



1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

Council file 241215 is a resolution to accept \$9 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to implement the City of Milwaukee's Benchmarking Ordinance (described in Council file 240297), and conduct stakeholder engagement to develop, adopt, and implement future Building Performance Standards. The Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan features "10 Big Ideas" to reduce GHGs in the City, one of which is Commercial Buildings Benchmarking and Building Performance Standards. This idea requires large commercial building owners to annually track and report their energy use and develop strategies to reduce GHGs from commercial buildings. Funding will be used to hire city programmatic staff and contractors to help building owners track and report energy use, understand technologies to reduce GHGs, and connect with energy efficiency contractors and financing. 

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

The estimated impacts of the policies this grant will support are to reduce energy use from large commercial and multifamily (MF) buildings by 10.41 TeraBTUs of energy over 30 years. The estimated GHG emissions reductions would be 1.33 million metric tons of CO2 over the first 15 years. Moreover, tenants, particularly those of color who often face higher energy burdens, will likely see their building owners make energy efficiency and clean energy improvements to their buildings to meet the BPS, so that tenants' monthly bills are more affordable. Such improvements to MF buildings will also improve tenants' indoor air quality, by replacing gas stoves with induction stoves, and improving ventilation, to help prevent or reduce asthma, especially in children. These policies will drive investments in buildings, increasing jobs in design, construction and trades. 

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Future Building Performance Standards may be more challenging for under-resourced building owners to meet, because energy efficiency and clean energy improvements, though they save money over time, require upfront investment. To address these potential challenges, a significant portion of this grant has been allocated to support such buildings, through what will be called an Equity Priority Buildings program. The EPB program will provide more in-depth technical assistance to support under-resourced building owners in making the energy efficiency and clean energy improvements to their buildings, as may be needed for them to meet future BPS.

4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

The City of Milwaukee ECO will work with its selected consultant to ensure comprehensive and robust stakeholder engagement, including no fewer than twelve meetings across a diverse group of stakeholders, including six meetings with stakeholders from disadvantaged communities that are more likely to be challenged to meet with BPS targets. This will include We Energies, Focus on Energy, environmental nonprofits, community-based organizations, low-income housing representatives, and workforce development groups. This collaborative process with diverse stakeholders will be crucial in establishing consensus on the ordinance language, metrics, and compliance pathways, as well as the multiple benefits including more green jobs.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

Under-resourced building owners will need to apply to the Equity Priority Buildings program, so ECO will know exactly which building owners are participating, and understand the need for any expansion of the program to support more building owners. Through tracking energy use and/or GHG emissions from buildings over time, ECO will be able to track which buildings have made energy efficiency and clean energy improvements. These improvements should reduce tenants' utility bills, improve their level of comfort, as well as their indoor air quality. The project also includes workforce goals, including the number of contractors that receive training in commercial energy efficiency and decarbonization, as well as hands-on work experience.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

ECO will work with our consultant operating the Commercial Buildings Help Desk and Resource Center and identify buildings that may be challenged to meet Building Performance Standards by noting the buildings that have not submitted benchmarking data, those that have high energy use intensity, and those buildings located in designated disadvantaged communities. These metrics will help determine the buildings eligible for the EPB program (discussed in Question 3). To increase EPB program awareness and participation, ECO will work with Resilience Ambassadors, members of local community-based organizations, to conduct in-person site visits to promote the EPB program.



Name: **Erick Shambarger**

Signature:

Date: **12/5/2024**