



January 30, 2023

RE: Support for Climate Action Plan Grant Program

Honorable Chair Acomb and members of the Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

The Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) supports legislation for a City Climate Action Grant Program. The State of Minnesota recognizes the seriousness of mitigating climate change as seen through its carbon reduction goals of 80% by 2050 and the Governor's Climate Action Framework. For the State to achieve its objectives, cities will play a critical role.

In fact, the Climate Action Framework recognizes the need to increase efforts:

- To increase capacity to develop and implement programs, best practices, and resources with communities to encourage more sustainable consumption and behaviors and sustainable materials and products
- To develop and implement programs, best practices, and resources with communities to encourage more sustainable consumption and behaviors and sustainable materials and products
- To provide community education resources on local climate impacts and actions to describe climate-related hazards and extreme weather events, and prioritize those groups most-at-risk from climate change

The proposed grant program goes a long way to support those activities.

CEE is a 501c3 nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, MN with expertise in energy efficiency that traces back over 40 years. CEE's mission is to discover and deploy the most effective energy solutions that strengthen the economy and improve the environment. A key component to accomplishing that is working with over 30 cities throughout Minnesota on energy action planning, financing, campaigns, and program implementation.

We see the drive within communities to move toward clean energy. This grant program is critical to harnessing that power. By enhancing cities' ability to streamline and coordinate climate planning activities as well as the implement those plans, the State will empower communities to achieve their climate aims while also making strides towards its own goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Jones'.

Katie Jones
Community Program and Policy Manager
Center for Energy and Environment