. The results of this eight week class were shared at one of the CPRAG's community planning meetings with over 200 participants and 74% of those polled during the session said the concept motivates them to take local action on climate change. BarkleyOKRP is committed to providing on -going strategic support to the campaign with continuous participation in the Climate & Environmental Council and communication committee subgroups.

The amount of funding requested is \$5,000,000 –calculated by estimating the funds required to reach the households in our Climate Protectors, Constrained and Indifferent target audience segments. The Climate Constrained segment is of particular focus since they are concerned about climate change, but need additional information and incentives to take action. We have built a five -year campaign plan based on Community Based Social Marketing theory allocating funding across four key message areas - Household Efficiency, Urban Forestry, Transportation and Food Composting. The plan supports paid and earned media communication and includes pre - and post -campaign measurement to ensure effectiveness of communication, particularly with underrepresented communities.

BarkleyOKRP recognizes the importance of making substantial reductions in emissions across multiple sectors. We believe that to achieve our region's goals to become Net -Zero by 2050, we need to activate every business, household and individual to take actions across four key areas; energy, healthy & resilient homes, transportation, urban greening and local food systems. Through our partnership with MARC, we hope this program will create a central messaging platform that speaks to how we can take collective action for a healthier, more resilient future. We plan to do so by enlisting local cultural influencers across the region - from sports icons to art institutions to community leaders - to step up and play an important role as credible storytellers that help establish new norms on sustainable living. We look forward to working with MARC to bring this vision to life.

Sincerely,



Lindsey DeWitte
Chief Impact Officer
816.204.6294 | ldewitte@barkleyus.com



3/20/24

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Cornerstones of Care – Build Trybe would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Build Trybe is a leader in youth vocational training and healthy living programs for foster care youth and other highly at-risk youth populations. We work intimately with partners all over Kansas City to create opportunities and powerful experiences for our youth.

Our youth are overwhelmingly from Kansas City's poorest communities. Communities often impacted the hardest by environmental degradation and brown field sites. In 2020 as part of these efforts we partnered with Heartland Conservation Alliance to provide Conservation Landscaping training paths as part of our vocational training mission. This work and program has continued to grow and expand. Heartland Conservation Alliance's partnership with MARC will lead to an expansion of valuable programming opportunities for our youth.

We believe in empowerment as the strongest form of service. By training our young men and women to improve their environments we are empowering them to change how Kansas City lives and functions. Creating a greener and more environmentally healthy community. We look forward to working with MARC and its community of dedicated partners as they work collaboratively for a healthier, greener, and more environmentally sustainable Kansas City.

Sincerely,

Theo Bunch
Director of Build Trybe
Cornerstones of Care
816 457 2143
theo.bunch@cornerstonesofcare.org



Kansas City, Kansas on the 19th of March of 2024.

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The **Central Area Betterment Association** (CABA) like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants

General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The Central Area Betterment Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to service the East-Central area of Kansas City, Kansas, promoting a higher quality of life within our underserved population.

With circa 45% Hispanic, 25% African American and a 30% Whites constituting our low income and underserved population in the territory of influence we help, and the worst air quality of the region, our interest in helping reduce the impact of climate change is at the forefront of our continued work.

For this, we have partnered with Mid-America Regional Council since 2023 as partners in an EPA EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving grant to implement a climate resilience project and co-develop a methodology and process for solutions-oriented resilience assessments. CABA is planning to expand the tree canopy along the Central Avenue commercial corridor to create a welcoming space for pedestrians by beautifying, cooling the area, and reducing effects of air pollution for community members. This corridor cooling project is combined with a novel, solutions-oriented resilience assessment piloted with the East Side and Cathedral neighborhoods in Kansas City Kansas. The assessment combines national, state, and jurisdiction data with local community knowledge and engagement to determine the presence and quality of physical, financial, natural, human, social, and political stocks that affect the resilience of the Central Area neighborhoods.

In a continued effort to generate Upper Mobility within our community, the promotion of a healthy living style has to go hand in hand with a healthy environment to live in. We would be interested in working with MARC to continue building now and in the future the healthy living conditions our community deserves.

We would be interested working with MARC to install native vegetation and trees along our commercial corridors and in our neighborhoods, develop the capacity and skill of Central residents as an equitable green workforce, facilitate weatherization and energy efficiency retrofits in



neighborhood homes and buildings, and develop a resiliency hub the Central Avenue Corridor and all of the neighborhoods around it.

We recognize the importance of implementing climate resilience projects co-created with neighborhoods and other partnering non-profits to effect lasting, transformative change to improve outcomes for the Kansas City region. This program will increase the climate resilience of Central Area Betterment Association neighborhoods, businesses, and homes while creating employment and business development opportunities for residents in high-quality, well-paying careers. We look

forward to working with MARC to advance these shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edgar Galicia', is written over the printed name.

Edgar Galicia

Executive Director

913 281 9222

EGalicia@CABAKCK.org

CABAKCK.org

11 March 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

RE: Letter of Commitment for CPRG

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of Climate Action KC (CAKC), we are pleased to provide this Letter of Commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. Climate Action KC is a grassroots organization that includes over one hundred local elected officials working together to drive climate action in the Kansas City region. We believe the heartland has a unique role in developing climate solutions and are dedicated to supporting climate policies, actions, and incentives that benefit all Kansas Citizens across our metropolitan region.

CAKC strongly supports the Mid-America Regional Council application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program. MARC is well positioned to serve as the lead agency for the Kansas City metropolitan area given its leadership in the development of [Kansas City's Regional Climate Action Plan](#) and its decades of demonstrated capacity to administer and coordinate complex federal grants equitably across our rural, suburban, and urban communities.

Starting in 2018, CAKC has worked in partnership with MARC to convene over a 1,000 volunteers in the development of Kansas City's first regional (10-county / 138 municipality) Climate Action Plan. Adopted by MARC's board of elected leaders in March 2021, this comprehensive plan continues to grow its regional impact. Municipalities, organizations, and neighborhoods have endorsed and adopted the plan and are creating complementary policies and programs to lower our collective emissions and restore our local ecosystems. These measures include the adoption of stronger energy codes, new electric vehicle infrastructure, commercial and residential group-purchasing for renewable energy systems, sustainable water management programs, and workforce development programs. This plan directly informed our region's Priority Climate Action Plan, and we look forward to working with MARC to develop the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan in the coming years.

Following the development of the plan and recognizing that 63% of regional emissions come from buildings, Climate Action KC determined its first program would focus on meaningfully engaging with the real estate industry to advance their energy performance and lower their emissions. In April 2021, Climate Action KC launched Building Energy Exchange KC (BE-Ex KC) in partnership with Mid-America Regional Council, Evergy, Natural Resource Defense Council, Elevate, Institute for Market Transformation, and BE-Ex (New York). Since its inception, BE-Ex KC has hosted dozens of educational events, provided technical support to a variety of commercial building owners, and launched the Rising Trades Contractor Accelerator to grow diverse businesses in the high-performance buildings industry.

BE-Ex KC has also played a key role in connecting our region to building-related federal funding including the successful development of our regional application for DOE's Renew Nonprofits Grant, Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation Grant, and state and national applications for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Plug In KC is CAKC's second organizational initiative, responding to the 34% of emissions from this sector. This initiative is a public-private partnership dedicated to increase regional electric vehicle and mobility infrastructure, growing the EV market availability, supporting adoption in smaller cities and markets, establishing partnerships between policy-makers and industry leaders for innovation and fleet development, and providing web-based resources for both end-users and government officials.

The opportunity to partner with MARC as a subawardee of the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant allow us to take the many years of planning and grassroots activities and scale them to create cross-sector, bi-state impact that will set our economy on a more sustainable course. Climate Action KC's requests \$375,000 to support the adoption of regional scale climate policies over the next five years. Climate Action KC would work with MARC to bring policy makers across the region together to discuss the merits of a variety of policies that impact buildings and energy, transportation, urban greening, agriculture, and waste management. Climate Action KC's board is made up of both civic and corporate leaders and could leverage their ability to bring public and private stakeholders to the table to identify potential barriers and opportunities for policy adoption. Identifying challenges in workforce capacity, material/equipment demands, and limited infrastructure, Climate Action KC could work with industry leaders to create strategies to collectively overcome them.

In support of the work of Building Energy Exchange KC (BE-Ex KC), Climate Action KC also requests \$4,707,446 to expand our educational programs to feature all commercial, public, non-profit, and multi-family projects catalyzed by this grant. In the words of Jonathan Arnold, Climate Action KC board member and developer/owner of Second and Delaware (one of the largest Passive House projects in the world located in downtown Kansas City, Missouri), *"The real estate industry is one of the most conservative industries that exist because it's so capital intensive. The best educational material is a real project that they can replicate. If we could get consumers and investors to demand high-performance buildings, the market will change."*

The initial costs for installing high-performance components can be substantial, which limits the number of buildings that can be chosen as grant recipients. To leverage these strategic investments, BE-Ex KC will engage with thousands of local building decision-makers and shine a light on these projects from pre-design to project completion. As part of MARC's agreement with grant awardees, BE-Ex KC will support building owners in "showing their work" allowing others to peek behind the curtain to understand the financial feasibility of the project, the reasoning behind their specific design decisions, lesson learned in accessing incentives, and the value of the project upon completion.

Programming will be customized to meet audiences where they are and consider their level of experience and the lens by which they view real estate decisions. The "Community Classroom" program will cater to small incremental developers and affordable housing providers operating in J40 communities. Alternatively, professional property managers and facility managers will have unique programming to meet their educational needs. Through on-site visits, workshops, panel discussions,

digital resources, and direct technical assistance, BE-Ex KC will grow the institutional knowledge of our local building owners, developers, capital providers, community leaders, and technical professionals to see a low-carbon path for the properties they influence.

