



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

March 22, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear CPRG Grant Reviewer:

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Office of Climate and Energy fully supports the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) application for funding through the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program.

CUPPAD's proposed project would weatherize, repair, electrify, and install solar at hundreds of low- and moderate-income homes throughout the Upper Peninsula (U.P.) of Michigan, with a primary focus on households that use propane or other delivered fuels for heat. To maximize the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and the number of homes benefiting from these crucial services—and to speed the clean energy transition in the U.P.—this project team will braid together proposed CPRG funds with financial assistance from a variety of other important clean energy programs, including the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates.

The Office of Climate and Energy is involved in administering and planning many of these programs, and CUPPAD's strategy and application aligns with our planned design for these programs. In addition, our state has established the Michigan Competitiveness Fund (Fund) to support important public projects like CUPPAD's. If it is awarded federal funding, CUPPAD will be eligible to request a portion of that funding to support activities that will multiply the project's impact. For example, the Fund has a set-aside to buy down interest rates, which could be used to provide moderate-income U.P. residents participating in CUPPAD's program with low- or even zero-interest loans to cover their share of project investments in electrifying and decarbonizing their homes.

CUPPADs' application also aligns with Michigan's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the MI Healthy Climate Plan, including our goal to reduce emissions related to heating homes 17 percent by 2030. Additionally, it advances multiple recommendations identified by the U.P. Energy Task Force, which was led by EGLE and created in 2019

March 22, 2024

by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order in response to the U.P.'s significant energy reliability challenges and the exceptionally high energy rates facing many of its residents.

The Office of Climate and Energy supports this application without hesitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory Connolly', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cory Connolly
Chief Climate Officer
Office of Climate and Energy
517-881-8972

cc: Phillip D. Roos, Director, EGLE
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE
Julia Field, EGLE



SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

LAKE SUPERIOR • LAKE MICHIGAN • LAKE HURON

9 Peter White Drive • Presque Isle Park • Marquette, Michigan 49855
Phone: (906) 228-6095 • Fax: (906) 228-6863 • www.superiorwatersheds.org

March 18th, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

CPRG Grant Reviewer,

The Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) is pleased to provide this letter of commitment for the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) proposal to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program titled "*Assisting Disadvantaged Northern Great Lakes Communities and Tribes with Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Clean Energy Implementation*". The proposed project will help achieve the vision of Michigan's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), to ensure that "every household has access to affordable energy sourced from reliable, clean energy."

The SWP is an award-winning Great Lakes nonprofit organization that has set national records for pollution prevention. Its innovative, science-based programs achieve documented, measurable results that align directly with the goals of federal funding initiatives to enhance climate resilience by reducing GHG emissions, restoring natural habitats, and improving water quality. Two central and deeply integrated SWP programs are particularly relevant to the proposed project: the Great Lakes Climate Corps (GLCC) and the SWP Office of Climate and Energy's (OCE) administration of the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP).

As a key partner, the SWP will serve as this project's primary project subcontractor with frontline oversight responsibilities for home-by-home deployment of the proposed GHG reduction measures, including the household assessment and planning process, implementation of weatherization/EWR strategies, coordination and scheduling of third-party contractors, homeowner education and financial "braiding" assistance, and more. Working alongside experienced home improvement professionals who lead the SWP Energy Office, the Great Lakes Climate Corps Energy Technician program has significantly expanded the capacity and impact of the SWP residential clean energy programs. The SWP Energy Technician program provides participants with extensive experience working in low-income homes across the UP. SWP Energy Technicians secure Building Science Professionals Certificates, complete the DOE Home Energy Score Assessor certification, and are trained in Solar Design and Installation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or documentation regarding SWP commitment to this important regional proposal.

