

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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May 1, 2023

Office of the Assistant Secretary
 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 Mail Stop EE-1
 Department of Energy
 Washington, DC 20585

RE: CLEAN ENERGY TO COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: PEER-LEARNING COHORTS, PLANNING AND FUNDING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

To Whom it Concerns:

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC) supports the Orange County and Triangle Clean Cities application to participate in the Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Peer-Learning Cohort. Orange County is actively electrifying its vehicle fleet and examining how to serve its community with equitable and accessible vehicle charging throughout the County. A significant portion of DCHC's planning area lies within Orange County and we support Orange County's mission to deploy widespread charging infrastructure for its residents and travelers. Local charging infrastructure improvements are critical for our region to attain the Climate Change Mitigation Goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 26-28% by 2025 from 2005 levels. This proposal supports other important objectives:

- Provide equitable access to transportation and environmental justice;
- Improve local and regional air quality;
- Create resiliency and sustainability to protect all our constituents;
- Meet climate action plan goals; and
- Reduce passenger vehicle energy consumption; transportation is the top greenhouse gas polluter in North Carolina.

Developing more robust electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure for Orange County residents and its fleet supports DCHC's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives.

Triangle Clean Cities has been influential in this area, assisting in both education efforts and adoption of alternative fuels technologies. Designated as a Clean Cities Coalition in 2001, its efforts have reduced 39,902 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (similar to preserving 276 acres of forested area for 20 years or almost 690,000 trees) and 6,372,547 gasoline gallons equivalent in 2021 alone.

Triangle Clean Cities has served DCHC and its community members since its designation. As the NC Triangle grows in population, the region benefits from alternative fuel technology education and expertise in securing funding to support successful emission reduction projects in our region.

For these reasons, we support Orange County's application into the Clean Energy to Community's Peer-Learning Cohort and are excited to see our region benefit from their innovation and leadership.

Sincerely,

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 Executive Director
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