

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS** authorizing the City of New Haven to apply for and accept funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program in the amount of \$1,000,000. The grant would fund an initiative by the City of New Haven and one or more community-based organizations to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems.

Submitted by: Office of Climate and Sustainability

REPORT: 1630-07

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program.

The grant would fund an initiative by the City of New Haven and one or more community-based organizations to enroll energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems. These systems are often costly, inefficient, and can exacerbate health conditions related to indoor air quality, such as asthma. They are also significant contributors to the air pollution that causes climate change. Replacing these systems with new high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps and induction stoves can reduce energy bills, improve public health, and reduce climate pollution.

The Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) anticipates working with one or more communitybased organizations that have experience connecting residents with utility assistance in order to identify low- and moderate-income residents with aging heating and cooking systems. Special focus will be placed on reaching residents in DEEP-designated environmental justice census tracts in West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Fair Haven, and the Annex neighborhoods. OCS plans to work with these organizations to inform and engage residents about the benefits of new high efficiency electric appliances and enroll them in the new electrification program. The organization or organizations will be selected through the City's competitive procurement process.

Once enrolled, OCS plans to work with another community-based organization or electrification service provider to design, identify funding and financing for, and implement electrification improvements. This organization will scope out energy efficiency and electrification improvements and work with energy-burdened residents to maximize the benefits available to them, with the objective of shifting residents to a fully-electrified home. Grant funds will be reserved to assist residents with some of the cost of electrification improvements and the removal of remediation barriers to energy efficiency, such as mold and asbestos.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

This grant proposal is aligned with the City comprehensive plan from the standpoint of:

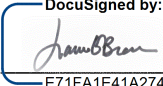
- Improve air quality
- Commitment to sustainable environmental policy and a systematic approach to energy efficiency and development of renewable energy resources to further improve air quality and ensure a high quality environment.
- Clean and protect environmentally sensitive areas;

- Commitment to quality of life issues, balancing economic development, environmental protection and cultural enrichment.
- Encourage environmental justice

ADVICE

Authorization of this grant application aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and the State of Connecticut's goals.

ADOPTED: April 19, 2023
Leslie Radcliffe
Chair

ATTEST:  April 24, 2023 | 9:31 AM EDT
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Laura E Brown
Executive Director, City Plan Department