

March 22, 2024

Philadelphia Energy Authority
Attn: Emily Schapira, President & CEO
1400 JFK Boulevard
City Hall Room 566
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-4483
Info@philaenergy.org

Dear Ms. Schapira:

My name is Api Appulingam and I serve as the Chief Development Officer at Philadelphia Department of Aviation. I am writing to extend my support to the Philadelphia Energy Authority as it pursues funding from the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program, which is designed to enable states, municipalities, tribes, and territories to 1) implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond, 2) pursue measures that will achieve substantial community benefits in low-income and disadvantaged communities, 3) complement other funding sources to maximize GHG reductions and community benefits, and 4) pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be scaled up across multiple jurisdictions.

Philadelphia Department of Aviation (the Airport) manages the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and the Northeast Philadelphia Airport (PNE), serving as a global gateway and proudly connecting Philadelphia with the world. The Airport has a long-standing commitment to sustainability, climate resilience and environmental justice, and has set the ambitious goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In pursuit of this goal, we have established sustainable design standards, including LEED and Envision certifications, for all capital projects, undertaken energy efficient upgrades in all of our facilities; have developed and initiated a Vehicle Electrification Strategy to purchase electric models of all light and medium weight vehicles; have worked with airlines to transition 26% of the ground support equipment fleet from diesel to electric; and install electrical support systems for aircraft to minimize jet idling at gates. The Airport has also addressed climate resilience through extensive planning and H&H models, establishment of Climate Resilience design standards, and improvement and expansion of flood and stormwater management infrastructure systems. The Airport works closely with local, state and federal agencies to address regional flooding and resilience in Lower South Philadelphia and specifically Eastwick, and environmental justice community adjacent to the airport.

The Airport has developed plans for a 1.5 megawatt solar farm to be installed at PNE via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This project would provide sufficient energy to meet the airport's annual energy needs. The Airport has coordinated closely with PECO, our utility provider, and in 2023, paid PECO for the installation of transformers and related grid upgrades that would allow for utility approval of net-metered solar farm at this location. This project will remove nearly all scope 2 carbon emissions for this airport, resulting in a GHG reduction of 1350 metric tons annually, will reduce air pollution in disadvantaged communities surrounding power plants that feed into the PJM grid utilized by our local utility and demonstrates a unique use of airport property to provide an innovative power source on site. The Airport will provide a funding match of approximately \$5.4 million to this project.

We are look forward to continuing to support regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Southeastern Pennsylvania with the goal of protecting human health and the environment as part of this transformative opportunity.

Please contact James.Clarkin@phl.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Api Appulingam, P.E., A.A.E.
Chief Development Officer

Api Appulingam, P.E., A.A.E. | Capital Development
☎ 267.303.9330 ✉ api.appulingam@phl.org
Philadelphia International Airport • Executive Offices
2 International Plaza, Suite 400 • Philadelphia, PA 19113