Sincerely,

Carl Lindquist, Executive Director

March 29, 2024

John A. Kinch, PhD
Executive Director
Michigan Energy Options
PO Box 4156
East Lansing, MI 48826

RE: Letter of Commitment for United States Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

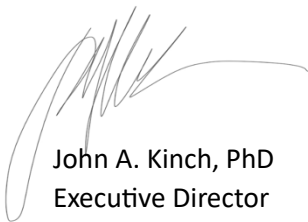
I'm writing to express Michigan Energy Options' (MEO) commitment and support for the collaborative project, led by Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) and Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP), which intends to reduce greenhouse gases through the electrification and weatherization of homes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Leveraging our 46 years of experience in advancing clean energy solutions, MEO, in collaboration with Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), will support CUPPAD and the SWP, by committing to leading the project's community engagement, public education and communications efforts.

Recognizing the importance of a sound engagement strategy, our team will work to earn community support and trust and participation by leveraging our networks to engage communities and local organizations that support low- and moderate-income households. Our strategy will include community engagement through events and meetings, utility program engagements, and earned media.

We understand the importance of this project for GHG reduction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and are committed to its success in reducing climate pollution while improving the health, comfort, and financial stability of our residents.

Sincerely,



John A. Kinch, PhD
Executive Director



March 29, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Grant Reviewer,

The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) application for the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), is a proposal that, if funded, will help hundreds of low to moderate-income households, and will reverberate throughout the state of Michigan and exponentially increase the rate of residential decarbonization and electrification adoption.

We should know. The Michigan Environmental Council is a statewide environmental organization that works with over 100 community based environmental partners from the very northwest corner of Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) to Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

The Environmental Council is the nucleus of Michigan's powerful, well-connected, and diverse environmental movement, and our research tells us that a supermajority of Michiganders want renewable energy and they want to decarbonize their lives.

To ensure this project's success, we will utilize our expertise in movement building and communications as well as exercise our knowledge of the halls and corridors of Michigan's Capitol in Lansing. We will engage our network of partner organizations, donors, and friends throughout the state so that awareness of the project's impact will motivate other communities to pursue likewise endeavors.

We are committed to making sure this project is a success and we are committed to making sure that every household in Michigan knows of that success and how to implement it in their own homes. Through this grant hundreds of UP residents will

Protecting the air we breathe, our water, and the places we love.

602 West Ionia Street | Lansing, MI 48933

CPRG Grant Reviewer
Page 2
March 22,2024

benefit directly, and millions of Michiganders will learn about the possibilities to decarbonize their homes.

The Upper Peninsula is ready. Michigan is ready. All we need is the EPA's green light through the funding of this request. We're ready to get to work and we hope you'll give us the opportunity to do it!

Sincerely,



Conan Smith
President and CEO
Michigan Environmental Council

Bay Mills Indian Community
Brimley, Michigan 49715
**Grand Traverse Band
of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians**
Suttons Bay, Michigan 49682
Hannahville Indian Community
Wilson, Michigan 49896
**Saginaw Chippewa
Indian Tribe**
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
**Little Traverse Bay
Bands of Odawa Indians**
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740
**Nottawaseppi Huron
Band of The Potawatomi**
Fulton, Michigan 49502



ITC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Baraga, Michigan 49908
**Lac Vieux Desert Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa**
Watersmeet, Michigan 49969
**Sault Ste. Marie
Tribe of Chippewa Indians**
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
**Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
(Gun Lake Tribe)**
Shelbyville, Michigan 49323
**Little River Band
of Ottawa Indians**
Manistee, Michigan 49660

2956 Ashmun Street, Suite A, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
Phone: (906) 632-6896 Main Fax: 906-632-1810

April 1, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

CPRG Grant Reviewer,

The Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI) supports the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) application for funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit, based near Sault Ste. Marie in the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) of Michigan, ITCMI represents and serves twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan. We act as a forum for member tribes; advocate for programs and policies which will improve the economy, education, and quality of life for Michigan's Native Americans; and provide technical assistance to support the development of tribal regulations, ordinances, and policies related to health and human services. We will coordinate the participation of UP tribes in our project, support them in educating their members about this opportunity, inspire them to participate, and assist them throughout the process of implementing proposed GHG reduction measures on their residences.