In addition to educational programming, technical assistance, and resource development, BE-Ex KC will work with local and national “green” capital providers to connect financing tools to regional building owners that are cultivated through its platform. BE-Ex KC will also continue its work to position diverse business owners for growth in the high-performance building space. The Rising Trades Contractor Accelerator program, having served more than 15 diverse construction firms and over 30 diverse service providers since it was created in July 2021, the program will provide education, business coaching, and entrepreneurship resources for businesses to grow sustainably both internally and in its project work. We believe to transition real estate to be climate-ready, you have to engage along the full spectrum from capital providers to contractors, and we think this grant could be a meaningful way to create a tipping point in private sector engagement.

Climate Action KC’s work is diverse and caters to a broad spectrum of regional audiences, but we are unified by the belief that there should be zero barriers to net zero. We offer our gratitude to the EPA for creating this exceptional opportunity and to our partners at MARC for their continued partnership in regional climate action. Together we can make change across the region and the globe.

With Gratitude,



Climate Action KC Board Chair
Hillary Parker Thomas



Climate Action KC President
Jeremy Knoll

March 13, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Community LINC Housing would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

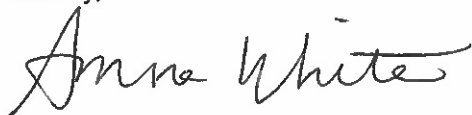
As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional buildings, Community LINC Housing's (CLH) mission is to increase access and decrease barriers for low-income households (~50% AMI) seeking affordable, sustainable homeownership. Sustainable can mean many things in this industry: we pursue sustainable in terms of minimizing long-term utility and maintenance costs as well as the homes' impact on the environment via reduced energy use and pollution. Due to our 30+ years support of families facing housing crises, we know that utility costs can often be the difference between housing stability and eviction. Renovating and building homes that have a more symbiotic relationship with the environment is especially important in the previously red-lined census tracts where we are working – which have historically resulted in less healthy, more polluted communities.

To meet this goal, CLH is creating new models for household support and home construction that meet the reality of today's challenges. Simply 'tweaking' traditional models of home construction and renovation will not get us to the price points and quality that we believe is vital for households involved in our program. Partnering with leading edge, big-picture and coalition-minding organizations such as MARC and BE-Ex KC has been a huge support in helping us develop new models and bring in new partners. CLH has collaborated with BE-Ex KC since the spring of 2023 in developing coalitions to help facilitate understanding and leveraging of IRA funding as well as grow the infrastructure for a more green construction industry. Since the beginning of the CPRG process, CLH has attended over a dozen small-group and community-wide brainstorming sessions to share the goals of our organization and households we serve.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage the households in our program, our staff, funders, board and other stakeholders to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,



Anna White

Director
Community LINC Housing

Daniel Heryer, Owner
Compost Collective KC LLC
5500 Bennington Ave
Kansas City, MO 64129
cell: (913)-522-3458
email: dheryer@compostcollectivekc.com



March 22, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom:

Compost Collective KC (CCKC) would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Compost Collective KC is a community composting organization that collects food waste from residences and businesses throughout the Kansas City region. CCKC provides curbside service to 2,500 residential customers in over a twenty municipalities, six counties and two states. We also have paid residential drop off locations at over 20 local businesses, as well as one free drop off location. Additionally we presently serve 30 commercial clients. We have a wide range of services options and prices to meet the needs of our diverse customer base.

Compost Collective's participation in MARC's Priority Climate Action Plan supports efforts to incorporate decentralized composting into MARC's vision of regenerative agriculture hubs. Compost Collective has created a land-tied model that puts finished compost into agricultural soils, where it can most effectively sequester carbon. CCKC currently has its primary compost hub at Urbavore Urban Farm, where we can presently compost up to 2.5 million pounds of food waste annually. Compost Collective seeks to create additional land-tied hubs throughout the Kansas City region that will create an efficient decentralized landscape for the region's food waste composting. As Compost Collective KC expands access to its convenient service options, we reduce methane emissions and maximize landfill diversion.

Compost Collective KC is part of a network of environmental partners that works with the Mid-America Regional Council to create climate solutions. CCKC has engaged with MARC's Food Wise resource that connects food end-users with waste diversion resources. CCKC is also partnering with Cultivate KC (another MARC partner) to create a composting hub on a new urban agriculture site in Kansas. MARC helps build these connections in KC, and is central to the region's environmental stewardship.

We commit to working with MARC to increase food waste diversion in the Kansas City region, and to continue to create critical infrastructure needs surrounding composting. As partners in the priority action plan, we see our decentralized compost hub model as filling unique need in creating an interconnected, layered ecosystem of sustainability in Kansas City. Working with MARC's PCAP, we see the opportunity for the region's food waste to become a coveted resource that breaths new life into our communities and soils. We are please to be a partner in that work.

Sincerely,

Daniel Heryer, Owner
Compost Collective KC LLC
Cell: (913)-522-3458
Email: dheryer@compostcollectivekc.com



SU CONEXIÓN A LA COMUNIDAD

Richard A. Ruiz
Administrative and
Services Building
650 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

El Centro – Olathe
201 E. Loula, Suite #110
Olathe, KS, 66061

Academy for Children
1330 S. 30th Street
Kansas City, KS 66106

913.677.0100
913.362.8513 (Fax)

www.elcentroinc.com

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

El Centro, Inc. would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

El Centro is a welcoming center for Latino immigrants and families in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, KS. With 47 years of service, El Centro provides services and programs to some 12,000 individuals annually in early childhood education, community health, economic empowerment, and civic engagement. The majority of Latinos we serve are from uninsured, low income, mixed status households who have historically been marginalized due to language and cultural barriers.

El Centro currently offers a community class series in Spanish for Latinos called Comprando Rico y Sano (Buying Healthy and Tasty Foods) facilitated by our Promotoras de Salud. The series is broken up over three sessions and focuses on healthy eating, budgeting to buy more fresh produce, and adapting traditional Latino recipes for a healthy lifestyle. We seek to implement an additional two-hour session titled Sembrando para su Salud (Planting for Your Health), facilitated by Promotora Farm Ambassadors. Participants will gain valuable insights and vital information about agriculture, protecting our environment, and growing foods in community gardens. This ties in to our existing series, as participants will learn not just about healthy foods and how to access them, but how to grow them and learn of potential opportunities in agriculture careers and certification. Our focus is utilizing our trusted Promotoras to promote existing agricultural programs in our area, to create awareness and better include our Spanish speaking Latino community. This support will allow MARC to be more effective in Priority Climate Action Plan implementation in reaching historically marginalized communities like our Spanish speaking, immigrant Latinos.

El Centro has partnered with MARC over several years, collaborating in many efforts like providing ACA education and enrollment outreach in the



Kansas City metro, the Community Health Worker collaborative, and ACP enrollment through Digital Equity funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery initiative.

We will work with MARC in *implementing measure FA-2 in the PCAP, to increase food production through our community education efforts* mentioned above. We anticipate training a total of 14 Promotoras and will have 2 lead Promotora Farm Ambassadors at each of our offices to facilitate Sembrando para su Salud. At least 500 individuals, 250 in each county, will participate in the classes and be connected to local community gardens, agricultural programs, and other existing resources within each county.

Our participation in this project will help create a different culture and perception of how agriculture is a vital part of our ecosystem, and that Latinos too can get involved to play an active role in protecting our environment and climate, reducing food waste, and ensuring Kansas City has a strong food system where no one experiences food insecurity. We look forward to working with MARC and appreciate your consideration of their proposal in this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Justin Gust". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "G".

Justin Gust
Vice President of Community Engagement
913-428-1304
jgust@elcentroinc.com



March 14, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

RE: Letter of Support – Mid-America Regional Council's application for CPRG Implementation

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

On behalf of Elevate Energy (Elevate), I am pleased to offer our support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG) Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

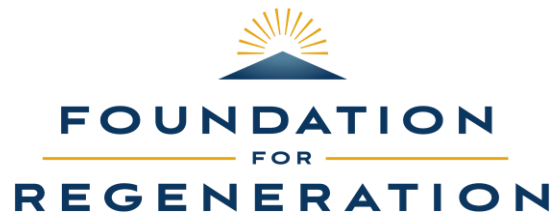
Elevate is a not for profit organization that seeks to create a just and equitable world in which everyone has clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities—no matter who they are or where they live. Our team builds strong connections in the places we work and we deliver high-quality programs, services, and clean technology solutions and services that contribute to healthy thriving communities. Elevate has been working in the region for nearly a decade. We collaborated with MARC and Climate Action KC to launch BE-E KC and have been providing guidance and expertise to support its growth. We have also been supporting local governments and community-based organizations through equitable building decarbonization strategies and building collaborative partnerships to resource climate and equity projects with federal funding through our philanthropically funded programs including the Justice40 Accelerator, Local Infrastructure Hub, and Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities Initiative.

We will support our staff to take an active role in MARC's work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan. We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC in this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Anne Evens
Chief Executive Officer
Elevate Energy



March 15, 2024

Directors:

Bob Berkebile
Brian Weinberg

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Advisory Council:

Tom Chi
Paul Hawken
Janine Benyus
Tricia Bridges
Majora Carter
Dr. Gerald Durley
Talia Arnow
Wes Jackson

Dear Tom,

The Foundation for Regeneration and our collaborator, Missouri Organic, are extending this letter of commitment to the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) regarding its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Missouri Organic is the premier composter in Kansas City. With a home base in the Blue River Valley, they have been providing a vital service to the greater metropolitan area for more than 30 years. Over the last decade alone, Missouri Organic has helped the Kansas City region keep more than 1.2 million tons of organic waste out of landfills, significantly reducing climate pollutants like methane and other greenhouse gases.

The Foundation for Regeneration is an organization that focuses on creating meaningful demonstrations of regeneration that leave a legacy of impact. We use philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, and impact investing to catalyze economic development, community empowerment, and ecological health in the America's heartland. By taking a hyperlocal approach to addressing the needs in Kansas City, a key region in the U.S. Midwest region, we can make sense of and iterate on climate-smart, nature-based solutions and programs that will have local impact and national relevance.

