



3-26-2024

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

SUBJECT: The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council support of the State Minnesota's CPRG Coalition Proposal for Equitable Residential Decarbonization (Award Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)
Dear Commissioner Kessler,

We, the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council plan to engage 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 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 are also particularly interested in seeing better labor practices in the residential decarbonization space. Much of the necessary work – like insulation and HVAC – is done by small contractors, many of whom employ a workforce that is not unionized or are not able to meet the Davis-Bacon requirements for any construction funded by the CPRG program.

We anticipate participating in the proposed work through active engagement in developing and refining programming to effectively deliver on the 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,
- Engage in the stakeholder-informed design process to help small residential decarbonization contractors comply with Davis-Bacon requirements and move toward high-road labor practices
- 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 identified through our engagement with this process and work

The Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council is excited about equitable residential decarbonization work. In particular, our organization can support the goals and outcomes by utilizing our highly trained workforce to ensure the work that is being done is of the highest quality.

Sincerely,
Tom Dicklich
Executive Director