**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 |

**Genoa, Illinois**

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From May through September 2023, Elevate (with initial support from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)) provided technical expertise on identifying more efficient wastewater treatment processes and guided on potential on-site clean energy and energy efficiency opportunities.

 Impact

This technical assistance helped inform Genoa’s efforts to retrofit and decarbonize its wastewater treatment operations.

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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.

The City of Genoa Public Works Facility including buildings and a wastewater treatment plant were built in 1976 and runs on gas and electric, with two backup generators. The facility has two Hoffman Blowers as backup for its aeration tanks and is interested in getting a backup Turbo Blower, which saves on electrical usage. The facility is in the early stages of proposing a plant expansion to diversify on-site energy sources and this could include clean energy options and some energy efficiency (EE) measures largely through retrofitting as well as new construction. There was a need for expert opinion on clean energy and EE options and best practices for implementation given the current configuration (emphasis on improving efficiency) and expansion of the plant (emphasis on new, clean energy sources).

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Description automatically generated with low confidence Expert Match Team

**Alexandra Kramer, then Sika Gadzanku**  
Community Lead, Main Expert Match Point of Contact, NREL

**Gustavo Cordero**  
Coordinator, Elevate

**Mary Jo Warskow**  
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Senior Research Engineer, Energy Resources Center, University of Illinois, Chicago

**Sika Gadzanku**  
C2C Expert Match Program Manager, NREL

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**Janice Melton**  
Director of Public Works

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

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