

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm,

I am pleased to support the City of Milwaukee's application for Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy program funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs. If awarded, funding will support Milwaukee's All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project. This proposal is vital to implementation of the New Net-Zero Energy Homes strategy from the recently adopted Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan and Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan.

The City of Milwaukee seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to the U.S. Department of Energy's Zero Energy Ready Home Program (ZERH) standard. Specifically, the City proposes to develop a supply of affordable, manufactured housing through 1) accelerated development of a Milwaukee-based manufacturing center for panelized and component housing assemblies, 2) identification, outreach and training of a contractor and workforce base that will be certified and prepared to construct ZERH homes, and 3) a pilot project of 25 new ZERH homes in low-income and disadvantaged communities utilizing the contractor and YouthBuild partners for implementation. Ten new homes on city-owned lots will also be available as affordable rent-to-own 3-bedroom units at 60% Area Median Income levels. Additionally, project staff will coordinate the training and project development leveraging partnerships with the City of Milwaukee Community Development Grants Administration, Department of Planning, Habitat for Humanity and the Rocky Mountain Institute.

I strongly support proposals that invest in affordable housing and help to advance community identified energy priorities. For this reason, I respectfully request that full and fair consideration be given to the City of Milwaukee's application. Please keep my office updated on the progress of this application by email at [projects\\_grants@baldwin.senate.gov](mailto:projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov). Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

GWEN MOORE  
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
WORK AND WELFARE  
OVERSIGHT  
TAX

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



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May 28, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy  
Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) via  
EERE Exchange

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Milwaukee's application for the Milwaukee's All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) grant. This project is vital to implement the New Net-Zero Energy Homes strategy from the recently adopted *Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan* and *Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan*.

The City of Milwaukee is primed for the development of Zero Energy Ready Homes (ZERH) to in-fill hundreds of vacant lots particularly in Low-Income/Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC). With this project, the City of Milwaukee seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to U.S. DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard and construct homes on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods. The project will provide the following: workforce development technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

Further, the project proposes a 3-pronged approach to developing a supply of affordable, manufactured housing:

- 1) accelerated development of a Milwaukee-based manufacturing center for panelized and component housing assemblies,
- 2) identification, outreach and training of a contractor and workforce base certified and prepared to construct ZERH homes,
- 3) a pilot project of 25 new ZERH in LIDACs utilizing the contractor and YouthBuild partners for implementation.

Project staff will coordinate the training and project development leveraging partnerships with the City of Milwaukee Community Development Grants Administration, Department of Planning, Habitat for Humanity, and the Rocky Mountain Institute. The final result will be ten new homes on City-owned lots that will be available as affordable rent-to-own 3-bedroom units at 60% AMI levels.

I give my full support to this project which will provide desperately needed newly built and energy efficient housing in low-income disadvantaged areas of my district. I ask that you give this proposal your full consideration and encourage the Department of Energy C-SITE Program to make funding available to the Milwaukee Net-Zero Housing Partnership.

I believe this important project advances the Biden Administration's goals of good paying jobs, affordable housing, and new industry in America's heartland. Please contact my office should you have any questions and please inform me of your final decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

GM/SE



MAYOR CAVALIER JOHNSON  
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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May 29, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy  
Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)  
via **EERE Exchange**

As Mayor of Milwaukee, I strongly support the City of Milwaukee's application for the *Milwaukee's All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project* as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) grant program. This project is vital to implement the New Net-Zero Energy Homes strategy from the recently adopted [Milwaukee Climate and Equity Plan](#) and Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan.

The City of Milwaukee seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to U.S. DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard. The project aims to accelerate ZERH home construction on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods through technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, workforce development, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

I encourage the Department of Energy C-SITE Program to make funding available to the Milwaukee Net-Zero Housing Partnership. Thank you for your consideration of this important project as we look forward to advancing the President's goals of good paying jobs, affordable housing, and new industry in America's heartland.

Sincerely,

Mayor Cavalier Johnson



May 29, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy  
Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)  
via EERE Exchange

On behalf of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Milwaukee's application for Milwaukee's All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project.

To implement the New Net Zero Energy Homes strategy from the City of Milwaukee's recently adopted Climate and Equity Plan and Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan, Citizen Action of Wisconsin is committed to supporting the City of Milwaukee's vision. This initiative seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to US DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard. The project aims to spur ZERH home construction on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods through technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, workforce development, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to social, economic, and environmental justice. Our mission aligns with the goals of this project as we strive to create sustainable and equitable communities. We are particularly focused on advancing policies and initiatives that address climate change, create good-paying jobs, and improve the quality of life for all residents.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin will bring our expertise in community organizing, advocacy, and public engagement to the project. We are committed to mobilizing community support, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and advocating for policies that support the adoption of ZERH standards. Additionally, we will work to ensure that the workforce development component of the project provides opportunities for underrepresented communities, creating pathways to good-paying, green jobs.

