



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

**OFFICE OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
440 North Broad Street, Suite 3226  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

March 19, 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](mailto:Info@philaenergy.org)

Dear Ms. Schapira:

My name is Oz Hill, and I serve as Chief Operating Officer at The School District of Philadelphia. 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 greenhouse gas (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 School District of Philadelphia is Pennsylvania's largest public school system, educating a diverse student body of nearly 200,000 across all city zip codes. Every school participates in Title I programs, ensuring all students qualify for free/reduced lunch. However, years of funding constraints have resulted in over \$4.5 billion in deferred building maintenance. The District sees energy efficiency as a key to addressing these needs and improving learning environments.

We intend to directly participate in the design and performance of a project that meets these four goals by leveraging the Philadelphia School District's sustainability program, GreenFutures. This program utilizes Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreements (GESAs) to collaborate with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) and identify/implement energy-saving measures within our buildings. This targeted approach guarantees significant GHG reductions. Cost savings generated from these upgrades become a springboard for expanding green initiatives in low-income communities, further maximizing environmental and social benefits. The School District actively

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engages labor organizations and industry experts to gain valuable insights into building operations, leading to more efficient and impactful upgrades. Additionally, supporting organizations with expertise in sustainability or community development are brought into the fold. This collaborative approach ensures successful GESA projects serve as replicable models for other districts nationwide, solidifying Philadelphia's position as a leader in sustainable school operations.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oz Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Oz" and last name "Hill" clearly distinguishable.

Oz Hill

Chief Operating Officer

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