

## CITY OF SEWARD

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• City Manager's Office (907) 224-4047  
• [www.cityofseward.us](http://www.cityofseward.us)

March 14, 2024

Attention: Southeast Conference  
9360 Glacier Highway, Suite 201  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) - Letter of collaborative support for the Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities Program (ACES – AK)**

Dear Mr. Venables,

On behalf of the City of Seward, please accept this letter of support for an implementation grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program by the Southeast Conference (SEC) and Alaska Heat Smart (AHS). We strongly believe that their *Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities Program* (ACES - AK) will help catalyze critical rural energy improvements, lower homeowners' heating costs, while dramatically reducing carbon emissions.

The City of Seward will be providing direct utility engagement (we own our utility), assisting with community outreach, and helping provide access to technical support. We do currently have a couple of heat pump resources (installer/technicians) here in town. We are also currently working with AVTEC (Alaska Vocational Technical School) to develop a training program to install and repair air to air heat pump systems within their HVAC programs. With the ever-increasing cost of fuel oil, which is the main source of heat for Seward residents, and many older homes with outdated heating systems, participation in this program would be beneficial to our community.

The City of Seward believes strongly in the need to decarbonize and lower the costs of space heating. Most of coastal Alaska's communities are economically disadvantaged. Weighed down by some of the nation's highest heating and electricity costs, many of these families spend over 50% of their household incomes on heat alone. The ACES – AK Program being developed by SEC and AHS will lower this burden for thousands of lower to modest income coastal Alaska households. With decades of combined experience in the spaces of economic development and beneficial electrification, these respected organizations are poised to better the lives of thousands of Alaska residents while meeting the goals of the CPRG program.

We look forward to this new home energy education and financial incentive program and the City of Seward strongly supports the SEC-AHS proposal. Should it be selected, we welcome the opportunity to partner with them to serve households along Alaska's coast.

Sincerely,

Jason Bickling  
Deputy City Manager  
City of Seward, Alaska  
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