

March 15, 2024

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

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

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

On behalf of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the undersigned Climate Action Subcommittee members are writing to express our full support for the State of Minnesota's CPRG Coalition Proposal for Equitable Residential Decarbonization, as presented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and other state agencies involved in the initiative.

We are eager to collaborate with the state and local stakeholders to actualize the suite of equitable residential decarbonization programs outlined in the proposal.

We firmly believe that the most effective approach to residential decarbonization necessitates a cohesive coalition effort, integrating the resources and expertise of state and local governments alongside community-based organizations. Local government entities possess the unique ability to engage directly with community members, facilitating grassroots implementation, while state agencies can provide essential support and infrastructure to catalyze impactful change and scale initiatives. It is part of our mandate as the EJAG to support the type of community-led action that this decarbonization funding would enable.

If the state is able to access this funding, we are dedicated to actively engage in the development and refinement of programming to ensure that the needs of environmental justice communities remain at the forefront of Minnesota's decarbonization efforts. Specifically, we intend to:

- Engage actively in the four annual convenings outlined in the proposal.
- Disseminate information and resources from state and local governments within the communities we serve to raise awareness about available programs and home decarbonization opportunities.
- Facilitate the flow of information from the communities we represent to state program staff and relevant local government bodies to inform program development and enhance outcomes.
- Contribute in ways that align with the evolving needs and priorities of our organization and the communities we serve.

The EJAG is enthusiastic about the prospect of collaborating on this vital initiative, which closely aligns with our mission to advise the MPCA commissioner on integrating environmental justice principles into policies and procedures, fostering civic engagement within environmental justice communities, and facilitating meaningful communication and relationships between communities and the MPCA. In

particular, we bring to the table statewide representation of (and relationship with) Minnesota residents, deep equity and justice expertise, and commitment to working with MPCA to achieve equitable outcomes across the agency's work.

Sincerely,

Environmental Justice Advisory Group of MPCA, Climate Action Subcommittee

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