

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 Paloma Vila and I serve as Sustainability Manager at the Township of Lower Merion. 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.

The Township of Lower Merion is a first-ring suburban community bordering the City of Philadelphia, the largest municipality in Montgomery County, and among the top ten most populous municipalities in Pennsylvania. Lower Merion is a multiple award-winning Township of the First Class with a deep sense of civic pride and involvement. The Township's many engaged citizens and community organizations help keep the organization accountable for our commitment to protecting the natural environment. Over 100 community members regularly participated in a years'-long process to develop the Township Sustainability Plan, and over 700 participants made their voices heard in a survey about the plan's vision and goals. Reducing climate pollution has consistently been a high priority for Township citizens as well as the organization itself. As a result, the Township has completed an energy savings project, reducing Township electricity use by 3 million kilowatt-hours and natural gas by 1,480 dekatherms. The Township currently purchases renewable energy certificates for 100% of its electricity use and is undertaking a program to add as much on-site renewable energy to Township facilities as possible.

We intend to participate in or directly assist in the design and performance of a project that meets the four goals of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program by completing the following projects:

Lower Merion Township will replace the roof and install solar panels and a solar canopy at the Ludington Library.

Lower Merion Township will install solar panels and solar canopies at the Penn Wynne Library.

Lower Merion Township will implement LEED certification, solar panels, new HVAC, and other energy efficient building envelope improvement measures at the Ardmore Avenue Community Center.

Lower Merion Township will replace the roof and install solar panels and a solar canopy at the Bala Cynwyd Library.

Lower Merion Township will replace the roof and install solar panels and a solar canopy at the Ardmore Book Processing Center.

Lower Merion Township will replace the roof and install solar panels and solar canopies at the Township Administration Building and the Public Safety Building.

Lower Merion Township will replace the roof and install solar panels and a solar canopy at the Bala Gym.

We look forward to playing a role in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Southeastern Pennsylvania with the goal of protecting human health and the environment as part of this transformative opportunity.

Sincerely,

Paloma Vila
Sustainability Manager
Township of Lower Merion
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