



March 4, 2024

Ms. Sarah Vorpahl, Ph.D.
WA State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Dear Ms. Vorpahl,

I write in support of the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application from the Washington Dept of Commerce and specifically the inclusion of the Seattle Central College EcoDistrict in the state's application. The project entails converting the district energy system at the college from fossil-fueled steam to an all-electric, high efficiency system which would reduce an estimated 1,384 MTCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions annually - a 95% reduction in the college's GHG emissions.

The Seattle Central College EcoDistrict is an important milestone for the city and for our state's higher education institutions. In 2023 the city of Seattle adopted a Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS) which establishes emissions reduction targets starting in 2030 with requirements to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. With investments made possible by the CPRG grant, Seattle Central will be the first institution with a district energy system to comply with the new standards.

Additionally, if funded, we understand that part of the grant will be used to develop new workforce training programs for clean building professionals. Their sister college, South Seattle College, has the Sustainable Building Science Technology department which offers an array of degree and certificate programs, many of which serve BIPOC and low-income members of our community. We are excited about the prospect of the EcoDistrict serving as a hands-on teaching laboratory for their programs and increasing the clean energy workforce in our region.

Seattle Central College is located adjacent to geographies in our city where air quality is compromised from nearby freeways and other sources of air pollution. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions makes a positive contribution towards reducing climate pollution and lessening the impact on low-income and overburdened neighborhoods in Central Seattle.

Sincerely,

Jessyn Farrell
Director, Office of Sustainability and Environment
City of Seattle