



March 14, 2024

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

Subject: ISAIAH Support of the State Minnesota's CPRG Coalition Proposal for Equitable Residential Decarbonization (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler:

I write to affirm that our organization, ISAIAH, plans to partner with the State of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other state agencies involved in the proposal, to implement the suite of equitable residential decarbonization programs in your agency's proposal.

We are excited to have this proposal moving forward as a coalition because we see the work of residential decarbonization happening most effectively as a collaboration between state and local governments with support from community-based groups. Local governments connect more effectively with individual community members to move forward on individual implementation, while state governments can more effectively provide backbone support and programming to foster learning and scale impact.

We anticipate participating in the proposed work through active engagement in developing and refining programming to effectively deliver on ensuring low-income and disadvantaged communities are centered and prioritized in decarbonizing all homes in Minnesota. At a minimum, this means we will:

- Actively participate in the four annual convenings described in the proposal,
- Share information and resources from state and local government into the communities we serve to build awareness about programs and home decarbonization opportunities,
- Share information from the communities we serve to state program staff and relevant local government staff as part of program development and to improve programming and results over time.
- Contribute in specific ways that emerge from the proposed work's development and make sense for our organization.

ISAIAH is excited to partner in this equitable residential decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission. ISAIAH is a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barbershops, childcare centers, and other community-based constituencies working toward racial, economic, and climate justice in Minnesota. Our mission is to empower our diverse constituencies to act collectively in the public arena toward changes that benefit all of society.

In particular, our organization can bring the perspective of multiple diverse constituencies. Our organization consists of community leaders who run religious institutions such as churches and mosques. We also host a coalition of over 500 community-based childcare centers, Black Barbershops, and other Black-owned small businesses. In addition, we have a Rural Organizing Project spanning the state and a Young Adult Coalition of volunteer leaders in the Twin Cities.

We are a unique organization in our history and our scope. Over many years, we have built relationships with local officials, state agencies, legislators, and other stakeholders. We have been pleased to partner closely with the MN Department of Commerce, MN Housing Finance Authority, and the MPCA over the past several months, including weekly coordination phone calls as we pursue our efforts to accelerate building decarbonization across the state.

We look forward to continuing this partnership and pressing for innovative and urgent solutions.

Sincerely,



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