CUPPAD's proposed project would weatherize, repair, electrify, and install solar at hundreds of low- and moderate-income homes throughout UP, with a primary focus on households that use propane or other delivered fuels for heat. ITCMI looks forward to partnering with the project team to engage members of UP tribes in this effort and ensure that our members have access to and fully enjoy the full benefits of this exciting opportunity to reduce their utility bills and improve the health, comfort and quality of their homes, while reducing GHG pollution and advancing climate resilience.

In addition, ITCMI is seeking funding to expand a similar residential decarbonization model to our Tribal members across the state (including the Lower Peninsula), and this project presents an important opportunity for us to build partnerships and leverage resources for the success of that program.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of our support for the CUPPAD application. If you have any questions or would like more information about our views and prospective role in this project, please contact me any time.

Sincerely,

Clayton Kincheloe
Executive Director
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
(906) 632-6896 ext 153
clayton@itcmi.org



HANNAHVILLE
INDIAN COMMUNITY
N14911 HANNAHVILLE B1 RD.
WILSON, MICHIGAN 49896-9728
Administration: (906) 466-2932; (906) 723-2600
Fax: (906) 466-2933



March 25, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

CPRG Grant Reviewer:

The Hannahville Indian Community fully supports the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) application for funding through Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program to achieve the vision of the Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which calls on Michigan to ensure that every "household has access to affordable energy sourced from reliable, clean energy."

The energy burden in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is among the highest in the state. Per the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), every county in the Upper Peninsula has at least one census tract above the 90th percentile nationally for energy burden, and nearly one third of all census tracts in the Upper Peninsula meet this threshold.

To address this issue, CUPPAD and project partners are requesting CPRG funds to build on the successful, existing weatherization and building performance programs led by project partners, including Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP), the Upper Peninsula's three regional planning and development organizations (CUPPAD, WUPPDR, EUP), contractor networks, service providers and other stakeholders. These partners will collaborate to repair, weatherize, and electrify Upper Peninsula homes.

The primary focus will be low-income households that use propane or other delivered fuels for heat. In addition to dramatically increasing the number of homes benefiting from these crucial services per year, this project team will leverage CPRG funds and rebates, utility incentives and other "braided" resources to combine residential electrification technologies and on-site solar energy systems throughout the Upper Peninsula.

The Hannahville Indian Community offers our full support for this project and all efforts to reduce the energy burden within the Upper Peninsula.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

47286827F1C6436...

Kenneth Meshigaud, Tribal Chairperson
Hannahville Indian Community

KENNETH MESHIGAUD
Tribal Chairperson

ELAINE MESHIGAUD
Tribal Vice-Chairperson

ANNA LARSON
Tribal Secretary

LISA LITTLE
Tribal Treasurer

Council Members: John Meshigaud, Sr., Robin Halfaday, Tammy Sagataw, William Sagataw
Christopher Halfaday, James Smith, Amanda Hess, Lexie Keshick, Sr.

Lac Vieux Desert Band Of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Government

N4698 US 45 P.O. Box 249 • Watersmeet, Michigan 49969

Phone: 906-358-4577 • Fax: 906-358-4785

Executive Officers:

James Williams Jr., Tribal Chairman
Samuel Klingman, Tribal Vice-Chairman
Patrick Garrison, Tribal Treasurer
Melissa J. McGeshick, Tribal Secretary



Council Members:

Patrick Hazen II
Jeffery McGeshick
Louis McGeshick Sr.
Tyrone McGeshick
Keith Williams

March 25, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

CPRG Grant Reviewer,

The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians fully supports the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission's (CUPPAD) application for funding through Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program to achieve the vision of the Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which calls on Michigan to ensure that every "household has access to affordable energy sourced from reliable, clean energy."

The energy burden in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is among the highest in the state. Per the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), every county in the Upper Peninsula has at least one census tract above the 90th percentile nationally for energy burden, and nearly one third of all census tracts in the Upper Peninsula meet this threshold.

To address this issue, CUPPAD and project partners are requesting CPRG funds to build on the successful, existing weatherization and building performance programs led by project partners, including Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP), the Upper Peninsula's three regional planning and development organizations (CUPPAD, WUPPDR, EUP), contractor networks, service providers and other stakeholders. These partners will collaborate to repair, weatherize, and electrify Upper Peninsula homes.