The Blue River Valley is ground zero for the foundation's work. Historically, it was a source of abundant clean water, rich soil for farming, and relaxation for Kansas City residents to enjoy fishing, water sports, houseboats, and dining. The industrial age brought change to the river and surrounding neighborhoods. Businesses selected riverside sites and brought jobs and economic activity but, over time, also converted the once pristine river and surrounding land into a toxic wasteland. As those companies left, so did the jobs that supported the neighborhoods. This community, once a place for nature lovers and a model for thriving industry, is now in economic decline with an uncertain future.

The Blue River Valley is home to six residential neighborhoods and more than 13,000 residents. With a median age of 32 years, 74 percent of residents are people of color (either Hispanic or Black), 31 percent are children, and nine percent are seniors. The median home value in their community is \$43,000.

While community members have pride in many aspects of the valley's rich history, they would like to see new jobs created that restore environmental health and access to nature, protect neighbors from displacement, and increase overall safety and quality of life. The project that the Foundation for Regeneration and Missouri Organic have proposed for CPRG funding within MARC's Priority Climate Action Plan will contribute to that.

As MARC built the framework of climate action priorities in the KC region, we were there actively participating in the community sessions, providing input, and ultimately submitting the following project which will mitigate tens of thousands of tons of CO₂e. With the assistance of CPRG funding, we are prepared to relocate and expand Missouri Organic's operations in the Blue River Valley to at least double its capacity, create up to 20 new jobs, and introduce new biochar technology that will:

- Sequester more carbon than composting alone,
- Generate clean power and radiant heat,
- Contribute to the production of high-performance building materials,
- Create soil amendments and fresh produce to enhance local food systems,
- Support a nursery of trees for local rain gardens and urban cooling efforts,
- Demonstrate the power and potential of the circular economy, and
- Offer an education center to help the public get engaged.

The Foundation for Regeneration and Missouri Organic have been proud to participate in the planning process and stand ready to implement the project stated above to help significantly reduce climate pollutants in the region, increase capacity for receiving organic waste (an essential service for the metro area), process and return it back to the market as valuable material, and produce new jobs, beneficial byproducts, and community education.

We look forward to working with MARC to make this vision a reality!

Respectfully,



Darren Beck
Studio Lead, Circular KC
Foundation for Regeneration
(913) 526-1099



A 501c3 Serving the Historic Dunbar area

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816-659-1575



heartofthecity.kc@gmail.com



www.heartofthecitykc.org

P. O. Box 300582, Kansas City, MO 64130



A 501c3 Serving the Historic Dunbar area

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3 00

Kathryn Persley



816-659-1575



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P. O Box 300582, Kansas City, MO 64130



March 27th 2024

HENC Coalition

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Board Secretary*

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG)

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of the Historic East Neighborhood Coalition (HENC), we would like to extend our support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for their application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MARC seeks funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

HENC is a coalition of congregations, business stakeholders, and ten neighborhood associations. We are committed to addressing the needs of these neighborhoods and collaborating to improve our communities. We have been rooted in community engagement since 2009. HENC has a proven record of supporting neighborhoods on Kansas City's East Side, and we work diligently to continue this work.

This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost-effective, replicable, and transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan. MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the Kansas City metropolitan area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals.

The MARC CPRG application, which focuses on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures, addresses the needs and priorities in the historic East Side of Kansas City, Missouri. For these reasons, we support MARC's effort to this grant and ultimately improve the environments of underserved neighborhoods.

Antoine Lee,

HENC Board Chair



HopeBUILDERS

15 March 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of HopeBUILDERS Home Repair, I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost-effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan.

HopeBUILDERS Home Repair has participated in MARC-hosted collaboration meetings regarding this grant and is deeply committed to supporting initiatives that address climate change and promote environmental sustainability. Our organization has a long history of providing critical home repair and accessibility modifications for low-income and disadvantaged communities in the region. These efforts directly contribute to improving the quality of life for residents while also promoting energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.


MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. We believe that this aligns perfectly with our mission and ongoing efforts. Through this grant, we envision expanding our impact by implementing climate-resilient solutions that enhance the well-being of vulnerable populations.

HopeBUILDERS Home Repair, along with members of the Home Modification Coalition of Kansas City, has collaborated with MARC on hundreds of projects over the years, particularly in initiatives related to community development and environmental sustainability. This grant opportunity presents an exciting opportunity to build upon our past collaborations and further integrate climate action into our collective work.

We are fully committed to supporting MARC's grant application and contributing to the overall initiative. Our organization stands ready to provide expertise, resources, and community engagement to ensure the success of this vital project. Additionally, we are excited to collaborate on specific projects that align with the grant objectives and our organizational goals.

We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to strengthening our partnership through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kristenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeff Kristenson
Executive Director

March 15, 2024

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Hannah Elder- VISTA
Natalie Zaroni- VISTA

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Jerusalem Farm would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Jerusalem Farm has been retaining and restoring homes throughout Kansas City's Historic Northeast neighborhoods for over a decade. We advocated for KC's Climate Action plan and fully support any funding to make the plan a reality. We have been a partner in designing this CPRG program; we believe this plan will serve the region and complement existing efforts. Our Sustainability Coordinator, Adam Rossi, has worked tirelessly on Share the Sun and EmPowerKC, two programs installing free or low-cost photovoltaic systems for low-income homeowners. However, his biggest hurdle has been assessing the other needs in the homes; MARC's CPRG program will help us provide residents with safe, healthy, and sustainable homes.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform our part of the heartland to be climate ready.

Thanks & Peace,



Jessie Schiele
Executive Director
Jerusalem Farm
jessie@jerusalemfarm.org



15 March 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Kala, Inc. would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Kala, Inc. designs and builds homes that enable a rich and comfortable lifestyle while contributing to the health and welfare of its occupants, the planet, and future generations. Kala built the first market-rate, Phius-certified passive, single-family home in Missouri. Kala built the first market rate LEED platinum, net-zero, single-family home in the region. We currently have 12 high performance homes either under construction or in design that substantially exceed the IECC 2021 building code adopted by Kansas City, MO including two Phius certified projects.

We are not aware of any other builder of any type in our region that is totally focused on building high-performance homes. This exclusive mission has caused us to build a team of architects, designers, framers, finish carpenters, and others, eight of which are certified Phius consultants or builders, to eliminate any compromise in delivering buildings that use up to 80% less energy than conventionally delivered structures.

In short, Kala is not just talking. We are doing. We are not waiting to figure everything out. We are not waiting for financial or technical support from the government or anyone else. We are doing our best to amplify our voice about how much better living in a high-performance building can be. But we are also shouting into a whirlwind of financial institutions who are only looking at the short-term bottom line, real estate professionals who simply want transactions to happen, and consumers who don't realize how much better they could live.

Changing that dynamic will require the financial and technical support from organizations like MARC. To that end Kala has attended and been a lead sponsor of the regional Climate Summit hosted by Climate Action KC. We have also been working with BE-Ex KC to find ways to increase awareness of the value of high-performance building and educate consumers and the building community about how much better

the living experience in a high-performance home. We remain committed to growing a larger community of builders who are not just talking, but actively building better buildings.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage the Kala team to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates a significant portion of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,



Cary DeCamp
Managing Director
Kala, Inc.

Related Links

<https://www.kalabuilt.com>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/portfolio/beacon-hill-passive-house>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/portfolio/fairmount>

<https://www.kalabuilt.com/blog/the-powerful-impact-of-a-high-performance-home>



ADDRESS: 3119 Terrace Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
PHONE: 816-359-3622 | **EMAIL:** info@kanbesmarkets.org

Mar 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

Kanbe's Markets would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Kanbe's Markets is on a mission to build a more inclusive food system by transforming food loss into food access. Over 120,000 residents in "low food access" tracts can rely on our services to shop for reliable, affordable and high-quality fruits and vegetables in their own neighborhoods. We source our produce from conventional distributors, but supplement our supply by rescuing over half a million pounds of produce that is sorted by volunteers and redirected to areas of best fit. The top 10% is routed into our Healthy Corner Store locations in Kansas City, MO, but the next best 40% is shipped immediately to Hunger Relief Partners, and adds over 200,000 meals into our emergency food service system, for free, in our region. We save 25% of the food rescued to be given to farms and animal rescues. The last 25% is composted.

We have partnered with the Mid-America Regional Council for four years in a multitude of ways. Grants from MARC have allowed us to feed people during the global pandemic and most recently SWMD to support our redirection program to intercept perfectly good produce from being sent to take up space in our landfills.

We wholeheartedly commit to working with MARC to implement redistribution of consumable food to areas of best fit, to help track and measure our collective impact, and improve the capacity of our areas critical food system stakeholders.

Sincerely,

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

Maxfield Kaniger
Founder & CEO
Kanbe's Markets

March 18, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), the regional transit authority for the Kansas City area, I am pleased to support the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)'s application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's leadership on climate action will help the bi-state Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will also enable communities and entities like KCATA to implement cost effective, replicable, and transformative actions from the Regional Climate Action Plan.

KCATA has an ongoing positive relationship with MARC to address regional climate goals that will be enhanced under the CPRG supported activities. The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with KCATA's needs and priorities for improving public transportation in the region.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. This fits directly with KCATA's transit services and goals for improved, cleaner transit to these same communities.

KCATA is committed to working in partnership with MARC, other jurisdictions, and community partners on this important effort. We are committed to environmental sustainability including purchasing clean transit vehicles for our fleet.

We support MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through the CPRG effort.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Jarrold, P.E.
Deputy CEO



March 22, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Kansas City Art Institute would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As one of the premier art and design colleges in the county, we educate more than 750 undergraduate students each year in the creative arts. We currently have students enrolled in our degree programs from 36 states and 14 other countries. We have a very diverse student body where more than 35% of the students are first generation college students and 99% are on some form of scholarship assistance.

