



CLEAN ENERGY NH

Your Voice in All Energy Matters

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March 26, 2024

Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Air Resource Division
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Letter of Commitment for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald,

Clean Energy NH (CENH) is committed to assisting the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the potential implementation of proposed measures included in the state's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and in NHDES's application for funding through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. These five-year measures will create critically important incentives that will help support the transformation of the New Hampshire energy system and provide myriad environmental, social, and economic benefits. The incentives selected by NHDES will specifically reduce harmful air pollution statewide, target implementation in marginalized communities, complement and leverage existing funding sources, and support workforce development in critical trades. The NHDES PCAP matches CENH's mission and focus very closely and for that reason we offer our unequivocal support.

Clean Energy NH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our membership includes 130+ businesses, 43 municipal members—comprising over 430,000 NH citizens—and 400+ individuals in every corner of the Granite State. We advocate for the adoption of clean energy initiatives, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and beneficial electrification through a non-partisan, fact-based lens. Our mission is to lead the clean energy transition with a goal to decarbonize the economy by 2050, while ensuring that energy rates and costs must be affordable for all, economic and environmental benefits and burdens are distributed equitably, and the energy system is safe, secure, resilient, and reliable.

As noted, the PCAP measure's align with CENH's mission and goals, and specifically aligns with our work in the transportation sector, building sector, and the local governments.

The transportation sector is the state's largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and NHDES funding would be used to support the development of publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) and plug-in EV charging stations and additional support for, and expansion of, existing transportation options. CENH is the host of the Drive Electric NH (DENH) coalition that hosts three committees (Infrastructure, Policy, and Education) to advance EV adoption within

the state and support transportation electrification across New England and Eastern Canada. The DENH committees draw state agency staff, utility representatives, EV charging companies, and auto dealers to the table to identify opportunities, select priorities, develop solutions, identify, and fill data gaps, and generally coordinate activities. The DENH coalition has long supported measures like those selected for the NHDES PCAP and the implementation grant.

The residential building sector is the state's second highest source of GHG emissions, even higher than the electric power sector. While the State has long supported an award-winning energy efficiency program, those programs have been insufficient to keep up with growth in energy consumption. The NHDES PCAP identifies opportunities to reverse that growth and enable market transformation. The pre-weatherization, weatherization and electrification incentive programs will improve energy efficiency, health, safety, and comfort, while also providing cost-effective energy savings. CENH again has been working to support stakeholder engagement in this area with the creation of a Building Efficiency Working Group, intended to continue and expand long running conversations concerning building energy and policy programs. The NHDES application addresses key challenges and opportunities identified by the state's building energy stakeholders and will complement the existing state programs and the forthcoming USDOE-funded efficiency and electrification programs.

For municipal buildings, funding would support energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy, energy storage projects at local government wastewater and drinking water facilities. This will help New Hampshire communities to lower energy costs, reduce GHG emissions, and improve public and environmental health. This measure will complement the work of CENH's Energy Circuit Riders (ECRs) who provide energy-related technical assistance to municipalities across New Hampshire. The ECRs work within and among communities to identify and implement projects that reduce fossil-fuel energy consumption and lower overall energy costs while providing additional public health and community resiliency benefits. Energy projects may include energy efficiency upgrades, fuel switching, beneficial electrification, modern wood heating, solar photovoltaics, community power aggregation, energy storage, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and other priorities identified by community members. The ECRs stand ready to support the roll out of the NHDES PCAP implementation grant.

Finally, for the NHDES PCAP workforce development sector, incentives would help reduce barriers to stimulate high-quality workforce development activities that are critical to the success of New Hampshire's other proposed measures. The programs will provide benefits across all the sectors listed above and are critical at this time in New Hampshire. These funds may be used for capital improvements and increasing teaching staff at training facilities, tuition assistance, offsetting the cost of required equipment and tools for students, and offsetting the travel costs associated with attending classes and commuting to worksites for apprenticeships and internships.

CENH is aware that strong community partnerships and networks are needed to design and manage the proposed measure(s) to advance environmental and public health issues in New Hampshire. Because of our experience providing policy support and direct technical assistance,

CENH is well-positioned to support the design and implementation of the measure(s), including connecting the benefits of the program to low-income and disadvantaged communities statewide. Therefore, CENH agrees to work across New Hampshire to support deployment and community engagement of the program.

- We agree to provide input in public comments where needed and participate in potential working groups where the program is discussed.
- We agree to support NHDES in achieving meaningful involvement from community and labor groups when our expertise and networks may be helpful.
- We agree to advocate for acceptance of any federally awarded funds by relevant decision-making bodies within the state.

Should this funding request be successful, we look forward to working with you on this valuable project beginning in mid-2024. Please let us know how we may be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Evans-Brown', written in a cursive style.

Samuel Evans-Brown

Executive Director

Clean Energy NH

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