**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)  
Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Program**

Summary of Technical Assistance (TA) Support

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| Icon  Description automatically generatedBuildings |
| Icon  Description automatically generatedClean Power |
| Climate Mitigation and Resilience |
| Cross-Sectoral Justice |
| A picture containing text, clipart  Description automatically generatedJobs and Economic Development |
| Icon  Description automatically generatedMobility |

**Ann Arbor, Michigan**

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From June through August 2023, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory provided technical support to the City of Ann Arbor to inform the city’s geothermal planning and deployment efforts. Specifically, the expert team reviewed existing city efforts and data to develop a feasibility study outline that includes:

* City-wide prefeasibility screening assessment
* Local detailed feasibility assessment
* Siting consideration assessment
* Legal considerations
* Technoeconomic study

This roadmap is helping the city make decisions about how to prioritize and right-size networked geothermal projects, which will form the basis for a request for proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to carry out the planning work. The roadmap is organized to help the city make go, no-go decisions at each step of the planning process.

 Impact

The technical assistance and engagement with experts were key to informing the design of an upcoming geothermal RFP. A city representative said, “A very belated thank you! We are really close to releasing our owner’s agent and geothermal design RFP and will definitely keep you posted. Your help has been instrumental, and I just wanted to say THANK YOU! It’s been a real pleasure, and I can’t wait to work with you again soon.”

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**Background**

Ann Arbor is a city of approximately 122,000 people located in southeast Michigan. The city and its residents are leaders in sustainability and climate action. Their A2ZERO Climate Action Plan outlines their just transition pathway to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. With equity as a focus, they are implementing strategies to improve home energy efficiency (EE) and electrify appliances. Toward this, the city wants to explore community geothermal heating and cooling to serve a variety of building types including rental and affordable housing. The city has applied to DOE’s Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment program and garnered the support of City Council to pursue these projects, but they need to understand the concept’s feasibility in order to make a “go, no-go” decision.

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Description automatically generated with low confidence Expert Match Team

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Engineering Researcher, Geothermal Expert, NREL

**Faith Smith**

Markets and Policy Analyst, Geothermal Regulatory and Permitting Expert, NREL

**Sika Gadzanku**

C2C Expert Match Program Manager, NRE

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For more information, visit:  
**energy.gov/eere/clean-energy-communities-program**

August 2024