

April 18, 2018



Privy Council Office
Attn: Impact and Innovation Unit
Room 1000
85 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A3

RE: Support for Town of Bridgewater Smart Cities Challenge Grant Application

To the Smart Cities Challenge jury panel,

This is a letter confirming the full support and confidence of Climate Action Network – Réseau Action Climat Canada (CAN-Rac) in the Town of Bridgewater to address energy poverty by pursuing the Smart Cities Challenge grant.

Climate Action Network Canada is the only network in the country that brings labour, development, faith-based, and Indigenous groups together with the key national, provincial, and territorial environmental organizations working on climate change. The network plays a critical role in helping Canadian organizations understand and respond to climate change impacts and policies, across Canada and around the world, to coordinate efforts for greatest impact. Energy poverty is a serious and urgent issue in the community of Bridgewater, where 2 out of 5 residents live in energy poverty. Citizens have a difficult time heating their homes while also affording basic necessities like food and medication. Sustainable, efficient and affordable access to clean energy is an important priority for CAN-Rac in our fight against climate change.

We are confident the Town of Bridgewater will effectively coordinate and work openly and transparently with multiple partner organizations to implement any programs or solutions that can be funded by the Smart Cities Challenge grant. Indeed, the Town of Bridgewater has an excellent record and reputation as a leading innovator in developing and implementing local energy solutions. As a national network with over 110 member organizations, Climate Action Network Canada can help share Bridgewater's efforts to reduce energy poverty to garner more support, as well as for other groups across the country to reach out and share experiences and best practices.

A community-wide energy poverty initiative that delivers retrofitting and energy efficiency services to all could help Bridgewater residents and the community as a whole through improved energy affordability, improved housing conditions, inclusion and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable families, new economic opportunities, and increased environmental quality. Through trailblazing efforts, Bridgewater can also help other communities in the region and across the country.

Climate Action Network Canada – Réseau action climat Canada

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Finally, Climate Action Network Canada is pleased to be part of this initiative, and we are confident that winning the Smart Cities Challenge grant would be a major contribution toward reducing energy poverty in Bridgewater.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Abreu', written in a cursive style.

Catherine Abreu, Executive Director
Climate Action Network Canada

