



Community **Action**

March 15, 2024  
Katrina Kessler, Commissioner  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Subject:** Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties Energy Conservation Department's (CAPRW - EC) support for the State of Minnesota's CPRG Coalition Proposal for Equitable Residential Decarbonization (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

I am reaching-out to affirm in writing, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington County's plan to partner with both the State of Minnesota and the City of St. Paul to implement the suite of equitable residential decarbonization programs in the subject proposal.

We expect to participate in the proposed work through collaborative, active engagement. We are excited to help develop and refine programs that will deliver on the purpose of ensuring low-income and disadvantaged communities are represented and prioritized in the efforts to decarbonize Minnesota. At a minimum, this means we will:

- actively participate in the four annual convenings described in the proposal.
- build awareness in the communities we serve around home decarbonization programs/opportunities by sharing information and resources from state and local government.
- share with state program and local government staff relevant input and information gathered from the communities we serve as part of program development, improvement, and results.
- contribute to the ultimate objectives and outcomes of the coalition's work in specific ways that are aligned with our organization's mission, values, capabilities, and scope.

CAPRW is excited to partner in this broader, equitable residential decarbonization work and conversation. This initiative aligns extremely well with both our agency's overall mission of "investing in people experiencing poverty to build generational prosperity" and the tangible energy-saving (CO<sub>2</sub>-emission reducing) weatherization work that our Energy Conservation team deploys. CAPRW's Energy Conservation Department is in the unique position of working closely with community members experiencing poverty (on a daily basis, and in their homes/neighborhoods), while also having knowledge and expertise in building science, specific energy-conserving options/trade-offs, the social costs of carbon, and the barriers that at times limit or delay decarbonization efforts.

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We are especially excited to support this proposal moving forward as a coalition. Based on our experience, residential decarbonization will progress most effectively and at the scale/speed required when organizations (such as state and local governments) partner to pool resources, share expertise, and identify/resolve barriers. Local governments have the infrastructure and capability to connect more effectively with individual community members at the "ground level," while state government has the relationships and resources to provide foundational support and the broad-based programming required to foster learning and implement initiatives at scale.

CAPRW's Energy Conservation Department is proud to be located in in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of the City of St. Paul (who is a coalition partner in the proposal). We are neighbors and partners with the community members we serve. We connect and collaborate with the City often on shared efforts to advance both equity and decarbonization. We are committed to continuing and growing this partnership through the work of implementing the CPRG proposal.

Sincerely,

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