



Experience *LIFE* in the Park

March 25, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Chaplin:

I am writing to confirm that the City of St. Louis Park is part of the coalition proposal for the Twin Cities Commercial Energy Efficiency Cost Share program, being submitted by the City of Minneapolis as the lead applicant for this coalition proposal.

As part of this coalition, we will assist commercial property owners across the Twin Cities in making cost effective energy efficiency and electrification improvements. The funding will help our communities reduce their carbon emissions and save money on their energy bills through improvements such as LED lighting upgrades and air source heat pump installations.

The City of St. Louis Park adopted one of the most aggressive climate action plans in the state in 2018; the plan outlines a path to carbon neutrality by 2040. One of the goals included in the plan is to reduce energy consumption in small- to mid-size commercial buildings by 30%. To achieve this goal, we launched the "Climate Champions" program in 2021. This program connects businesses to a free or reduced cost energy assessment, and the city partially matches utility rebates as an additional incentive. To date, almost 50 businesses have received a visit through the program, with almost 20 completing projects. In subsequent years, the city expanded the Climate Champions program to assist nonprofit organizations, multifamily properties and large commercial and industrial businesses; this has provided staff the opportunity to refine their outreach strategies and perfect their process.

This opportunity will allow us to scale this work and offer additional incentives, especially in areas of the city that meet Justice 40 criteria. We look forward to learning from fellow communities in this coalition and sharing our learnings beyond the Twin Cities.

We plan to work through the development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Minneapolis that lays out responsibilities of each party and will sign the MOU agreed to by all parties. This MOU will be submitted to EPA by July 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Kim Keller

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Kim Keller
City Manager
City of St. Louis Park