

Letter of Commitment – Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation

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 Jessi Ray Koch and I serve as Director of Equitable Development at Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation. 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.

Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation is a community based and community serving organization in the East Parkside neighborhood of West Philadelphia. We work collaboratively with a number of other community-based organizations in East Parkside and the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as local policy makers, and industry leaders.

Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation (CPCDC) was established in 2015 by a group of East Parkside Residents with the intention of promoting an equitable development strategy that sustains an economically and culturally diverse community, improves the health and well-being of residents, strengthens the community's identity and connectivity to Fairmount Park, and enhances the quality of the physical environment. At the core we are an anti-poverty and pro-thriving organization. Our work is in direct service to and in close collaboration with our community of predominantly Black/African American residents and low-income households.

Our 5-year strategic plan is a blueprint for our next phase of organizational development. Our priority areas include: Housing Security, Environmental Justice, Community Prosperity, Commercial Vibrancy, and Organizational Sustainability.

We intend to participate in or directly assist in the design and performance of a project that meets these four goals by brining energy efficient renovations to 50+ buildings in East Parkside, Philadelphia. This project will center community engagement and knowledge sharing to further our vision for a green neighborhood, green economy, and green future. East Parkside is designated as a Justice40 community,

and with this project, we are taking another step towards centering communities like ours in the global climate justice movement.

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,
Jessi Ray Koch
Director of Equitable Development

Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation
3479 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
267-417-4695
jkoch@centennialparkside.org