



City of Austin

Office of Sustainability

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

March 19, 2024

Travis County Intergovernmental Relations Office
700 Lavaca St, Austin, TX 78701

**Re: Central Texas Clean Civic Hubs grant application to the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants
Program: Implementation Grants General Competition (EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07)**

I am pleased to send this Letter of Intent in support of the City of Austin's role in the Central Texas Clean Civic Hubs project outlined in this application. This project will support decarbonization of essential community facilities, especially those that serve our low-income and disadvantaged communities. It will serve as an example of the leadership role our governments should take to mitigate climate change, and also reduce our long-term costs so we can reinvest into our communities.

The Office of Sustainability was formed over a decade ago with the City of Austin and oversees the Climate Program. In 2021, the Austin City Council adopted the Austin Climate Equity Plan with a city-wide goal to reach net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. At the core of our plan is an emphasis on serving low-income communities & communities of color, who have historically been disproportionately burdened by the impacts of climate change.

The Office of Sustainability is the lead agency for the development of deliverables under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, including development of the Priority Climate Action Plan. We have been in close coordination with staff at Travis County through this process, and are committed to assisting them through implementation of the program. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Facilitating participation by City of Austin departments in the project.
- Facilitating participation of eligible facilities in Austin Energy's Commercial Green Building Program.
- Facilitating participation of eligible facilities in Austin Energy's Community Solar program.
- Supporting outreach to agencies across the region through the development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.

We are committed to the project's overarching mission, and supportive of all initiatives that further regional collaboration on climate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zach Baumer, Chief Sustainability Officer