

March 15, 2024

Katrina Kessler, Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: MnTAP Support of the State Minnesota's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Single Entity Proposal for Climate-Smart Food Systems (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I write to affirm that the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) supports the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other state agencies' suite of climate-smart food systems programs in your agency's single entity CPRG implementation grant proposal.

We are excited about this collaborative proposal because we all have a role to play in making Minnesota a national leader in climate-smart approaches to our food system. This proposal takes a visionary systems approach and captures multiple benefits while achieving significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions and carbon sequestration across all aspects of our food system. MnTAP is specifically well positioned to provide support to MPCA for two of their areas of work highlighted in the proposal outline: (1) Clean vehicles, equipment, and fuels and (2) Food loss and organic materials management. These areas overlap with areas of expertise and experience within MnTAP's current staff.

MnTAP is excited to partner in this climate-smart food systems work because it aligns with our mission: strengthening Minnesota businesses by improving efficiency while saving money through energy, water, and waste reduction. Our organization is based at the University of Minnesota in the School of Public Health. MnTAP takes pride in collaborating with others to identify practical, cost-effective solutions that help create environmentally conscious, safe, and efficient operations. We prioritize quality in our work and provide continual support through the implementation of each project.

We have provided pollution prevention technical assistance for businesses and organizations throughout Minnesota since we began in 1984. During that time, we have been involved in reducing industrial GHG emissions through activities such as site-specific energy audits, summer-long internship projects, and targeted training programs. We also have provided technical assistance to food processors and wastewater treatment facilities, which MnTAP anticipates being targeted entities as part of this proposal's efforts.

In addition, MnTAP and MPCA have a long history of project partnerships. Following are some specific recent examples of projects that MnTAP and MPCA have partnered on:

- **EPA P2 Grant 2022** EPA-HQ-OPPT-2022-001 (Grant period 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2025)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568812)
 - "Pollution Prevention for Minnesota Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries"

- **EPA P2 Grant 2022** EPA-I-OCSPP-OPPT-FY2022-001 (Grant period 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2025)
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant ID 4U – 00E03258-0
 - “PFAS Pollution Prevention Best Management Practice Options and Opportunities for Minnesota Manufacturing Industries”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2020** (Grant period 10/1/2020 – 9/30/2023)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices and Implementation for Minnesota Metal Fabrication Industries”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2018** (Grant period 10/1/18-9/30/21)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “Alternative Trichloroethylene (TCE) Solvent Replacements: Pollution Prevention Assistance”
- **EPA P2 Grant 2016** (Grant period 10/1/16 – 9/30/18)
 - Minnesota Performance Partnership Grant (BG-98568811)
 - “P2 Grant: Pollution Prevention Opportunities in the Minnesota Food Processing Industry”

We support this work that MPCA has outlined in its proposal and are enthusiastic about the opportunity this proposal provides to advance our shared climate goals and the goals of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ambitious and vital CPRG program.

Sincerely,



Kelsey Klucas
 Director, MnTAP
 200 Oak St. SE
 Minneapolis, MN 55455
 612-624-4619, kluc0035@umn.edu