



## New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Inc.

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NYSAR<sup>3</sup>

1971 Western Avenue #1180

Albany, NY 12203

March 25, 2024

Basil Seggos, Commissioner  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 14<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Albany, New York 12233

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

Please accept my enthusiastic support the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) application to the U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program, titled "Building Community Resilience through Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions" on behalf of the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR<sup>3</sup>). The proposal in with the NYSDEC, in partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), makes good sense as this pairing will be able to implement programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from facilities and services for key resiliency purposes for New York's communities. The programs included in this proposal will not only address greenhouse gas emissions in the near- and long-term but will also provide substantial co-benefits such as air quality improvements and health benefits, with a particular focus on public services and disadvantaged communities.

NYSAR<sup>3</sup> is a membership-based organization that provides statewide leadership on waste reduction, reuse, recycling issues, and practices to improve the environment. While our members represent the full gamut of the many materials management needs provided across the state, we do have a good number of municipal members who would support and promote *Measure 1* which proposes competitive grants to local governments and non-profits to implement programs, purchase equipment, and/or expand existing operations to support organics recycling and divert food waste from landfills.

It is exciting that each component of this application has the potential to transform New York's communities and create lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. These proposed programs, when implemented together, will ensure that investments in emissions reductions also support more resilient public services and buildings.

Therefore, we also support the additional components of the grant application which engages food retail stores, food banks, food hubs, or other food security facilities to replace existing refrigeration systems with systems that utilize low or no global warming potential refrigerants. Providing funding for local governments or community-based organizations for evaluation, design, and installation of community cooling/heating centers which could include weatherization, efficient HVAC systems, and passive house envelope upgrades. We of course also support energy performance contracting for local governments by training municipalities, providing technical assistance through the design and contracting efforts, reducing risk and predevelopment costs associated with decarbonization and electrification, and providing an innovation fund to reduce financial risks for harder-to-finance buildings and measures, such as historic buildings or beneficial electrification. Together, these proposals will significantly reduce GHG and co-pollutant emissions and support community resilience. We strongly endorse this application and look forward to seeing these programs implemented in New York State.

Sincerely,



Gary Carrel, President