



March 27, 2024

Melvin Carter
Mayor, City of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Metropolitan Council Letter of Support for Heat Recovery at Metro Plant Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Mayor Carter:

This letter serves to affirm the Metropolitan Council's commitment and support for the project development of a waste heat recovery system at the Metropolitan Council's Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant in partnership with the City of Saint Paul and District Energy St. Paul. Recapturing waste heat from our system's effluent is an exciting chance to further embed circular systems thinking into Environmental Services' planning and operations. Further, this project is well-aligned with the existing Council's 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan, Climate Action Work Plan, and the state-wide Minnesota Climate Action Framework.

This proposed project responds to specific initiatives found in the state of Minnesota's Pollution Reduction Action Plan. Specifically supporting greenhouse reduction measures towards clean energy and efficient buildings (Measure 3.2) and a clean economy (Measure 4.1). Moreover, the Metropolitan Council's Pollution Reduction Action Plan for the Twin Cities MSA connects this project to the Manage Wastewater Efficiently measure. Specifically, the measure includes the following (on pages 35-36):

"[...]there is an opportunity to recover wasted thermal energy from wastewater to produce clean, carbon-free thermal energy for integration into existing hot water district heating systems, further reducing reliance on fossil fuels."

As the regional planning agency for wastewater treatment, the Metropolitan Council is uniquely positioned to support impactful initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with district heating for downtown Saint Paul. The wastewater stream possesses a significant and constant volume of thermal energy that is currently unrealized for its energy-use potential. Harnessing an unused carbon-negative source of renewable energy embodies the direction of Metropolitan Council's Mission, Vision, and Values as we develop Imagine 2050, our Regional Development Guide. As the first of its kind in North America, this project will elevate the Metropolitan Council, the City of Saint Paul, and District Energy as innovative leaders in climate solutions and heat energy recovery on a national level. The Metropolitan Council supports the proposed project's bid for federally available Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds for greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.

Noting the regional benefits from adopting this project, the Metropolitan Council expresses its commitment to pursue a business partnership with District Energy St. Paul and the City of Saint Paul to host a waste heat recovery system at the Council's Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant and provide embedded waste heat from effluent in exchange for revenue. Additionally, the Metropolitan Council commits to showcasing this project as a demonstration of incorporating new technologies into existing infrastructure with the desire to see similar installations across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more legible than the last name "Zelle".

Charles A. Zelle
Metropolitan Council Chair