

March 6, 2024

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

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

Dear Commissioner Kessler,

ServeMinnesota 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. As the state's administrator for federal AmeriCorps funds, we design new strategic initiatives, provide grants to nonprofit organizations and collaborate with partners to solve pressing problems. ServeMinnesota provides training and technical assistance and monitors these organizations to ensure that they adhere to all federal rules and regulations related to their AmeriCorps grant. It is in that spirit that ServeMinnesota launched a Home Energy Initiative, where AmeriCorps members support Minnesotans who are eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program. Members can help these households through energy services such as efficiency education, audits and solar assessments that create an immediate impact on their quality of life and cost of living while contributing to residential decarbonization.

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. Collective impact work led by MPCA as the backbone organization empowers individual community members, community organizations and local governments to move forward on individual implementation contributing to long term 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 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
- 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

ServeMinnesota is excited about equitable residential decarbonization work because it aligns with our mission to use evidence-based practices and support what works to increase our impact. In particular, our organization can bring the perspective of how to leverage the power of National Service where there are opportunities to create entry points to high demand careers and workforce shortages.

Sincerely,



Julia Quanrud, CEO
ServeMinnesota