Many of our students are interested in using their creative talents to address the issues surrounding climate change and environment concerns. We have worked with the Mid-America Regional Council over the past few years to assist them in projects related to water quality education and climate change.

Most recently, our Graphic Design students partnered with MARC to provide naming, visual and consumer research, positioning and core branding elements, as well as sample applications for the new KC Climate Action Plan. This was accomplished through the college's Sponsored Studio program and included the opportunity to work closely through multiple rounds of design iterations with Barkley, who led the development of the creative brief and creative assets and Marshall Sustainability, who provided strategy development.

We would be honored to continue working with MARC in addressing the increasingly harmful impacts of climate change and factors such as criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) and what impact these factors have on our communities.

We commit to working with MARC through our Sponsored Studio program to support your initiatives while also giving our students real life projects to improve their educational experience and support these important community issues.

The fee for a similar project to the one we completed last year would be \$10,000 per semester. This amount would cover the educational training provided by our faculty and would also support the students through our student scholarship programs.

We recognize the importance of this vital initiative and would be honored to play a role in the success of the project. Our hope is this program will have a lasting change on effects of pollution and climate change for many years. We look forward to working with MARC on this and other important programs in the future.

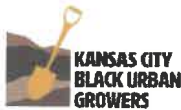
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allison Puff".

Allison Puff
Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
Kansas City Art Institute

email: apuff@kcai.edu

Kansas City Art Institute
4415 Warwick Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64111



March 20, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom,

Kansas City Black Urban Growers, Inc., (KCBUGs) would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The mission of KCBUGs is to support black urban growers in the Kansas City area. We are committed to building networks and community support for Black growers through education and communication, advocacy and policy, and funding opportunities. Black growers are our narrow focus. For us, the broader vision of urban agriculture begins in the eyes of Black growers and the granular work they aspire to do.

Black communities, historically, have borne the brunt of environmental injustice. We must acknowledge that we need to take proactive measures to support Black producers in their work of contributing to regenerative practices, such as reducing food loss waste, greenhouse gas emissions and reclaiming green spaces in Black communities. We believe that MARC will be able to have a regional impact on Kansas City's food system, but also to help address the disproportionate impact of racial and systemic inequities.

KCBUGs has been at the table in discussions during the planning process for this grant. And, we will stay involved to ensure that Black voices are heard.

We look forward to working with MARC to ensure increased opportunities to prioritize the local (neighborhood-level) food system, which reduces food transportation emissions, addresses green infrastructure, provides soil regeneration, addresses climate challenges, and contributes to a circular economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dina", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dina Neyman
CEO/Founder
816-813-2518
dina@kcblackurbangrowers.com



March 22, 2024

Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

3119 Terrace Street
Kansas City, MO 64114

KC Can Compost is pleased to extend this letter of support to Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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KC Can is a local nonprofit organization committed to improving the environmental and social landscapes of the Greater Kansas City area. Our mission is to advance a systematic, regional infrastructure for organic waste management that enables businesses and residents to easily divert their food scraps from the landfill for composting. Revenues generated from this service support our social mission which is to educate, train, and prepare men and women with barriers to employment for jobs in the green economy.

KC Can services hundreds of customers on both sides of the state line, including the City of Kansas City, MARC, the Nelson and Kemper Museums, University Health and St. Luke's, national chain restaurants like Costco, Starbucks, and Chipotle, schools, office buildings, and residents. We currently operate 17 residential food scrap drop-off stations for residents with more set to open this spring.

Our workforce development program, Green Core Training, has educated 175 individuals facing barriers to employment. The populations served include formerly incarcerated, formerly houseless, chronically unemployed or underemployed, and members of under-resourced neighborhoods along the Troost Corridor. Ninety-two of these individuals have received Roots of Success green industry certifications, and 62 of them completed pre-apprenticeships with the US Department of Labor as "Environmental Specialists."

MARC's Solid Waste Management District has been a critical partner in helping us advance both of these initiatives. Their support over the past five years has enabled us to grow our fleet, staff, and ultimately, our capacity to manage this valuable resource and educate the public about its impact on communities and the environment.

KC Can's CEO and Director of the Green Core Training have been members of MARC's Food Waste and Loss Committee for the past several years, and our team has actively participated in MARC's CPRG community listening sessions and extensive planning efforts since they began last fall. We have been encouraged by the strategic and collaborative approach MARC has undertaken to tackle the complex problem of climate pollution reduction regionally, and we are excited about the potential impact for our community.

For our part, KC Can is committed to working with MARC to advance regional collection of organic waste, compost processing, and green workforce development. For the past two years, our team, has been researching and developing a plan to introduce composting infrastructure using a Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) method. CASP provides one of the most effective solutions for mitigating odor, air quality, and stormwater concerns, in addition to being the best method for minimizing methane emissions. The project we are proposing will yield a high-quality product, create jobs for marginalized populations, and support multiple priorities put forth in MARC's Regional CPRG strategy. This project is shovel-ready, scalable, and will help our community effectively manage the estimated 96% of household food waste and 85% of restaurant and retail waste that is currently being sent to the landfill.

Our organization is already working toward the common goals outlined in the Agriculture, Food, and Waste measures of MARC's Climate Action Plan, while simultaneously increasing an equitable green workforce. MARC's Climate Action Plan is historic and the benefits to our community are far-reaching. We look forward to working with MARC to ensure that together we are strategically and effectively implementing changes that will have a lasting impact on our community and world.

Sincerely,

Kristan Chamberlain
CEO, Co-founder, KC Can Compost





March 9, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

KC Farm School would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

KC Farm School is a nonprofit organization operating a 14.5 urban education and production farm in the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas. We use Indigenous guided and regenerative agriculture practices to grow food, preserve prairie, and conserve resources. We serve 10,000 individuals annually across the greater Kansas City metropolitan area through food distribution and educational opportunities for individuals of all ages, ancestries and abilities using innovative circular economic and resource management models. The majority of individuals we serve come from low income and disadvantaged communities, primarily in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

As farmers in the Midwest, we are facing climate chaos directly through chaotic weather patterns and urban heat traps and see first-hand the impact of climate change through our community which is deemed a frontline community due to historical disinvestment. We have many resources that build land sovereignty, food security, watershed and soil stewardship, climate justice, dignified labor, and regenerative growing practices embedded in community development including a tool lending library, community garden space, and 1/4 acre plots available as incubator space for growers stepping out onto their own. Our programs like "Let's Grow Wyandotte!" and Farmers on the Rise youth apprenticeship program to build food sovereignty and economic opportunity in the community. We are actively working to restore native prairie habitat, knowing that Indigenous wisdom and practices are the most important step we as a species must take to face climate chaos together. We are also working with seven area public schools to create prairie ribbons around Kansas City to increase climate resilience, beautification of greenspaces and native ecosystem restoration that directly ties to improved daily life. We are a direct action organization, feeding people directly, taking action to mitigate the impact of climate change and supporting community members in their efforts toward food sovereignty and security. Our support in this work will allow MARC to be more effective in Priority Climate Action Plan implementation through an increased reach in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

KC Farm School at Gibbs Road is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization empowering individuals through on-farm, hands-on experiences and vocational education connecting them to the land and soil, food, themselves and their communities.

info@kcfarmschool.org 4223 Gibbs Road, KCKS, 66106 (913) 313-8456 www.kcfarmschool.org



We have partnered with the Mid America Regional Council on stormwater pollution prevention projects. Their support allowed us to install berms and swales and rain gardens on our urban farm to minimize stormwater drainage, increase native pollinator habitat and sequester carbon.

We have been actively involved in the planning process for this application through pre-proposal meetings and review sessions. Beyond this work, we are members of the RE-AMP network in which we collaborate regionally with stakeholders on climate solutions in the Midwest. We are also engaged in local, regional and national advocacy efforts about climate change, agriculture and securing our farmers and food systems into the future.

We commit to working with MARC to participate in the Regenerative Agriculture Hub components of the Priority Action Plan for the duration and beyond of the project period. Our participation in this partnership will amplify the impact of the work we are already doing; regenerative agriculture practices, food distribution in LIDAC communities, circular economic systems, climate-smart practices; and expand our impact through an extensive network of partners through the formation of regenerative agriculture hubs and access to capacity building resources.

We look forward to working with MARC to implement the Priority Climate Action Plan to preserve land, soil and life, and remain a hub of health, conservation, and opportunity through farming.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Ellingsworth", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alicia Ellingsworth

Executive Director
(913) 313-8456
alicia@kcfarmschool.org

KC Farm School at Gibbs Road is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization empowering individuals through on-farm, hands-on experiences and vocational education connecting them to the land and soil, food, themselves and their communities.

info@kcfarmschool.org 4223 Gibbs Road, KCKS, 66106 (913) 313-8456 www.kcfarmschool.org

March 25, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

As co-chairs of the KC Global Design advisory board, which is a collective of more than 70 regional firms focused on elevating KC's design industry, we are writing to provide our full support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The application is in regard to funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. As leaders of sustainable design, KC firms create and advocate for long-term sustainable solutions to help its communities thrive. With new technology and collaboration, this includes action that will curb climate damage.

Based on its long-standing relationship with MARC and Climate Action KC, KC Global Design welcomed representatives to share more about this application process at its Advisory Board meeting on February 14, 2024. The topic received full support from all members in attendance.

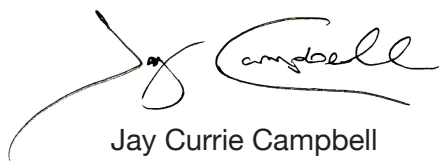
We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our KC Global Design firms to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,



Erin Elder
Senior Co-Chair



Jay Currie Campbell
Co-Chair



Rich Smith
Past Co-Chair



March 22, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom:

KC Healthy Kids would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program: Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

KC Healthy Kids connects communities to close health gaps. We invest in community education, local and regional advocacy, and direct support. Our work addresses systemic obstacles through solutions-based focus areas, including food policy and local food, for kids and their families in the Kansas City region.

