

3/25/2024

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

Dear Commissioner Seggos,

On behalf of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), this letter serves to express support for 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." With this proposal, NYSDEC, in partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), will implement programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from facilities and services that serve 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.

ANCA is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. Using innovative strategies for food systems, clean energy, small businesses, and equity and inclusion, ANCA delivers targeted interventions that create and sustain wealth and value in local communities. ANCA's Energy Team provides technical support to North Country stakeholders through NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities and Regional Clean Energy Hub Programs as well as the inter-agency Climate Smart Communities.

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.

DEC's proposed investment in community-scale organic waste management solutions can help avoid waste going to landfills, and potentially result in value-added projects that can be used to build community resilience like green infrastructure and community gardens. Focusing on diverting organic waste can also improve food donation rates, providing emergency access to households in need.

We strongly endorse this application and look forward to seeing these programs implemented in New York State.

Jillian Henck,

Clean Energy Program Director, ANCA