We strongly encourage the Department of Energy C-SITE Program to make funding available to the Milwaukee Net-Zero Housing Partnership.

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Robert Kraig, Executive Director*  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin



May 29, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy  
Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE)  
**via EERE Exchange**

To Whom It May Concern:

To implement the New Net Zero Energy Homes strategy from the City of Milwaukee's recently adopted Climate and Equity Plan ([Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan](https://Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan) and Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan), Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity supports the City of Milwaukee's application for the Milwaukee's *All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project* as part of the US Department of Energy's Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) grant program.

As a program partner, we will play a role in the overall project that seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to US DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard. The project aims to accelerate ZERH home construction on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods through technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, workforce development, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity helps families become first-time homebuyers and makes critical home repair affordable for existing homeowners. Since our founding in 1984, Milwaukee Habitat has helped nearly 1500 local families build or repair a place to call home.

Milwaukee Habitat plans to pilot two Zero Energy Ready Homes in partnership with the City of Milwaukee's Environmental Collaboration Office. We also intend to access ZERH subsidy for new projects.

I encourage the Department of Energy C-SITE Program to make funding available to the Milwaukee Net-Zero Housing Partnership. Thank you for your consideration of this important project as we look forward to advancing the President's goals of good paying jobs, affordable housing, and new industry in America's heartland.

Sincerely,

**Brian Sonderman**  
CEO  
Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity



May 29, 2024

RE: Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) via EERE Exchange

Dear U.S. Department of Energy,

To implement the New Net Zero Energy Homes strategy from the City of Milwaukee's recently adopted *Climate and Equity Plan* and *Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan*, VIA CDC supports the City of Milwaukee's application for the Milwaukee's *All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project* as part of the U.S. DOE's Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) grant.

As a program partner, we will play a role in the overall project that seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to US DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard. The project aims to accelerate ZERH home construction on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods through technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, workforce development, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

I am particularly excited about this initiative's potential for collaboration and partnership as VIA is also engaged in the development of entry-level homes on Milwaukee's vacant lots and increasing affordable homeownership opportunities for Milwaukee families. Together, we can leverage our collective resources and expertise to create a supportive and enriching environment for our communities.

VIA's mission is to be a partner in building strong, healthy neighborhoods where all of us can thrive. By cultivating fertile ground in our neighborhoods—with tools like housing development, economic development, and grassroots leadership development—we can ensure that everyone has access to the things we all need to thrive.

This initiative, which is not only aligned with our organization's mission but also represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts, has the potential to transform our community. By building a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community for all, this project can create a lasting impact. I wholeheartedly endorse this application.

Sincerely,

JoAnna Bautch  
Executive Director  
VIA CDC



[www.housingplan.org](http://www.housingplan.org)

[ideas@housingplan.org](mailto:ideas@housingplan.org)

May 29, 2024

U.S. Department of Energy Communities

Sparkling Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) via EERE Exchange

To implement the New Net Zero Energy Homes strategy from the City of Milwaukee's recently adopted Climate and Equity Plan ([Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan](http://Milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan)) and Milwaukee's Collective Affordable Housing Plan, Community Development Alliance (CDA), supports the City of Milwaukee's application for the Milwaukee's All-Electric, Affordable Net-Zero Energy Homes Accelerator Project as part of the US Department of Energy's Communities Sparkling Investment in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) grant program.

As a program partner, we will play a role in the overall project that seeks to build and accelerate the market for new, all-electric affordable homes built to US DOE's Zero Energy Ready Homes Program (ZERH) standard. The project aims to accelerate ZERH home construction on scattered site vacant lots in the Lindsay Heights, Harambee, and Century City-Triangle neighborhoods through technical training of ZERH standards to builders and developers, incentives to build to ZERH standards, workforce development, and support for a manufacturing facility to build ZERH wall panels in one of Milwaukee's many vacant former factories.

Investing in affordable housing initiatives such as this not only addresses the immediate needs of vulnerable populations but also yields long-term benefits for society. Research consistently demonstrates the positive ripple effects of stable housing on various aspects of individuals' lives, including health outcomes, educational attainment, and employment opportunities.

I encourage the Department of Energy C-SITE Program to make funding available to the Milwaukee Net-Zero Housing Partnership. Thank you for your consideration of this important project as we look forward to advancing the President's goals of good paying jobs, affordable housing, and new industry in America's heartland.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we hope to hear of a positive outcome

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teig Whaley-Smith".

Teig Whaley-Smith  
Chief Alliance Executive