



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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July 23, 2012

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Members of the National Science Foundation Review Panel:

The City of Saint Paul is pleased to collaborate with Dr. Roopali Phadke and Dr. Christie Manning on their National Science Foundation (NSF) project, "Making it Personal: Public deliberation and climate change adaptation." The project explores models for community engagement on climate adaptation at the city level.

Dr. Phadke's and Dr. Manning's work will provide important information for the City of Saint Paul's long-range planning, particularly with respect to the city's climate adaptation plan. Through the project's citywide survey we will gain a better understanding of current trends such as residents' understanding of climate change, their attitudes toward it, and their current energy use. Even more importantly, the outcomes of the neighborhood consensus conferences will inform public infrastructure planning decisions, conservation, and public health planning.

The work by Dr. Phadke, Dr. Manning and their students will create new capacity for citizen leaders on climate issues within the City of Saint Paul, which will allow us to activate new citizen action and communication networks. It will also provide new channels through which the city can send vital information out to people at the neighborhood level, to broadcast emergency alerts for things like excessive heat warnings, flood watches, or other reports about conditions in the city.

The City of Saint Paul is also pleased that the project will create and model tools for engaging our citizens on the issue of climate change. These tools and communication strategies will be culturally appropriate for our diverse community and will help us connect climate change to issues that resonate with our residents.

Through our statewide and national networks, we can help share the findings that emerge from this project. In particular, my position as Second Vice President of the National League of Cities may provide outlets for disseminating research findings. As one of the founding cities of the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), our relationships with staff there and other partner cities from across the world may yield more avenues to share results.

My administration has worked with Dr. Phadke and Dr. Manning in the past and we look forward to continuing this relationship. I hope this collaboration will create new opportunities for further connection with the Macalester College community.

If you have any questions, please contact our Environmental Policy Director Anne Hunt at anne.hunt@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651.266.8520. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher B. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor