



March 25, 2024

Commissioner Damon Chaplin
Minneapolis Health Department
505 4th Avenue South, Suite 520
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Subject: Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Program (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Chapman,

I write to affirm that Lake Street Council plans to partner with the City of Minneapolis to implement the commercial energy retrofit programs in your agency's proposal for the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program.

Lake Street Council is a small nonprofit organization that fosters the economic vitality of Lake Street, a key business and cultural corridor in south Minneapolis. We amplify Lake Street's vibrancy to create a thriving and livable commercial corridor. We connect business owners and entrepreneurs from communities of color and historically disinvested communities to vital resources, training, and opportunities. As advisors, troubleshooters, and bridge builders, we support entrepreneurs to increase their economic potential while making meaningful contributions to Lake Street.

Since 2015, our organization has tested and implemented outreach and engagement strategies for helping hundreds of small, BIPOC and immigrant-owned businesses access energy assessments and technical assistance through our partner Energy Smart. We utilize our position in the community as a trusted source of advice and support to help build pathways for small businesses to explore and take advantage of clean energy opportunities.

The City of Minneapolis's Green Cost Share has been a critical tool for making energy efficiency more financially advantageous to small, under-resourced businesses. Dozens of the businesses that we connected to Energy Smart only moved forward with a project with the financial assistance provided through the Green Cost Share. Expanding this fund to serve additional communities, especially with a focus on reaching businesses in Justice 40 communities, will have a transformational impact.

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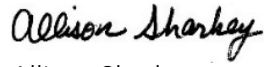
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We are excited to have this proposal moving forward as a coalition because we see the work of commercial decarbonization working most effectively as a collaboration between local government, utility programs, and community partners. We have the opportunity to ensure that hundreds of businesses within Justice 40 areas in the Twin Cities metropolitan area will be able to access the climate benefits and cost savings of energy efficiency.

We are committed to supporting implementation of this proposal alongside the City of Minneapolis and its partners. Thank you for the opportunity to join you in this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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

Allison Sharkey
Executive Director, Lake Street Council