The primary focus will be low-income households that use propane or other delivered fuels for heat. In addition to dramatically increasing the number of homes benefiting from these crucial services per year, this project team will leverage CPRG funds and rebates, utility incentives and other "braided" resources to combine residential electrification technologies and on-site solar energy systems throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians supports this project without hesitation.

With appreciation,

James Williams Jr.

Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Tribal Chairman
P.O. Box 249
Watersmeet, MI 49969



Michigan Saves[®]

The Nation's First Nonprofit Green Bank

April 1, 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Implementation
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear CPRG Grant Reviewer:

Michigan Saves is fully committed to assisting the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) in implementing the project it has proposed for funding through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation program.

CUPPAD's proposed project will weatherize, electrify, and install solar at hundreds of low- and moderate-income homes throughout the Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan. To maximize the climate, environmental, economic, and public-health benefits of the project, CUPPAD and its partners will braid together proposed CPRG funds with financial assistance from a variety of other important clean energy assistance programs. Some participating moderate-income households will need financing to cover a portion of the cost of the project's investment in their homes. That is where Michigan Saves comes in.

Michigan Saves understands the power of clean energy sources and wants everyone to have access to their benefits. Our team helps residents, businesses, and others finance investments in their buildings that deliver much greater savings on their utility bills over time. We look forward to collaborating on CUPPAD's exciting project to help UP residents who need financial assistance—like the low-interest loans we offer—take advantage of this opportunity to improve the performance, comfort, affordability, health, safety, and value of their homes.

Among the many similar programs that we have successfully administered and/or supported, our team recently collaborated with officials in Southeast Michigan to launch and run Oakland Saves, which deployed federal recovery funds to provide over 1,100 households with grants to support money saving, energy efficiency upgrades. The program was fully subscribed in less than a week. This experience demonstrates Michigan Saves is well positioned to support the smaller scale CUPPAD project.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our programs and how we will support CUPPAD's proposed project, please contact me any time.

Sincerely,

Chanell Scott Contreras
President and CEO

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made this 4th day of March 2024, by and between the Regional Planning Organization of the Upper Peninsula (the “RPOs”) for developing a collaborative, joint approach for responding to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) request for proposals for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. This MOU sets forth the terms of understanding and collaboration between the RPOs in relation to their collective responsibility towards the goals and objectives set out for the CPRG program.

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation, coordination, and collaboration amongst the RPOs in order to develop a proposal and subsequently, if approved by the EPA, implement the proposed CPRG grant.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RPOs agree to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in good faith, acting in the best interests of the partnership. They agree to provide leadership, guidance, and support in developing and implementing a CPRG proposal.

Term and Termination

This MOU will remain in effect until the EPA’s denial of the RPOs application to the CPRG program, or if selected, the completion of the proposed CPRG program, or until terminated by any of the RPOs, with or without cause, upon giving 30 days' notice to the other parties.

Review and Amendment

This MOU will be reviewed annually and may be amended with the mutual written consent of the RPOs.

This MOU is not a legally binding agreement and does not constitute a partnership, joint venture, or legal entity of any kind. Instead, it represents a mutual understanding and commitment among the RPOs to work together towards proposing a collaborative application to the CPRG program.

Signed on this 4th day of March, 2024

Regional Planning Organization

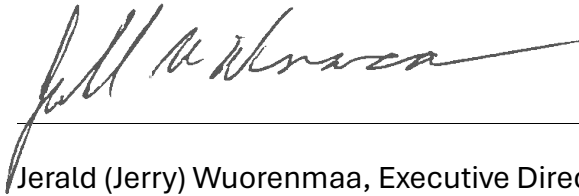
Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD)



Dotty Lajoie, Executive Director

Regional Planning Organization

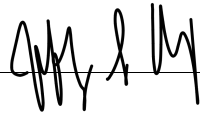
Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR)



Jerald (Jerry) Wuorenmaa, Executive Director

Regional Planning Organization

Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Development Commission (EUPRDC)



Jeffrey S. Hagan, CEO