The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, operating as a program of KC Healthy Kids, convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system and promote policies for the nutritional, economic, social, and environmental health of the community. MARC has held a dedicated seat on the coalition's Steering Committee since it was formed in 2010 and will continue to do so.

Our work helps address the health and environmental impacts of air pollutants in two ways. First, our local food programs promote farmers and ranchers using regenerative practices and support institutional purchasing of local food by institutions. Second, the coalition educates decision makers and food system stakeholders about policies that reduce barriers to local food production and food waste recovery, from local zoning ordinances to the Farm Bill.

Between October 2021 and January 2024, KC Healthy Kids, Mid America Regional Council, New Growth, Cultivate KC, and Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group led a USDA Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) planning grant to conduct an assessment and develop an action plan for the regional food system. KC Healthy Kids is coordinating partner organizations to apply for a RFSP implementation grant to put elements of the plan into action.

Goal 8 of the action plan is to make information and resources that support collaborative regional food system work easily accessible. This goal aligns with Measure FA-1 of the regional priority climate action plan. KC Healthy Kids is committed to ongoing collaboration with MARC by coordinating our activities to advance our shared goals.

To support the CPRG, we will participate in the KC Foodwise advisory committee to guide the implementation of the food and agriculture measures and development of a strategic funding plan for the regional food system.

We look forward to continuing our work together to build an equitable and resilient food system in the Kansas City region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Andrea Clark, AICP
Director of Food System Planning
aclark@kchealthykids.org



Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom/Mr. Jacobs:

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Schlagle, an Environmental Learning Library of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Schlagle Library is an Environmental Learning library that serves the Kansas City metro area, however, focuses on the entire Kansas City Kansas Public School District by offering free environmental field trips to students. The community that we serve is located in the urban core with at least 50 percent of the population being Latine/o/x, along with several percent being English Language Learners from other countries in Africa and Asia.

We are addressing climate change by teaching these students about the impacts of climate change while fully immersing them in nature. One of our classes we teach is about water and air pollutants and what we can do as community members to decrease the pollutants in our area.

As you already know, urban, marginalized communities are impacted much more greatly than our suburban communities when it comes to climate change, pollutants and toxins. This grant is important to our community and could create a positive impact if implemented in a thoughtful way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in pink ink that reads "Patrice Gonzalez".

Patrice Gonzalez (she/elle)
pgonzalez@kckpl.org, 913.295.8250 ext. 2030
Branch Manager and Lead Education Specialist
Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Schlagle Library (<https://www.kckpl.org/libraries/flschlagle.html>)
4051 West Drive
Kansas City, KS 66109

* I acknowledge that I live and work on the unceded and traditional lands of the Kiikaapoi, Washtáge, Osage and Očhéthi Šakówin First Nations. (<https://native-land.ca/>)

Superintendent of Schools



March 21, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council (MARC)
600 Broadway Boulevard, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

On behalf of Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS), I would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

KCPS is the 12th largest school district in Missouri committed to expand access to quality educational opportunities that engage, challenge, and support every student. We serve more than 14,000 students Pre-K to grade 12. We are a minority-majority district and our students come from diverse, culturally-rich backgrounds, speaking more than 50 languages. 23% of KCPS students are English Language Learners (ELL) and 12% receive Special Education services. Under the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), KCPS offers universal free breakfast and lunch to all KCPS students.

KCPS is the only Missouri school district in our region that lacks dedicated funding for capital improvements (KCPS voters last passed a General Obligation (GO) Bond in 1967). As such, the average age of our school buildings is more than 60 years old, and we currently have more than \$650 million in deferred maintenance needs, including critical systems infrastructure that produces significant climate pollution like outdated lighting and HVAC systems and leaky windows. In 2024, KCPS is embarking on the most significant effort in more than 30 years to improve our school facilities. This fall, we will be issuing \$100 million in Certificate of Participation (COP) Bonds and we will be bringing a GO Bond proposal to our voters in April 2025 to address critical deferred maintenance and school modernization needs. With these bond projects, KCPS will make significant contributions to the MARC region's efforts to reduce emissions and hazardous air pollution. But our efforts could be transformative with the award of a Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant.

We look forward to continuing to work with MARC and local partners on this critical initiative to address air pollutants and improve the health and quality of life of our students and their families.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Collier".

Dr. Jennifer Collier
Superintendent of Schools

kansascityzoo.org
816.595.1234
816.595.1798 (Fax)
6800 Zoo Dr.
Kansas City, MO 64132



The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium, a private, non-profit organization, is operated in agreement with the Kansas City, MO Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner, partially funded by the Zoological District and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.



Vision

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium—with its world-class exhibits and exceptional programs—attracts visitors from around the world and families from close to home.

Mission

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium connects all people to each other and the natural world to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation.

March 12, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium (KCZA) has been a community institution since its opening in 1909. KCZA is home to over 8,000 animals and serves one million guests annually, including more than 80,000 children through educational programming and 30,000 households through Friends of the Zoo memberships. 73% of guests are from the KC Metro area (Jackson, Clay, Platte, and Cass in MO, Johnson, Wyandotte, and Leavenworth in KS), with 27% traveling over 50 miles away. Our visitor and member demographics represent all ethnicities and reflect the diversity of our community.

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium recognizes that environmental factors are affecting biodiversity on every continent. We are committed to modeling sustainable actions and providing tangible solutions to our community to empower them to make positive choices to preserve our natural world. Because of the green initiatives we will be carrying out within the Priority Climate Action Plan and our ability to reach and create awareness within the community, the KCZA will be an asset to MARC and the effectiveness and successful implementation of the Priority Climate Action plan.

We first started working with MARC in 2017 through their Solid Waste Management District Grants funding program. Since then, we have received three SWMD grants which allowed us to purchase recycling bins that are used throughout our property, compost bins for our events, and even re-usable masks during COVID.

KCZA staff attended the two-day MARC Climate Resilience and Mitigation Workshop, as well as planning webinars, and regularly engaged with MARC staff at community and green business events throughout the year.

Stacia Pieroni, KCZA Director of Conservation and Education, serves on the Climate and Environment Council led by MARC and Climate Action KC. This group is charged with guiding the implementation of the Regional Climate Action Plan and advancing regional resiliency and sustainability efforts.

kansascityzoo.org
816.595.1234
816.595.1798 (Fax)
6800 Zoo Dr.
Kansas City, MO 64132



The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium, a private, non-profit organization, is operated in agreement with the Kansas City, MO Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioner, partially funded by the Zoological District and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

OUR VISION & MISSION

Vision

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium—with its world-class exhibits and exceptional programs—attracts visitors from around the world and families from close to home.

Mission

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium connects all people to each other and the natural world to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation.

The Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium is committed to collaborating with MARC in implementing projects that were submitted and incorporated as part of the larger Kansas City Priority Climate Action Plan. Specifically, these projects will be for renewable energy and commercial composting. For our part, we commit to providing timely updates, tracking measurable outcomes, and fulfilling the selected projects which will propel Kansas City towards climate resiliency through the implementation period.

We look forward to collaborating with MARC by taking an active role in the grant projects. KCZA recently completed a Pathway to Netzero which targets a NetZero goal of 2050 with a 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Many of the same goals within our pathway are reflected in the plan compiled by MARC. One aspect of our plan and of MARC's is to mitigate and manage behaviors surrounding waste. Thanks to funding from the SWMD grants, our food scrap composting program helps educate our community on composting by making it visible, reduces volume in the landfill and reduces the production of harmful greenhouse gases when food waste is sent to the landfill. Additionally, we look to produce as much clean energy as possible through new solar projects. With the addition of the SOBELA Ocean Aquarium we have a prime opportunity to add solar to this building helping to offset the resources needed by our campus. This provides an example of how solar can be integrated into infrastructure and gives our visitors a chance to learn about solar benefits up close.

We believe the Mid America Regional Council will be an apt steward in galvanizing the region to align the multifaceted plan which will lead to significant reduction in climate pollution.

Sincerely,

Sean Putney
Executive Director
816-595-1319
seanputney@fotzkc.org



March 8, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Tom,

I am writing to express the University of Kansas Edwards Campus' full support for Mid-America Regional Council's application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): *Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07*.

As a part of a major comprehensive research and teaching university, the University of Kansas Edwards Campus (KUEC) is committed to bringing the high quality of the University of Kansas to the Kansas City metro area. With over 70 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs offered in online, on-campus, or hybrid formats, KUEC aims to enable students to complete degrees or further their education for career advancement. The KU School of Professional Studies, based at the Edwards Campus, facilitates social mobility and equity by providing high-quality academic programs, research activities, and engaged learning initiatives tailored to meet local workforce, economic, and student needs. Our faculty and staff, many of whom have industry experience, continuously engage with boards and working groups to evolve courses and programs in line with technological advancements and the demand for skilled employees.

As active participants in Climate Action KC, we collaborate closely with MARC and regional partners to build climate resilience and community capacity to address the challenges and opportunities before us. Through applied research, KUEC strives to improve the health, safety, and vitality of communities in the Kansas City metropolitan area, offering our students authentic, real-world learning opportunities. Our goal is to prepare students from across the region to serve in industry, government, and the non-governmental sector, contributing to the development of a sustainable 21st-century region and economy. We are particularly focused on addressing climate equity and justice, recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on low-income and minority communities.

Our collaboration with MARC spans decades and encompasses various sectors. Most recently, we worked together on an EPA Environmental Justice Community Problem Solving Grant subaward (Federal Award No. 84037401) to develop and deploy neighborhood community and climate resilience training in four urban core neighborhoods in Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri.



