

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

**UMN Extension Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (SERSDP) 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 the Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (SERSDP) of the University of Minnesota Extension plans to partner with the State of Minnesota and the City of Winona to implement the suite of equitable residential decarbonization programs in your agency's proposal.

We fully support this proposal and look forward to actively engaging with collaborators to develop and refine programming to effectively deliver on the proposed program's purpose of ensuring low-income and disadvantaged communities are centered and prioritized in the work of 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 out of the development of the proposed work and make sense for our organization.

SERSDP is excited to partner in this equitable residential decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission to advance rural sustainability across the Southeast Minnesota region in the areas of clean energy, sustainable agriculture and food systems, natural resources, and resilient communities by supporting, creating, and catalyzing partnerships between rural communities and the University of Minnesota. We are part of a statewide organization – the Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships – and work across the UMN statewide system in this partnership work. And through that we collaborate very closely with the Clean Energy Resource Teams. Given our focus on rural SE MN and the broad, overlapping areas of focus that comprise our sustainability work as well as our work drawing UMN resources out to directly support and serve rural sustainability needs, we are looking forward to being partners on this project. We look forward to providing networking and connecting resources including engagement across rural SE MN and throughout the state; connecting UMN research expertise to this work to support the team in reaching their goals; and working in parallel with the engagement of the Clean Energy Resource Teams through our deep institutional collaboration between CERTs and RSDP.

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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We are excited to have this proposal moving forward as a coalition because we see the work of residential decarbonization being most effective when it is a collaboration between state and local governments. Local government connects more effectively with individual community members to move forward on individual implementation while state government can more effectively provide backbone support and programming to foster learning and scale impact.

We have worked successfully with the City of Winona, a coalition partner on this proposal, for quite some time, including as a grant recipient of SERSDP, a host and collaborator for a statewide RSDP convening, and in an ongoing way through the contributions of John Howard, natural resources sustainability coordinator for the City of Winona. We are committed to continuing and growing this partnership through the work of implementing the CPRG proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andi Sutton', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andi Sutton

Executive Director  
Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership