

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor

June 25th, 2024

Rory M. Christian
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Chair Christian,

I am writing to express my support for the Mid-Hudson Energy Transition (MHET) CCA Master Implementation Plan and to seek any available information on the status of their application for CCA Administrator status.

The organization first submitted its Master Implementation Plan on February 27, 2023. Following the closure of the public comment period, your office granted a request for a meeting with MHET which took place on November 29, 2023. In that meeting, MHET sought to learn the perspective of the PSC and to answer any questions that may have arisen from their Master Implementation Plan, understanding that an innovative vision of CCAs would naturally lead to more questions than a standard plan. Further, your office furnished MHET with a letter detailing the Commission's questions and concerns on December 19, 2023, which was greatly appreciated as an opportunity to clarify the organization's vision and to address the concerns of the PSC.

Following two months of work on careful written explanations and the extensive review of MHET's online presence, in which the organization removed representations that did not clarify its status as an entity awaiting PSC approval, MHET responded to the PSC's letter with their own on February 22, 2024.

During this time period, MHET organized educational energy presentations in multiple community spaces; it reached and then subscribed designated Disadvantaged Community residents to Kingston Community Solar at food pantries, town hall events, cafes serving free food to community members, the Kingston Library, at Churches, and in their offices for individual appointments. In their energy presentations they discussed MHET programs and spread awareness of non-MHET programs such as HEAP and SNAP in addition to teaching utility bill literacy.

Further, MHET is actively securing Empower+ audits for income-eligible households which will guide the allocation of funds from their Home Upgrade Grants program - providing free remediation and energy efficiency work to Kingston homeowners in order of highest need.

The organization has built relationships with local non-profits, community centers, congregations, cultural groups, and governmental entities, actively supporting Kingston's rich network of community-oriented actions.

Their values align with those of our community and their aid in the City securing Clean Energy Community grants, as a result of Kingston Community Solar enrollment and success, has led to further development of our City's sustainable ecosystem. This is no small feat as Kingston is a local and state leader in the drive to reach New York's climate goals with 29 actions completed in the Clean Energy Communities program.

It is imperative to our community, and to me as a representative of this community, that our sustainable efforts continue on the path that New York has set for its local governments. As I have summarized, Mid-Hudson Energy Transition is a key tile in Kingston's mosaic of innovation, activism, and community-first development.

I urge the New York State Public Service Commission to consider the invaluable contributions and steadfast commitment of the Mid-Hudson Energy Transition (MHET) towards advancing clean energy initiatives in Kingston. The thoroughness of MHET's engagement, from their comprehensive Master Implementation Plan to their proactive outreach efforts within disadvantaged communities, underscores their dedication to inclusive and sustainable progress. Their collaborative approach, demonstrated through partnerships with local nonprofits and active participation in community-driven initiatives, exemplifies the essence of grassroots activism and collective empowerment.

I implore the Commission to expedite the review process for MHET's application for CCA Administrator status, recognizing the pivotal role they play in shaping Kingston's sustainable future. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to advancing renewable energy solutions for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Steven T. Noble
Mayor