KUEC faculty have actively participated in developing the Priority Climate Action Plan, contributing through community workshops, project proposals, and steering committee involvement. Going forward, we are committed to supporting Urban Greening (UG) strategies UG-1 and UG-2, aimed at restoring urban tree canopy and riparian corridors to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, reduce urban heat islands, manage flood risks, improve water quality, restore urban habitats, and enhance climate resilience and justice. Additionally, we will collaborate with MARC on Cross Sector (CS) strategies CS-4 and CS-6, focusing on environmental education and workforce development. Our diverse faculty, staff, and professional programs stand ready to partner with MARC in developing and executing project applications, deploying cross-sector educational programs, providing technical expertise, and engaging students through coursework, internships, and applied research.

The initiative at hand is critical for our region's safety and prosperity, and we are grateful for MARC's leadership in preparing the plan and grant application. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with MARC to implement this important work upon the successful completion of the grant application.

Sincerely,

Stuart A. Day, Ph.D.
Vice Provost, Edwards Campus
Dean, School of Professional Studies
Professor of Spanish
day@ku.edu



March 15, 2024

The Honorable Michael Regan
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, Mail Code 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

It is my pleasure to share that Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Kansas City strongly supports the efforts of Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As you may be aware, LISC is one of the nation's largest and oldest community development organizations, and partners with residents and stakeholders to forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity – great places to live, work, visit, do business, and raise families. Through our programmatic efforts, lending products, and policy advocacy, as a CDFI and an intermediary, we provide grants, equity, debt, and technical assistance to local jurisdictions, community development corporations and other affordable housing developers to help foster healthier and more sustainable housing options and built environment for our region's residents.

We have enjoyed many partnerships with MARC over the years, including our current work around a Regional Housing Partnership. We have also been pleased to serve as a collaborator with BE-Ex KC, and a supporter of the Climate Action KC efforts. We look forward to continuing to work with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our staff and partners to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

We fully support this proposal and hope you will give it favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Geoff Jolley
Executive Director

Local Initiatives Support Corporation 600 Broadway, Suite 280, Kansas City, MO 64105 • T 816.753.0055 • lisc.org



Gardens: 4229 Forest Ave
Mailing Address: 1205 E 42nd St
Kansas City, MO 64110
www.manheimgardens.org
info@manheimgardens.org

March 29th, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Manheim Gardens would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Manheim Gardens is a community garden and green space in the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri. As a 100% volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with almost 2 acres, we offer growing space and free produce for neighbors, host community events and educational activities, and practice regenerative gardening and farming.

Importantly, Manheim Gardens is a carbon sink. We received a 2023 regenerative agriculture farm report from the Ecdysis Foundation which contained information regarding tests completed on our soil and showed how Manheim Gardens compares on a state and national level. Of particular interest to our status as a carbon sink were our Soil Organic Matter and Plant Biomass scores. Our Soil Organic Matter score was 13%, which is about 3 times the national average, and double the regional average. Our Plant Biomass score was similar to the national average.

This goes to show our practices are making a real impact on the health of the Gardens and our community. Looking forward, we intend to increase Manheim Garden's commitment to climate via the Garden House project, which will be a passive structure serving as our operations headquarters. Additionally, converting grass frontage to native beds and unplanted areas to tree cover or gardens will allow us to increase our plant biomass and increase our ability to fix carbon.

Our relationship with MARC dates back several years. In 2020, we were the recipient of a Water Quality Education Grant from MARC. We also received funding through a Water Access Program via Kansas City, MO, and the Kansas City Community Gardens, which was made possible by MARC. Related to the Climate Action Plan, we are committed to working with MARC on urban greening and carbon fixing efforts (UG-1) as well as capacity-building work through our Garden House project (FA-1).

Our work directly connects to components established in the Climate Action Plan and future funding will enable us to expand this shared mission directly to other Kansas Citians. We look forward to working with MARC to achieve our shared goals!

Sincerely,

Katy Clagett
President, Manheim Gardens Board of Directors
(785) 330-3301
katy.clagett@gmail.com



March 27, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) extends this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MEC is a Kansas City-based nonprofit with a 40-year history of transforming energy use in the building and transportation sectors while raising awareness to improve the air quality for our entire region. We work with businesses, communities, and municipalities across Kansas and Missouri to better understand how they use energy and to disperse training, resources, and new technology. In the past five years alone, we have effectively managed approximately \$20 million in federally funded contracts. While MEC's projects have historically centered disadvantaged communities as beneficiaries, we have functioned within a funding system that has not always included the interests or invited the participation of individuals with a wide variety of voices. Deciding on a different path, we have been recognized at the U.S. Department of Energy as trendsetters, amending our practices in the past half decade to meaningfully involve leaders and members of disadvantaged communities in the planning and execution of impactful energy projects. We use demographics and mapping tools, alongside our staff's direct knowledge of our communities, to set plans of approach for specific populations appropriate to our work. We will continue to work with community liaisons to seek out area organizations for collaborative partnerships and challenge ourselves to execute our mission and projects beyond the status quo.

Through our Building Performance and Sustainable Transportation programs, we work with communities to improve the environmental performance of the places they work, play, and call home. For example, through our Healthy Homes KC project in partnership with Children's Mercy Hospital, we take a holistic approach to tackle various pressing issues including mold, poor indoor air quality, lead-based paint hazards, pests, carbon monoxide, safety hazards, and more. A recent joint study by Children's Mercy and MEC indicated an average 34% improvement in childhood asthma within Kansas City homes that had been weatherized. Concerning the impact of transportation on breathable air, our staff has managed EPA Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) funds since 2016 replacing 15 diesel school buses, 99 long-haul freight tractors and 10 heavy-duty work trucks in the Kansas City region with cleaner running electric, propane, or compressed natural gas vehicles. Through our current DERA projects, we are on track to replace an additional 74 trucks and buses. By participating in these two

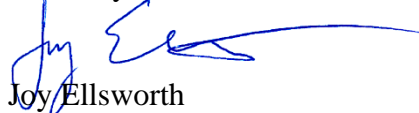
federal grant projects and a dozen others, MEC's work helps decrease hazardous and criteria air pollutants, whether experienced indoors or out.

We have partnered with MARC for decades to better the environmental livability of the Kansas City region. Our collaborative projects have involved homeowner access to energy efficiency information and rebates; cooperative purchasing for energy efficient and alternative fuel equipment; energy code policy outreach and education; and more. Our staff is passionately committed to the outcomes of the CPRG program and have participated in many planning conversations, including within MARC's Air Quality Forum, Goods Movement Committee, and Climate and Environment Council. In addition to attending the Climate Action Priorities in-person workshop and webinars, members of our team met with MARC to share our process for developing the projects we submitted.

As an implementing organization and partner in the proposed Priority Climate Action Plan, MEC is committed to collaborating with MARC, community members, and other stakeholders to establish programs aligned with the goals outlined in CPRG program. For our proposed projects that fall into the competitive subaward program, we will plan, implement, and monitor them over the specified period, maintaining budgeting and financial reporting requirements as needed to make the projects successful. Our commitment also includes identifying additional funding pools to ensure the program can make tangible progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing community resilience.

We recognize the importance of working with communities to address climate change and its impacts. By securing funding through the CPRG program, we hope to implement effective measures that will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also enhance environmental sustainability and promote economic vitality in the Kansas City region. We believe investing in innovative projects and collaborative efforts with MARC will yield long-term benefits for our communities, fostering resilience, equity, and prosperity for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Joy Ellsworth
Development Director
(913) 522-3529
joy@metroenergy.org



March 19, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM), I am pleased to extend this enthusiastic letter of commitment to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

MARC's continued leadership on climate action will help the metropolitan Kansas City area make meaningful progress toward our shared sustainability and resilience goals. This grant will enable communities throughout the region to implement the most cost effective, replicable, transformative climate actions included in the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan. Not surprisingly, many of the priority climate measures build on strategies already included in local plans.

The application's focus on a broad, interconnected set of climate mitigation measures aligns well with our own needs and priorities. Through MARC led community and stakeholder input sessions in 2023, identified needs highlighted neighborhood resilience through investments in resilience hubs (e.g. community centers, libraries, schools, health centers) and energy efficiency improvements in low-income single and multi-family residential units. Building improvements will be complemented by neighborhood-scale, nature-based solutions such as tree planting and green stormwater infrastructure. This work aims to ameliorate urban heat islands, improve walkability and conserve air and water quality. MLM works directly with the most vulnerable individuals and households in the greater Kansas City area; these MARC identified priorities and needs directly align with those served by our organization.

MARC's application focuses on the intersection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in ways that create direct benefits to disadvantaged communities. MLM serves an average of 35,000 individuals annually, targeting services to low-income, at-risk, and homeless persons. These vulnerable populations will be positively impacted by MARC project, improving health and wellness for those served by MLM.

MLM has collaborated extensively with MARC over time; the entity is a current partner of the MARC MACSN network, providing direct supports and care management services to older

Our Vision: To be a community that acts justly, loves mercy and walks humbly with God.
(Inspired by Micah 6:8)





adults and caregiver households. MLM has previously partnered with MARC in a variety of other community and direct services projects, including Digital Equity, Home Repair for Older Adults, Homeless Services, Homeless Management Information System services, Eviction Prevention, and local, state, and federally sponsored initiatives. MLM has been involved in the planning process for this application, with participation in planning meetings and efforts.

We look forward to working with MARC, other jurisdictions and many other community partners on this effort. We applaud MARC's regional leadership on climate resilience and sustainability and look forward to building on our long-term collaboration through this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Poitras".

Becky Poitras
VP/Assistant Executive Director
Metro Lutheran Ministry
816-285-3149
beckypoitras@mlmkc.org

Our Vision: To be a community that acts justly, loves mercy and walks humbly with God.
(Inspired by Micah 6:8)



3031 Holmes • Kansas City, Missouri 64109-1435 • 816-931-0027 • www.mlmkc.org

THE
CONSERVATION FUND

Address:
1655 N. Fort Myer Drive
Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703-525-6300
www.conservationfund.org

March 25, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Tom,

The Conservation Fund submits this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for MARC's application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The Conservation Fund protects the land that sustains us all. We are in the business of conservation, creating innovative solutions that drive nature-based action in all 50 states for climate protection, vibrant communities and sustainable economies. We apply effective strategies, efficient financing approaches, and enduring government, community and private partnerships to protect millions of acres of America's natural land, cultural sites, recreation areas and working forests and farms. To learn more, visit www.conservationfund.org.

