



March 6, 2024

Kate Knuth
Climate Director
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
520 Lafayette Rd N
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Knuth:

Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) is pleased to be a committed project partner in the MPCA's request for funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program with a proposal implementing equitable residential decarbonization. In order to achieve the shared vision of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing local energy resiliency, expanding clean energy economic development, and improving the quality of life for everyone in our region, a significant partnership effort is needed in rural Minnesota, and we are one of the critical community partners. This proposal aligns with our mission to enhance the vitality and quality of life in our region through resilient, inclusive and collaborative approaches to community development and economic development.

R5DC is a high-performing, federally designated Economic Development District committed to improving life for all people in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena Counties in MN. Organized as a regional unit of government through State statute in 1973, we continuously bridge relationships and resources to deliver innovative programs and projects to our region. R5DC is proud of our reputation as an action-oriented convener with experience in securing resources through authentic relationships that spur equitable economic ecosystems and honor environmental stewardship commitments in rural Central Minnesota communities.

R5DC is actively delivering federal and state resources to implement clean energy projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our rural region. Support from the EPA in this effort is essential to our rural community's success. As part of the coalition, we will deliver programming to decarbonize homes in our region through energy efficiency and beneficial electrification. This work will be coordinated with other agencies already working to improve the lives of low-income households, including Community Action Agencies, local utilities, and area nonprofits. If awarded, R5DC will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with MPCA, laying out the roles and responsibilities of each party, prior to July 1, 2024.

Together, we have the power to achieve this important vision in Region Five and continue building our resilient region.

Many thanks for your consideration,

BJ Allen, MSEM, PMP
Deputy Director
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Bridging Relationships & Resources

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R5DC is equal opportunity provider and employer.