Helping our partners achieve their conservation goals is at the core of The Conservation Fund's mission. We have been a steadfast partner to MARC for more than 10 years in its regional green infrastructure planning. We have been heavily involved in MARC's Regional Climate Action Plan and implementation, as well as participating in workshops that culminated in MARC's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). We also provided pivotal grant funding for the development by Heartland Conservation Alliance of the Blue River Greenway vision, a center piece of MARC's regional green infrastructure plans.

The Conservation Fund has partnered with a number of local governments and community organizations in the Kansas City region. We provide conservation planning, funding, real estate expertise, GIS and other support services to our partners to implement projects like the 12-acre Marlborough Terrace park. Located in the historically underserved Marlborough neighborhood, we worked with the Marlborough Community Coalition and City of Kansas City Missouri's Smart Sewer program in the design and construction of the Marlborough Terrace park. The park features a constructed wetland basin that drains more than 11.5 million gallons of stormwater runoff from 72 acres, as well as native gardens and a state-of-the-art children's playground.

In the last two years, The Conservation Fund has rolled out its Working Farms Fund program in Atlanta, Chicago and North Carolina, building healthy and resilient food systems to address systemic food insecurity, and we are exploring opportunities to provide these services to underserved farmers in the Kansas City region as well.

The Conservation Fund is keenly interested in working with MARC and its regional partners to provide vital planning, finance and conservation expertise to (i) preserve healthy natural systems, such as riparian corridors and urban green spaces; (ii) assure the long-term effectiveness of natural resource restoration projects through conservation easements and other innovative conservation strategies, and (iii) increase access to land for beginning and underserved farmers, to support healthy and resilient food systems and to address systemic food insecurity across the region.

As the metropolitan planning organization, MARC's leadership is the foundation that will support the activities set out in MARC's PCAP. Partners like The Conservation Fund must provide the on-the-ground implementation work that is essential to assuring climate resilience and long-term benefits for everyone in the Kansas City region, with particular focus on underserved communities. Funding through the CPRG is vital to continue to build on the significant advances that MARC and its partners have made to address the harmful impacts of climate change.

The Conservation Fund believes MARC's application for CPRG funding is essential to the future health and prosperity of the Kansas City region, and we look forward to supporting this effort. Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide additional information.

Kind regards,



Ginny Moore

Kansas State Director

The Conservation Fund

(913) 219-7296

gmoore@conservationfund.org

Protecting the Land that Sustains Us



March 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Nature Conservancy in Kansas (TNC) would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

TNC is a global, 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Kansas, we are working to protect important grasslands from conversion, improve management of rivers and wetlands, and address climate change through renewable energy siting and carbon mitigation strategies.

One of our priority places for our work is the Blue River watershed in the Kansas City metro area. Working with partners, we helped produce a report assessing stormwater runoff and flood peaks under different build-out scenarios. This report found that downstream flooding can be significantly reduced if headwater streams and riparian corridors are protected and kept in natural vegetation. We followed this report with an evaluation of ecosystem services provided by headwater streams and riparian corridors, including significant carbon sequestration and air quality benefits. We are now working with partners, including MARC and Heartland Conservation Alliance, to implement a Greenway vision built on the results of these two reports. We would be interested in working with MARC on riparian plantings and natural area restoration projects, especially in the headwaters of the Blue River watershed.

We recognize the importance of this work to our efforts to protect the Blue River and maintain green space and habitat corridors in the Kansas City metro area. We hope this program will help Kansas City build a future with cleaner air and waters for all of its citizens. We look forward to working with MARC to address these pressing issues.

Sincerely,



Heidi Mehl, PhD
Director of Water and Agriculture
785-424-4164
Heidi.mehl@tnc.org



March 15th, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

The Soil Inventory Project would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

The Soil Inventory Project (TSIP) is a collaboration between experts in working lands management, biogeochemical modeling, soil sampling, and climate-smart agriculture. We use this diverse expertise combined with our nonprofit status and science-led mission to provide accessible soil carbon inventory across the regenerative agriculture space. The goal of TSIP is to create a national soil carbon inventory, starting with a strategic sampling campaign in the Midwest, to provide the data needed to support effective soil carbon sequestration efforts.

TSIP recognizes the disproportionate impact of climate change on communities such as those served by MARC and believes that social inclusivity is a requirement for data integrity. Our partnership with MARC will promote inclusion of underrepresented farmers in soil carbon data set, increasing representation of regenerative practices unique to historically marginalized farming populations. Our farmer-led distributed measurement system and emphasis on partnering with local organizations such as MARC are the foundation of our efforts to bring soil carbon to bear the challenges facing marginalized farming populations.

We have established this new partnership with MARC to provide soil carbon sampling for a network of regional agricultural hubs. Through this partnership, TSIP commits to providing soil sampling kits, sample design, and soil analysis for a minimum of 10 farms during this 5-year project. These data will contribute to a regional Midwestern soil carbon baseline which will provide insights about the impact of management on soil carbon for producers. Each of the participating farms will receive a custom soil carbon report with projected soil carbon sequestration their managed lands under differing management and future climate scenarios.

We look forward to working with MARC to successfully implement measure FA-2 of the Priority Climate Action Plan. By investing in the regional food hubs, we aim to support the regenerative food system in the greater Kansas City region and increase the impact of soil carbon sequestration of this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelsey Jensen
Associate Director, The Soil Inventory Project
kelsey@tsip.org

March 15, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Urban Neighborhood Initiative Inc. (UNI Inc.- u-nee) would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional buildings, UNI Inc. is a community development corporation (CDC) that strives to build communities with purpose on purpose where every household member is engaged, encouraged, and educated through the joys of stable housing, quality programming, and impactful services. UNI Inc. supports the mission of building a healthier and more sustainable built environment for Kansas City residents by striving to meet and or exceed energy efficiency goals for every home and facility we renovate and build as well as consider the site that a building occupies.

UNI Inc. has been a partner and stakeholder in various capacities with MARC since our establishment in 2012. UNI staff has served as the Vice Chair of BE-Ex KC and recently joined the board of Climate Action KC. Our current partnership includes UNI's efforts to plug into MARC's green infrastructure framework in order to help reduce stormwater runoff and educate residents on the importance of the natural environment from stormwater to native plantings. This redevelopment project is called Unity Campus and is building upon Community Wellness. It will be a space for organizations and small businesses who are mission aligned with UNI. All encompassed by the natural environment which is important to maintain for quality of life. The 4.75 acre site plan includes mixed use development, mixed income housing, green infrastructure components and community focused partnerships. This redevelopment will be a \$70 million investment over the next 10 years.

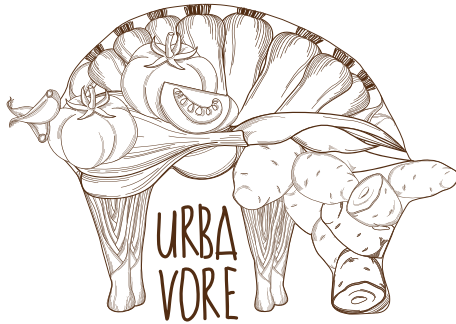
We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our staff, stakeholders and partners to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamee Rodgers", is positioned above the printed name.

Jamee Rodgers, PhD
President & CEO
Urban Neighborhood Initiative Inc.



URBAVORE Urban Farm

5500 Bennington Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64129

Phone: (913)-522-3458

Email: brooke@urbavorefarm.com

March 22, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Urbavore Urban Farm would like to extend this letter of commitment to Mid America Regional Council for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

Urbavore Urban Farm is a 13-acre is a diversified regenerative agriculture farm in Kansas City's urban core, eight miles southeast of downtown Kansas City, and five miles east of the Country Club Plaza. Urbavore produces a wide array of fruits, vegetables, eggs and pork for a 125-member Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA), sells additional food through its online store, and also is the host to Compost Collective KC's primary food waste processing facility (processing 750 tons of food waste annually). Located on Kansas City's east side, Urbavore serves the large low-income and historically disadvantage population that surrounds it, as well as the larger metropolitan area. Urbavore's production of healthy food, compost, and educational activities connect with several thousand individuals and families annually, and is acclaimed throughout the Kansas City region as a model of sustainability.

With nearly 20 years of experience, Urbavore's farmers have a unique firsthand, perspective on climate change - we have seen both the driest and wettest farming seasons ever recorded in this region. Urbavore has always been an environmental organization at its core, and has consistently invested in climate-resilient infrastructure and growing practices: harvesting rainwater extensively, growing without irrigation, selecting resilient crops, utilizing no-till, deep mulch, and other carbon-sequestering growing systems, early adoption of solar panels and electric

vehicles. Urbavore is a rare, profitable and self-sustaining model within the agricultural community, and other agricultural practitioners look to Urbavore as a model.

MARC's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) will help broaden and deepen the impact of this model by investing in Urbavore Urban Farm as a regenerative agriculture hub for the Kansas City region. Although Urbavore already exists as a model of regenerative agriculture, leveraging funds from PCAP will enable us to create a truly wholistic space addressing housing, education, processing, and job training in ways that would not otherwise be possible.

Urbavore has a long history of addressing climate priorities with MARC, as it was the MARC Solid Waste Management District that funded our initial community composting efforts in 2011. This initial program set the stage for Urbavore to forge a partnership with Compost Collective KC and create the robust composting system that has diverted many millions of pounds of food waste from the landfill since. MARC's early investment in Urbavore greatly strengthened our region's compost infrastructure.

By including Urbavore in the planning process for the Priority Climate Action Plan, MARC has been able to create a fuller vision of what a regenerative agriculture hub could look like. The timing of this planning process has coincided with Urbavore undertaking an extensive 20-year planning process. MARC has applied aspects of the deeply layered landscape that Urbavore has envisioned to other potential regenerative hubs in the region. Thus, MARC is creating much needed comprehensive regional connections.

We commit to working with MARC to create a regenerative agriculture hub at Urbavore Urban Farm that will address education, housing, energy generation, water retention, food waste processing, carbon sequestration, production of health food, and so much more.

We look forward to working with MARC to create a model of sustainability that can be implemented in neighborhoods throughout the Kansas City region. Urbavore is a key player in creating a resilient, closed-loop model of food-waste recycling, energy generation, and healthy food production. By participating in the Priority Climate Action Plan, Urbavore can help create a template for regenerative systems for other neighborhoods in our region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Brooke Salvaggio (she/her), Farmer/Owner
Phone: (913)-522-3458
Email: Brooke@urbavorefarm.com



FOUNDERS

David Gottfried
Michael Italiano
S. Richard Fedrizzi

2101 L St. NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20037
202-828-7422
usgbc.org

March 20, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64015

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

On behalf of the [U.S. Green Building Council](https://www.usgbc.org) (USGBC), we extend our support to the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) implementation grant competition.

USGBC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous world. Best known for our flagship green building rating system [Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design \(LEED\)](https://www.usgbc.org/leed), which is a nationally recognized standard that takes a holistic approach to whole-building performance.

MARC's application for funding to implement measures in it's recently drafted Priority Climate Action Plan will catalyze regional progress by leveraging local leadership across jurisdictions in the metro area to ensure benefits accrue in all communities. MARC's interest in improving the energy efficiency of public and residential buildings in tandem with green infrastructure investments will help foster safer and more equitable communities. Advancing green building strategies, while also improving the quality of life for disadvantaged communities is consistent with USGBC's goals to ensure better buildings for all while also addressing the severe threat posed by the climate crisis.

On behalf of USGBC, we appreciate the opportunity to indicate support for MARC's implementation grant proposal. Thank you for your continued leadership in advancing climate progress in the Kansas City region.

Sincerely,

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

Andrew Chase
State Policy Project Manager
U.S. Green Building Council

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

Jennifer Gunby
Associate Director, State & Local Advocacy
U.S. Green Building Council



Westside Housing

March 12, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

Westside Housing Organization/ WSH would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional buildings, Westside Housing builds community at the intersection of housing, health, energy, and equity. Westside has the largest minor home repair program in The Kansas, MO City Metro area. WSH touches more than 120 homes per year. WSH makes both healthy and energy improvements for a healthier and more sustainable built environment for Kansas City residents].

Westside Housing has long been a natural partner for MARC. Initially, creating the plan for furthering fair housing with the AFFH act and working with the creation and implementation of the Climate Action KC plan with MARC. Gloria Fisher, WSH's ED served on the Mayors Energy Commission. Additionally, both the board and staff at Westside Housing have a strong commitment to a sustainable built environment.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our targeted neighborhoods to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,

Gloria Fisher
Executive Director
Westside Housing Organization

E. For-Profit Letters of Support

March 15, 2024

Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid America Regional Council

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Evergy would like to extend this letter of support to Mid America Regional Council (MARC) for your application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. Our support comes both from our corporate and shareholder support for climate action, as well as Evergy's strong partnership with MARC on climate action-related issues.

Evergy provides clean, safe and reliable energy to 1.7 million customers in Kansas and Missouri. Today, almost half the power generated by Evergy comes from emission-free sources, creating reliable energy with less impact to the environment. Evergy is committed to delivering clean, safe, reliable sources of energy today and well into the future. We embrace alternative energy sources to generate more power with less impact to our environment. Evergy seeks to lead the responsible energy transition in our service area and take advantage of the region's ample renewable resources and the benefits of a diverse generation portfolio.

Evergy has long been invested in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, along with our longstanding interest in air quality protection. Evergy has adopted progressive measures over the past decade to create a more sustainable environment for the communities it serves. Additionally, Evergy annually updates its Integrated Resource Plan with a goal of achieving a decarbonized electric generation by fleet 2045.

Our efforts have resulted in many accomplishments, including:

- State of the art air quality controls
- The shuttering of six older, coal-fired power plants
- Investment in over 4525 MW of wind energy resources
- Continued investment in solar energy
- Implementation of nearly \$400 million in demand-side management (energy efficiency and demand response) programs in Missouri since 2014
- Launch of the first Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act (KEEIA) demand-side management programs in Kansas, with an expected investment of nearly \$100 million during the next four years
- Implementation of over 1,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the Kansas City region – one of the largest of any utility in the United States

- Rebate program offerings to residential and business customers to install EV charging, as well as time-of-use rates to help mitigate EV charging impacts
- Launch of a 5 MW solar subscription program in early 2023 with over 900 customers participating in Missouri and Kansas
- Approval and launch of 150 residential battery storage pilot programs in Missouri and Kansas to assess impact and opportunities of distributed energy resource (DER) technologies
- Development of a Renewables Direct program for Evergy's largest customers to obtain wind energy that now has 67 large customers participating and nearly 700 MW

Evergy has implemented these efforts through deep civic and community partnerships and collaborative efforts. For example, Evergy established and/or partnered to accomplish:

- Implementation of an Urban Heat Island Reduction Pilot Program with MARC to invest \$3 million in the low-income neighborhoods in northeast Kansas City, Missouri
- Tree plantings of over 2,000 trees in 2023 through MEEIA and Bridging the Gap's Energy Savings Trees Program and the National Arbor Day Foundation
- Supporting initiatives of the Climate Action KC's Building Energy Exchange (Be-EX) and Plug-in KC
- Establishing MARC's air quality outreach and education campaign since the late 1990's.
- Weatherization and energy efficiency measures implemented in low-income housing through local CAP agencies
- Opening of two walk-in facilities in historically underserved communities in Kansas City and Wichita to assist Evergy customers in bill payment and understanding energy savings tools
- Direct, face-to-face outreach with nearly 70,000 customers in 2023 who were in need of payment and energy savings assistance resulting in more than \$42M in bill payment assistance secured.

Evergy has been highly involved in the development of the 2021 Regional Climate Action Plan, and since then, in the implementation of strategic initiatives. Evergy worked with MARC to provide essential data for its initial greenhouse gas inventory and supported planning discussions to identify key strategies included in the plan. Continued involvement in the development of the Priority Climate Action Plan has enabled Evergy to deepen appropriate partnerships and initiatives.



Given that building energy efficiency measures are the primary focus of MARC's CPRG implementation grant, Evergy has been involved in many facets of grant preparations, notably including participation on MARC's Climate and Environment Council, CAKC's advisory committee for the Be-EX and the CAKC Board of Directors.

Participation in the grant's development will enable Evergy to support MARC's implementation efforts. Ongoing support for the Be-EX, for example, will be fundamental to project success and customer impact. More broadly, MARC anticipates that this grant will enable community partners to "stack" funds to enable broader implementation of efficiency measures. Evergy implements its utility programs in ways that extend, leverage and amplify federal funds, especially in support of low-income customers.

Evergy is excited to work with MARC on delivering the outcomes it has designated through receipt of the CPRG grant. MARC's receipt of the grant will benefit the region through more energy efficient homes and businesses, stronger economic development and workforce opportunities, and increased investment in communities for a more sustainable future. Evergy is committed to collaborating with MARC to increase its effectiveness in delivering the CPRG programs, which will lend to increased impact of Evergy's MEEIA and KEEIA demand-side management programs, as well as its other Commission-approved programs that provide greater access to renewable energy for its customers or that increase the deployment of distributed energy resource technologies, for example. Most importantly, Evergy recognizes the importance of helping customers to alleviate energy burden so that benefits flow to the customer, the utility, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Winslow'.

Kim Winslow
Sr. Director Energy Solutions – Evergy
Climate Action KC Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Danforth'.

Elizabeth Danforth
Director Corporate Social Impact – Evergy
MARC Climate Environment Council



March 15, 2024

Mr. Tom Jacobs
Chief Resilience Officer
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105

Dear Mr. Tom Jacobs,

U.S. Engineering would like to extend its support to the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funding from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG): Implementation Grants General Competition EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07.

As an entity that influences the renovation and construction of our regional buildings, U.S. Engineering has been involved in the growth and modernization of the Kansas City metro region. As a 5th generation, family-owned company, U.S. Engineering has a passion for Kansas City. We have long participated in building mechanical HVAC and plumbing systems for some of our city's most prominent developments like Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, KCI Airport, NNSA (Honeywell), IRS Processing, Lowes Hotel, just to name a few. We've also helped several organizations with energy upgrades, most notably, Children's Mercy, KU Med and St. Luke's, each with a quick return on investment and carbon reduction.

U.S. Engineering supports MARC, Climate Action KC and the Building Energy Exchange. I am currently on the Climate Action KC and BE-Ex KC Advisory Board and have participated in conversations leading up to this application. Our Advisory Board's efforts are ongoing and I'm proud of the goals being achieved for our region, and those being planned.

We commit to working with MARC in the coming years to support energy-related investments in our community centers, schools, municipal facilities, businesses, and homes as outlined in Kansas City's Regional Priority Climate Action Plan. We will encourage our U.S. Engineering team members, technical experts, and licensed Engineers, to take an active role in the work where appropriate, bringing their professional expertise and resources to the implementation of this plan.

We recognize that the building sector generates 63% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, and by bringing public and private sector leadership together, we can significantly reduce the severity of climate change impacts to our region and across the globe. We look forward to working with MARC to support the growth of high-performance, sustainable building upgrades across the region and are prepared to transform the heartland to be climate ready.

Sincerely,



Brandon Wikoff

President

U.S. ENGINEERING METALWORKS